



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Psalm 36

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Bible  
at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Psalm 36.

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### Topics.

- The wicked have no fear of God they flatter themselves in their own eyes.
- How precious, is God's love in the shadow of His wings is refuge.
- God's mercy, faithfulness and righteousness.
- God's judgments and preservation of man and animals.
- God's steadfast love, His loving kindness and goodness.
- Evildoers who fall by arrogance and are thrust down by wickedness.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### INTRODUCTION

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Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

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### BOOK ONE (PSALM 1-41)

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### PSALM 36:1-4

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To the Choirmaster of David, the servant of the LORD.

#### **The Wicked have No Fear of God, but Flatter Themselves.**

- **Psalm 36:1-4:** Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes. <sup>2</sup>For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated. <sup>3</sup>The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely and do good. <sup>4</sup>He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not reject evil.

**Transgression:** comes from the Hebrew word (pesha) it means to rebel and revolt against proper and just authority and break away from it; to sin, apostatize and quarrel. The English dictionary explains it as wrongdoing, disobedience and criminal activity. Some have the idea that everyone who does not believe in God is a wicked person, but this is not true, certainly we are all sinners no matter how good our behaviour, but not all are wicked.

Many who have not heard the message of the bloodstained cross of Calvary and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ do amazing acts of kindness and charity toward others and many even give their lives to helping the less fortunate and helpless. Others in countries where God's word is not as available as it is in the Western world look to the heavens and creation and hear their silent testimony of God's greatness and His glory and believe.

- The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. <sup>2</sup>Day to day they utter out speech, and night to night reveals and shows knowledge. <sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor language, where their voice is not heard. <sup>4</sup>Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. (Psalm 19:1-4).

Upon this simple faith and limited knowledge, they live a lifestyle of goodness before God. Based upon the universal principal, "To those who are given much, much is expected, but to those who have little, little is expected," I am certain at the second resurrection (called the second death) when the sea and the grave give up the dead to stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment many will be judged according to the light of God they were given and the lifestyle they lived before Him. For further information concerning the Great White Throne Judgment, see the title:

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

These verses shine a light upon the biblical definition of a wicked person it describes them as those who:

- Hold malice in their hearts and think harmful thoughts toward others.
- Think they are so clever their deceit, lies and wicked behaviour done in secret will not be found out so they will always be considered a good person.
- They speak deceit and lies to entice others into their wicked ways that will only lead to trouble.
- They have no wisdom and do nothing good that adds to society, the community or to anyone's life.
- While they are on their own, they are thinking of new ways to unlawfully gain what they crave or lust after.
- When others come to them with criminal activities that will advantage them in some way rather than reject them, they join them.

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Verse one states that, "A wicked person has no fear of God," the fear of God has the following two aspects:

1. An eternal aspect: wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of God in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.
2. An aspect for the present moment: the fear of God in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually. The fear of God in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared God humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly, there is very little fear of God in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, crime and wars in most countries.

**The fear of God and Christians:** those in Christ look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and understand and experience Christ's great love and God's grace in their hearts and minds and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise, it is with the faithful who belong to the Lord's global family.

The fear of God dwelling within the mind and the heart is manifested outwardly in the following three ways:

1. Refusing to speak lies and deceit and hurtful words that degrade and humiliate others.
2. Refusing to act in any wicked and corrupt way.
3. Pursuing after peace and doing what is good, just and right.

The Spirit of God surrounds and comforts those who do all they can to live in such a manner. It is people who are living in this manner who the eyes of the LORD are seeking to make up His treasured possession and whose prayer He will hear. In contrast to this those who have no fear of the LORD and live and speak evil of others, act corruptly, pervert justice for their own gain and have malice in their hearts toward others will never find true contentment, mental peace and inner joy and their end is death in the darkness of the grave.

- For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. (2 Chron. 16:9).

Blameless in this context does not mean without sin, only one man has ever achieved that glorious state and his name is the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God. If any of us could attain to the glorious state of living sin free Christ died for no reason. Jesus did not surrender his life to the bloodstained cross of Calvary so we could attain to the perfect standard the law demands and attain to the Holiness of God, but because it is impossible for us to do so because of the corrupted fallen body of flesh we live in. The fear of God does not mean we will live free of sin, but that we will do all we can to do what is right, just and good and do all we can to pursue peace in every circumstance and treat all people with decency and respect.

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## INTRODUCTION

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The following is wonderful; it has been built from the notes of many great scholars who have gone before me and to them all the glory goes. Though I don't know their names I am fully confident Christ does and will reward them for their devotion, love and wonderful insights, metaphors and analogies used to highlight God's great love and mercy which they clearly valued as the greatest treasure of their hearts and life.

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## PSALM 36:5-10

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### **How precious, is God's Love in the Shadow of His Wings is Refuge.**

- **Psalm 36:5-10:** Your steadfast love (mercy in KJV), O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. <sup>6</sup>Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD. <sup>7</sup>How precious is your steadfast love (lovingkindness in KJV), O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. <sup>8</sup>They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. <sup>9</sup>For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light. <sup>10</sup>Oh, continue your steadfast love (lovingkindness in KJV), to those who know you, and your righteousness to the upright of heart!

These verses are a wonderful description of the manifold brightness of God's nature. In the same way that a single light beam can be split through a prism into various rays of many brilliant colours the pure light of God can be split into the following seven attributes: -

1. Mercy.
2. Faithfulness.
3. Righteousness.

4. Judgments.
5. God's preservation of man and animals.
6. Steadfast love and loving kindness.
7. Goodness.

1 God's mercy: is spoken of as extending to the heavens (v1) meaning it is exalted higher than anything we can conceive and like the canopy of blue it encompasses the whole earth rising high above the sins of all mankind especially in the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ. God's mercy is love to an inferior it is the stooping goodness of a king to a beggar; it is like love in its exercise to guilty men and women who might expect something far less. It is God coming with blessing forgiveness, pardon and favour upon his lips, instead of with condemnation and death. All the attributes of God's nature, lie within the circle of His mercy like diamonds set in a golden ring. It is mercy and love flowing out in blessings to inferior and guilty men and women it is the foundation of all God's character; and His acts. Summing up all the being and works of the invisible, Immortal Almighty God the creator of all things and source of all life, the first and last, the Alpha and Omega the beginning and the end is the crowning glory of His mercy and His loving kindness bestowed upon sinful men and women through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 God's faithfulness: is spoken of as reaching to the clouds (v5) clouds are among the highest of objects they rise above the loftiest trees, and ascend above the highest of mountains the idea is that God's faithfulness is exalted far above any creation on earth. Added to this, clouds can be dark or bright, light or heavy, stable and unstable, calm or stormy the idea is that God's faithfulness reaches to all no matter what their station in life or their circumstances maybe. In its narrowest sense God's faithfulness refers to His loyalty to keep His promises. It implies that He will always take a certain line of action that is always in harmony with His character and promises. He will not act out of character or alter anything that has gone out of His lips. But His faithfulness also embraces the truth He will always stay true to His own past actions and the ways in which He has shown His love and His judgments upon mankind according to His laws and His Holy character and His love and grace He will always be true to these.

3 God's righteousness: is spoken of as being like the mountains of God (v6) not only are the foundations of mountains sure and stable and unmoved as winds and hurricanes come against them, but mountains though inaccessible at their steepest peaks provide shelter and refuge in the cleft of their rocks where those seeking shelter may hide and be safe. Like mountains God's righteousness is more stable than and firmer than the firmest things upon the face of the earth. God's righteousness refers to God's law which states whatever things are fair and lovely and good and pure on earth are the same things that are fair and lovely and good and pure in heaven. God's Holiness and love is the standard of all excellence in every way. The sovereign judge of all the earth not only does right and is right, but His law and righteousness have their home and seat at His throne and are the expression of His inmost being.

4 God's judgments: are spoken of as being like the great deep (v6) this implies obscurity which comes from the depth of the ocean in that it is possible to see far down into the blue depths of the ocean as long as the waters are clear and translucent; but where the light fails, shades of darkness begin and the eye sees only dimly until the waters are so deep everything becomes obscured, the sight is limited we cannot see the bottom. It should always be kept in mind that it is an error to judge a picture before it is finished; or to judge a building before the scaffolding is pulled down, and it is just as much an error to say about any deed or any revealed truth that it is inconsistent with God's divine

character. Wisdom calls us all to wait, before making the error of judging God's judgments before the appointed time since they are far too great and deep to see the bottom of them all, before God's plan and purposes are completed. Until the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory our vision is obscured, Scripture states, "Man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However, much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out (Eccles. 8:17), but we should rest in the truth that we are given to know as much as is needed for us to know and that there is nothing random or obscured to God in His dealings with mankind and His work upon our planet. God's judgments also embrace God's acts of correcting discipline and punishing wrongdoing and destroying evildoers and all God's decisions and acts in regard to mankind. They include the whole ways and the methods of God's divine government and all His acts of kindness, blessing, favour and loving gifts they are the expressions of His thoughts which are thoughts of good and not of evil.

- 5 God's preservation of man and animals: both man and animals are spoken of as being saved by the LORD (v6) all God's mercy, faithfulness, righteousness and judgment is as high as the heavens, deep as the ocean, firm as the hills, it is all working to keep the millions of living creatures round about us, and ourselves, in life and well-being. God's righteousness towers above us and His judgments go down beneath us, but upon the level where we live there are the green fields where the cattle browse, and the birds sing, and men live and till and reap and are fed. It is here that God has provided enough for all in the plain (if mankind pursued peace and the well-being of all rather than war, money and profit). Those who look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary understand God is good and loving toward sinful man and can be fully assured that what we do not yet understand of God's ways upon the earth and His judgments is also good and loving. All who accept His love and grace must also accept that there will always be a certain amount of obscurity concerning God's ways on earth, but all will be made plain after the Lord Jesus Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) and the following verses are fulfilled in their total and perfect fullness:

- Truly, as I (the LORD) live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD. (Num. 14:21).
- Blessed be his (the LORD) glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen! (Psalm 72:19).
- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).
- The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (Isaiah 40:5).
- The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Hab. 2:14).

- 1 God's steadfast love and loving kindness: is spoken of in the context of the children of mankind taking refuge in the shadow of God's wings (v7). This is a beautiful image that is most likely drawn from Deuteronomy, where God is likened to the eagle stirring up her nest, fluttering over her young, with tenderness in her fierce eye, and protecting strength in the sweep of her mighty pinion. The idea is that God spreads the expanse of His wings, strong and tender, beneath which we may all gather ourselves under and nestle in comfort and safety. Some might ask, "But how?" The answer to this question is by fleeing to Him through Christ our Saviour and hiding ourselves in him forever. Jesus words, "Lord: 'How often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings' (Matt. 23:37) shine even further beauty upon the expression, "Under the shadow of His wings." The Old Testament took the emblem of the

eagle, the king of the skies that not only has eyes that are able to see the smallest of creatures upon earth from great distances, but are also swift, strong and fierce. The New Testament took the emblem of the domestic chicken that is peaceable, and gentle, and affectionate. To make God our own we must put our trust under the shadow of His wings and flee to His Son the Lord Jesus Christ for refuge as the manslayer fled into the strong city, or as Lot fled out of Sodom to the little city on the hill, or as David fled into the cave from his enemies. The action of all who know they stand undone and without any hope before the Holiness of God should be to flee in humble faith to Christ with the cry on their lips, "Cover my defenceless head under the shadow of your wing." Not only will all God's mercy, faithfulness, righteousness and judgments be on the side of whoever approaches God in this way, but they will also know the precious and loving kindness of God and find that Christ has made his home their heart. God's, loving kindness means active love communicating itself to creatures that are inferior and that might have justifiably and rightly expected something else to befall them. Christ's revelation of God traces all forms of God's Spirit back to one attribute which David calls, MERCY, and John calls LOVE. The last voice that speaks from Scripture has for its special message, "God is Love." (1 John 4:8) (1 John 4:16). The last voice that sounds from the completed history of the world will have the same message, and the ultimate word of all revelation, the end of the whole of the majestic unfolding of God's purposes will be the proclamation to the four corners of the universe, as from the trumpet of the Archangel, that the name of God is LOVE.

- 2 God's Goodness: (v10) embraces all the above and the following three things, firstly, God's favour and blessings, His patience and tolerance toward our flaws, faults and weakness, secondly, His love and mercy that daily falls upon us despite our weaknesses, lowliness and our sin and thirdly His love for the world and the sacrifice of His only Son so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16) and the free gift of righteousness given to all who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and trust in God grace.

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## SUMMARY

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God by His Spirit and His love meets those who have a humble heart in the beauty of another world. The beam of light and love coming from Him upon a believer's life and into this spiritual world within us all is like a gleam of sunshine upon flowers opening out their petals and by their fragrance wooing those near them to come closer. This Psalm shines a brilliant light upon God's love, goodness, mercy and grace and the truth that love is eternal and the most powerful force in our mortal and corrupted world. For those who desire to witness the highest thought in their mind should always be, "God is love," and the messages of the following two Scriptures should be the first two things to share with those they are witnessing to:

- 1 That God loves them as they are, He does not expect them to attain to some standard of Holiness before they can approach Him, He already loves them, all they have to do is come before God in humble repentance and accept Christ as their Saviour and God's love dwelling in the heart will give them the motivation and strength to fix whatever needs fixing.
  - God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8).
  - We love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19).
- 2 That they see we accept of them. We must trust in God's love and apply the truth that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us to them. And lead them to Christ as they are. We must have faith that Christ's

love, the Holy Spirit and God's grace will not only give them the motivation to follow Christ and change, but also work in their lives to set them free from anything that might be destroying their life.

A personal note: when I look back over my fifty years in the Christian faith, I have seen people respond to altar calls under the emotional atmosphere of mood shifting music and persuasive ministers cleverly using the Scripture to entice men and women to the front. From those who responded came two groups, firstly those we had to almost put a rope around their neck to get them back and stay and secondly, those who we couldn't keep away, they were like someone who had been in the desert for weeks and suddenly found water and just did not want to stop drinking it. When a man or woman comes before God and honestly repents and accept Christ as their Saviour their life will be changed. It is very much like a young man who is going about his own affairs when suddenly he sees a woman and love enters his life, in that moment his passions and desires are changed. Likewise, it is when the light of God's love enters the heart of a sinner.

### **Evildoers who Fall by Arrogance and by Wickedness.**

- **Psalm 36:11-12:** Let not the foot of arrogance (pride in KJV) come upon me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away. <sup>12</sup>There the evildoers (workers of iniquity in KJV) lie fallen; they are thrust down, unable to rise.

**Arrogance:** (pride in the KJV) comes from the Hebrew word (ga`avah) and means haughtiness and highness it carries the idea of swelling up with self-pride in one's own achievements.

**Wicked:** comes from the Hebrew word (rasha`) and refers to an ungodly and morally bad person who acts wickedly and does wrong it embraces all who are guilty, condemned and who live ungodly lifestyles.

**Evildoers:** (workers of iniquity in KJV) comes from the Hebrew word ('aven`) it embraces worshippers of idols, false gods and those who are aggressive trouble makers and people who deliberately afflict hurt and harm upon others

The cry of David's heart is that not one of these attitudes would creep into his life and that those who are arrogant, wicked and evil do not come into his company and presence.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*