

P
S
A
L
M
S

The
Songs
37

PSALMS - The SONGS

Thirty-seven

Do Not Fret Over Evildoers - They Will Be Cut Off
Righteous Will Inherit The Land

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 37** and mark every reference to the LORD, or God, including all pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 37** and mark every reference to the righteous man, including all pronouns and synonyms, with a blue capital "R+".

Read through **Psalm 37** and mark every reference to the righteous inheriting the land, along with all synonyms (i.e. dwelling in the land forever) with a brown box.

Read through **Psalm 37** and mark every reference to the wicked man, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. ungodly, etc.) with an orange capital "W".

Read through **Psalm 37** and mark every reference to evildoers being cut off, along with all synonyms (i.e. wither quickly, be no more, perish, vanish, etc.) with an orange box.

Read through **Psalm 37** and highlight every reference to not fretting or waiting for the LORD (along with all synonyms) in light green.

Read through **Psalm 37** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Psalm 37** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Psalm 37** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal line.

Read through **Psalm 37** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Do not fret because of Wicked
2. Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him
3. Wicked plot against Righteous—LORD knows their coming day
4. Wicked will perish—LORD knows the days of the Righteous
5. Steps of Righteous are established by the LORD—Righteous never forsaken by the LORD
6. Steps of Righteous do not slip when he walks according to the Law of his God—Righteous never forsaken by the LORD
7. Salvation of Righteous is from the LORD

READ AND ANSWER

Psalm 37:1-6

What are the righteous not to do?

- 1.
- 2.

Having observed the entire **Psalm**, what would the righteous have to be envious of toward evildoers?

Why should the righteous not be envious toward evildoers?

- 1.
- 2.

What is the destiny of the evildoer?

What is the righteous to do?

- 1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

What will the LORD do if the righteous delight themselves in Him?

What will the LORD do if the righteous commit their way to Him and trust in Him?

1.

2.

3.

What will the LORD eventually bring forth?

1.

2.

What specific judgment will the LORD bring forth for the righteous? (Hint: This is not stated explicitly at this juncture, but if you consider the key phrases you have marked they might help you to see it.)

Psalm 37:7-11

What are the righteous to do?

1.

2.

What are the righteous not to do?

What are they not to fret over?

1.

2.

Why are the righteous tempted to fret over the evildoer? (Context: What is happening in the land?)

What evil is the evildoer doing?

What is the righteous to cease and forsake?

1.

2.

Again (three times in the first eight verses), the righteous is exhorted to not fret. What danger is there in fretting?

Why does the righteous not need to fret about the wicked man's prosperity and his wicked schemes?

In contrast to the evildoer, what will happen to those who wait for the LORD?

Does waiting for the LORD seem to be synonymous with not fretting?

What else have you seen in **Psalm 37** so far that is also synonymous with not fretting?

What will happen to the wicked man in a little while?

How completely will he “be no more”? Even if you look carefully, will you be able to find the wicked in the land?

Instead of the wicked, who will inherit the land?

Who are the humble?

What situation will the humble find themselves in once they have inherited the land?

From Whom will the humble inherit the land?

What land does this refer to?



**The land belongs to the LORD.
The LORD gives the land to whomever He desires.
The LORD has desired to give the land to Israel.**

**The righteous of Israel are to dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness presently.
The righteous remnant of Israel will eventually inherit the land—
that time will take place once the Savior delivers them
from the nations and the anti-Christ at the end of the Great Tribulation.**

**Israel will one day soon inherit the land forever.
They will delight themselves in abundant prosperity at that time.**

Psalm 37:12-15

What does the wicked do?

1.

2.

What does the LORD do when He sees the wicked plotting against the righteous?

Why?

What will happen to the wicked in “his day”?

What have the wicked done?

1.

2.

What do they intend to do with their sword and bow?

1.

2.

3.

Instead, what will happen to their sword and bows?

1.

2.

Psalm 37:16-22

What is better than the abundance of many wicked?

Why?

What will happen to the arms of the wicked?

What will happen to the righteous?

Who will break the arms of the wicked?

Who will sustain the righteous?

What does it mean that the LORD “knows the days” of the blameless?

What does the future hold for the blameless?

How long will they inherit the land?

What will be their state in the time of evil?

Why will they not be ashamed?

What will they have in the days of famine?

In contrast, what will happen to the wicked in the time of evil?

What is the relationship of the wicked to the LORD?

What will happen to the enemies of the LORD?

What is the “glory” of the pastures?

How completely do they vanish?

What will be true of the wicked?

1.

2.

What will be true of the righteous?

1.

2.

Why?



Verse 21 is not a commentary on the typical financial habits of the wicked. Rather, it is pointing to the complete reversal of their prosperity to poverty.

Likewise, verse 22 is pointing to the future well-being of the righteous. Israel will inherit the land and possess the wealth of the nations!

Who is blessed by the LORD?

What will He give them?

Who is cursed by the LORD?

What will He do to them?

Psalm 37:23-26

Whose steps are established by the LORD?

Just any man's steps?

Which man's steps, then?

What does the LORD delight Himself in?

What will not happen when the righteous man falls?

Why not?

Can you ascertain any time frame of when David wrote this **Psalm**? How?

When did David write **Psalm 37**?

What has David (the author of this **Psalm**) not seen in his life?

1.

2.

What does David say is generally true of the righteous?

1.

2.

What does David say is generally true concerning the descendants of the righteous?

Psalm 37:27-34

What exhortation is given?

1.

2.

What does departing from evil and doing good accomplish for the righteous?



**This verse is not a promise for the church.
Our works are evidence of our faith, not the road to righteousness.
While it is generally true that God will bless us as we follow Him,
it is also true that He sends rain (blessing) on the just and the unjust.
It is also true that even if we desire to be godly, we will suffer.**

**This verse is speaking directly to the nation of Israel—
and it regards the criteria for staying in the land of promise.
The LORD promised the land to Israel permanently in the Abrahamic Covenant.
Ultimately Israel will receive it forever.**

**In the Mosaic Covenant the LORD promised to let Israel abide in the land
as long as they were righteous.
If they disobeyed Him, He promised to take them out of it!
And that's exactly what He did!**

**First He took the Northern Kingdom out of the land
by the hand of the Assyrians.
Then, He took the Southern Kingdom out of the land
by the hand of the Babylonians.**

**He brought the Southern Kingdom back to the land after 70 years.
They remained there until the days of the Messiah.
In 70 AD the Jews were once again dispersed when Titus conquered Jerusalem.**

**The conditions of the Old Covenant were clear—
If they obeyed, they were allowed to remain in the land.
If they disobeyed, they could expect to be taken out of the land.**

**Psalm 37:27 speaks of the time when Israel will receive the land forever.
Yet, the same requirement still exists—they must be righteous.**

**Sadly, it will take the Great Tribulation to cause Israel to repent.
Only one-third of the Jews will come through Daniel's 70th week
(the final 3 1/2 years before Messiah comes again).**

**When their Messiah comes all Israel will repent in one day.
At that time, God will enter into the New Covenant with them.**

**Among other things,
He will give them a heart of flesh, a new spirit, and the Holy Spirit.
They will all know Him.
He will cause them to walk in His ways—
and they will never be taken out of the land again.**

Verse 28 begins with the word “for”. What does that tell you about its connection to the previous verse?

As it relates to the Old Covenant during David's days, why would those who depart from evil and do good be able to abide forever?

- 1.
- 2.

What is true of the LORD all the time?

- 1.
- 2.

Because the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His godly ones, what is their future?

In contrast, what is the future for the descendants of the wicked?

Who are the righteous?

What will the righteous inherit?

What land?

What will they do with the land?

How long will they dwell in it?

What is true of the mouth of the righteous?

What is true of the tongue of the righteous?

What is true of the heart of the righteous?

What is true of the steps of the righteous?

What is true of the wicked?

1.

2.

What assurance does the righteous have?

1.

2.

What should the righteous do?

1.

2.

If the righteous waits for the LORD and keeps His way, what will the LORD do?

If the righteous need to be exalted before inheriting the land, what information does that give you about their situation before their exaltation?

What needs to take place before the righteous are exalted to inherit the land?

Will the righteous know when the wicked are cut off?

How?



**There is no getting around the situation here.
Israel is supposed to be dwelling in the land,
but usurpers are taking over.
These usurpers are plotting and planning to kill the Jews in their own land.**

**But God will intervene, vanquish and destroy the enemies,
and then exalt and establish the Jews in their land
because they will finally take refuge in Him.**

**This has not been fulfilled yet, but it will, and not all that long from now.
In the not so distant future—
things are going to be very, very different in this world.**

**The plans of the wicked will be overthrown
and God's Own plans will be established forever and ever.**

God is not finished with Israel... May it never be!!!

Israel has a great and glorious future—

one provided for her by her Ever-Faithful and All-Powerful God.

Psalm 37:35-40

What has David seen?

What is the wicked, violent man doing?

What does this picture as happening? (Hint: Think through the context of the **Psalm**.)



**This section is very interesting.
It reads like David is relating a vision...**

**The wicked, violent man is none other than the antichrist.
He is trying to take over Jerusalem
and has gathered the nations of the world against her.**

**This is the final assault on Jerusalem by the antichrist and the nations.
But his end, and their's, is always the same—he, and they, will be no more!**

What happens to the wicked, violent man?

- 1.
- 2.

David, in his vision, looks for the wicked, violent man, but what is the result?

Why couldn't he be found?

What, or who, can be found?

- 1.

2.

Will blameless men and upright men always be found throughout time?

How do you know?

Who will be altogether destroyed?

In contrast to blameless upright men having a future, will the wicked have a posterity?



The Hebrew word for “posterity” is *achariyth* and means the last, end, after part, future time. It has the idea of having a future.

While the normal expected end will not be fulfilled by the wicked (he will be cut off, instead), what can the righteous expect?

From Whom will their salvation come?

What will the LORD be to the righteous in the time of trouble?

What will the LORD do for the righteous in the time of trouble?

1.

2.

From whom does the LORD deliver and save the righteous?

Why?



Just an interesting side note:

Every other verse of Psalm 37 begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet, which makes it an alphabetic acrostic.

READ AND REASON

I love this **Psalm** in so many ways that I could write a dozen or more Read and Reasons! But I've chosen just one thought to reason through—the idea of my steps...

What God has done...

When my grandchildren were smaller, they were not allowed to go wherever they wished. Rather, their places were determined by their parents and grandparents. When I was with them, they needed me to hold their hands (almost all the time) in order to avoid disaster. How many times they were saved from crashing face first into the ground could not be counted! Their safety was the result of the firm hold I had on them. They did not fall down because of one simple thing—I, who was stronger than they were, was the one who was holding their hands. And through it all, I delighted in guiding and protecting them, enjoying their nearness.

Just so, God has established a no-*fall* zone for my steps. He has determined what they are to be, where they are to be, when they are to be, and for what purpose they are to be. And then... wonder of wonders... He holds my hand as I take each and every step. Should I fall, or stumble, I will not be hurled headlong—I won't make it to the ground—because He is sustaining me with His hand. And, to my delight, He delights in being with me...

Psalm 37:23-24

***The steps of a man are established by the LORD,
And He delights in his way.
When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong,
Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.***

What I am to do...

The grandchildren are still young and need constant direction for their feet and lives. We want them to utter wisdom when they speak (not so much yet!) and we want them to justly and righteously use their toys and time (not so much yet, either!). The only way to accomplish this goal is to teach them the Word of God. As they grow into maturity it will be their responsibility to make decisions which line up with the Word of God—it will be their responsibility to walk according to the Word of God. In order to do so, it will be their responsibility to keep the Law of the LORD in their heart... The goal will be that their feet do not slip, do not hesitate, at choosing the right step in each and every situation.

Just so, I am to steadfastly adhere to His Law in order to keep my feet walking in a no-*slip* zone. His Word gives me wisdom and the ability to speak justly. But it is my responsibility to study, believe, and obey His Word, not just once or once in awhile, but constantly, always, and forever...

Psalm 37:30-31

***The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,
And his tongue speaks justice.
The law of his God is in his heart;
His steps do not slip.***

 Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.
Ask God to help you.**

Verses 1-6

Verses 7-11

Verses 12-15

Verses 16-22

Verses 23-26

Verses 27-34

Verses 35-40

~ Purpose of Psalm 37

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 37.
The purpose simply states “why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.**

~ Theme of Psalm 37

**Try giving Psalm 37 a title by identifying its theme.
The theme simply states “what the Psalm is about”.**
