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Psalm 37

(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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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 37.

Topics.

- Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers.
- Delight yourself in the LORD, He will give you the desires of your heart.
- Wait patiently for God; fret not yourself over the wicked that prosper.
- Wicked plot against the righteous, the LORD sees their day is coming.
- Better is the little the righteous has than the abundance of the wicked.
- Those blessed by God shall inherit the land; the cursed shall be cut off.
- Wait for the LORD and you will see the wicked cut off.
- There is a future for people of peace, but destruction for transgressors.

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.

INTRODUCTION

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)

PSALM 37:1-2

A Psalm of David.

Fret not because of Evildoers; be Not Envious of Wrongdoers.

- **Psalm 37:1-2:** Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! ²For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.

At the time of writing this Psalm David is an old man (v25) Throughout the Psalm he contrasts the blessings of the faithful to the curses of the wicked. 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 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. ²Day to day they utter out speech, and night to night reveals and shows knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor language, where their voice is not heard. ⁴Their 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).

Following are the characteristics off evildoers toward God: they have no interest in seeking God and openly deceive others saying there is no God and speak against Him without any fear. They renounce God and say in their heart, "They will not be called to account and do violence against God's people and make wars. (Ps. 10:4). (Ps. 10:7) (Ps. 10:13) (Ps. 11:2) (Ps. 17:8).

Following are the characteristics off evildoers toward humanity: they speak in arrogance and seize and oppress the poor when it works to their advantage; they are greedy for gain and full of iniquity; they make great boasts of their achievements and of themselves and close their hearts to pity. They murder the innocent and seek ways to cheat the helpless out of what is rightfully theirs; they utter lies to their neighbour; with flattering lips and a double heart to entice them into their wicked schemes believing no one will find them out or overcome them. Scripture speaks of them as being vileness and an abomination among all mankind. (Ps. 10:2-3) (Ps. 10:6-9) (Ps. 12:2-3) (Ps. 12:8) (Ps. 17:10) (Ps. 17:14).

Summary of evildoers: throughout the Psalms there are many verses that speak of the character and attitudes of the wicked, if we were to list them all it would be a very long list indeed, but we would see that they all have the following two things in common:

1. They deny the existence of God.
2. They deliberately inflict some type of harm and hurt upon others (i.e., physically, financially, emotionally, sexually, mentally, verbally and spiritually) for their own gain and advantage.

This is totally contrary to Jesus command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," (Mark 12:31) meaning do-good to others and not harm and totally contrary to the law of love. For further information concerning Jesus command, see the title: "Love your neighbour as yourself and the Fruits of the Spirit" in Articles (ON WEBSITE MENU).

PSALM 37:3-6

The LORD will Give you the Desires of Your Heart.

- **Psalm 37:3-6:** Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. ⁴Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. ⁶He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

David says, "Embrace faithfulness and justice and every other good attitude as most loved and best friends." No one wants to be separated from their best friends this should be our attitude toward goodness and justice. The words, "The LORD, will give you the desires of your heart," is quoted many times, but they must be put into the context of the following two things:

1. Trusting in the LORD; being faithful; committing all our ways to the LORD, practising justice (i.e., doing what is fair for all) and endeavouring to live a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The desire of the heart in the context of these verses is upon having our righteousness which embraces our faith, our salvation and the kindness and justice (doing what is fair) that dwells within manifested outwardly to all.

PSALM 37:7-10

Wait Patiently for God; Fret not over the Wicked that Prosper.

- **Psalm 37:7-10:** Be still (rest in KJV) before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! ⁸Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. ⁹For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land. ¹⁰In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.

The word, fret comes from the Hebrew word (charah) in the context of these verses it means to blaze up in anger and jealousy and to burn with incensed passion and grief over the prosperity of the wicked who carry out evil devices. In Psalm seventy-three Asaph expresses this same idea of being envious of the arrogant when he saw their prosperity and good health and observed the life of ease the wicked and those who speak against the Most High God were living. Since Asaph was suffering at this time he felt that keeping his heart clean and innocent before the LORD was all in vain, until he perceived their end and saw that they were in slippery places, because they can be destroyed in a moment and utterly swept away by terrors! In contrast to the wicked Asaph is aware God holds his hand (by His Spirit and His love) in this life and afterward will receive him to glory. He ends his Psalm in triumphant joy proclaiming: -

- Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. ²⁶My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Psalm 73:25-26).

David's answer to those who do have a tendency to feel anger or jealousy toward the wicked that prosper by their lies, deceptions and corrupt ways is to calm down, rest, be still and wait patiently for the LORD'S judgment and the confidence they will be denied eternal life.

Fret not yourself it tends only to evil: means anger and jealousy is not only going to give birth to hatred, resentment, bitterness and may even lead to violent actions, but they also rob the mind and heart from the love, joy and peace of God. The words, "In just a little while, the wicked will be no more," most likely refer to an enemy of Israel at that time, but by extension can apply to all mankind since when time as we know it is compared to eternity where time does not exist and there is no beginning and no end our life on earth is but a blink of the eye before the Most High Eternal God.

PSALM 37:11-15

Wicked plot Against the Righteous, God sees their Day is Coming.

- **Psalm 37:11-15:** But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace. ¹²The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him, ¹³but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming. ¹⁴The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose way is upright; ¹⁵their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

Again we see the character of the wicked; they persecute, and attempt to instil fear in God's people and those who do good; they make war against them and oppress the poor for their own gain and kill the helpless and the faithful especially if it is to their own advantage (i.e., they take ownership of their land and property)

Meek: comes from the Hebrew word (*`anav*) and can refer to any of the following the humble, gentle, lowly and needy, the poor, the afflicted, the faithful and godly in contrast to the prideful and arrogant who are violent, dominant and forcefully authoritative.

David being not only a king, but also a prophet: is saying that it is the meek who will inherit the earth and not the powerful who control our world through the global banking and financial system of credit and interest and who have stored up weapons of war and of mass destruction who believe they will by their deceitful schemes and great power be the inheritors of the earth. The faithful and the meek should rest in the knowledge, "the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that their day is coming," (v13) and the power they have used against others will turn upon them and the meek with great joy will inherit the earth covered with God's glory and filled with peace.

PSALM 37:16-22

Better is Little the Righteous has than Abundance of the Wicked.

- **Psalm 37:16-22:** Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked. ¹⁷For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous. ¹⁸The LORD knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will remain forever; ¹⁹they are not put to shame in evil times; in the days of famine they have abundance. ²⁰But the wicked will perish; the enemies of the LORD are like the glory of the pastures; they vanish—like smoke they vanish away. ²¹The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives; ²²for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off.

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Better is the little that the righteous have than the abundance of the wicked, because the future of the wicked will be cut off, their day is coming they will be destroyed and perish and be no more whereas the faithful will be resurrected to eternal life and everlasting happiness. David was able to endure and overcome all his trials, troubles and sorrows and suffering, because he always had uppermost in his mind the thought, "The LORD knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will remain forever," (v18). David faced death in sickness and battle many times and desperately wanted to live each time and prayed always that God would deliver him from his sickness and enemies on the battlefield, but beyond these his mind was always very mindful of the joy and glory of the life he would inherit after death had taken him.

Blameless: does not mean 'Be without sin' if it was possible for anyone of us to live a lifestyle free of sin while in this mortal and fallen body then Christ died for no reason. Rather the word, "Blameless" means live a lifestyle that honours God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It means, forsake those things that are against God's will and behaviour that could be harmful to another human physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, mentally or spiritually and instead of being led by self, ego, pride, lust and greed be filled with the fruits of the Spirit, i.e., love, compassion, kindness, forgiveness, patience, grace and mercy and such like things.

To be blameless also embraces the idea that we trust solely in our faith in Christ and God's grace for our righteousness, contrasted to trusting in self-effort or any religious rite, custom or tradition we may follow and crowning our biblical knowledge in the royal robes of love contrasted to being harsh, dogmatic and legalistic. It is doing as much as is in our power

to maintain the unity of the faith in contrast to causing divisions, arguments, contentions and strife. It means confessing our sin before the Lord, repenting when we have offended God or hurt another person especially a brother or sister in the Lord and putting things right were possible when a wrong has been done.

Noah was blameless: it is written, "Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation and he walked with God" (Gen. 6:9) (Gen. 7:1). Being blameless in this context does not mean that Noah was without sin before God it simply means that he was a decent man, who only did good. Today we don't use the word righteous in this context, we would simply say, he was a very good man, meaning he was kind, decent and treated others with fairness, kindness and justice. Notice it says he was blameless in his generation, meaning no human could accuse him of any wrongdoing. Blamelessness as used in this context is about being blameless before mankind, and not about being without sin before God

Jobs was blameless: it is written, "Job was blameless, upright, feared God and turned away from evil." God Himself confirms Job's righteousness, by saying, "There is none like Job a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" And even after Job had been tested and suffered greatly the LORD said, "Job even continues to hold fast his integrity even though I the LORD have almost destroyed him without reason" (Job 1:8) (Job 2:3). Blameless in this context does not mean that Job was without sin, it simply means he was a decent man who did no harm to another human, he helped the poor doing what was right before God and even under extreme suffering endured in faith remaining faithful to God.

The only man without sin: there has only ever been one man who walked on earth without sin before God and his name was not Noah or Job but, The Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

PSALM 37:23-31

Those Blessed by God shall inherit the Land.

- **Psalm 37:23-31:** The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; ²⁴though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand. ²⁵I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. ²⁶He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing. ²⁷Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever. ²⁸For the LORD loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. ²⁹The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever. ³⁰The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. ³¹The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.

For those who delight in the ways of the LORD, meaning they love justice, mercy, kindness, compassion, forgiveness and doing what is right and good the LORD will guide through life and when they do fall He will take them by the hand and lift them up. The picture is of a person slipping off the edge of a pit so deep that the bottom cannot be seen and as they fall in darkness toward certain death that is waiting at the bottom the LORD takes their hand and lifts them up toward the light above.

The righteous speak wisdom and justice and the law of God is upon their heart so that they do not slip from God's love and dishonour His Holy name. Not only has David never seen those who live this way forsaken by God or begging for food, but he knows they will inherit the Promised Land and dwell upon it forever while the wicked will have no part in it. All the advice and wisdom David has gained over many years of walking in faith with the LORD could be summed in in the following seven words, "Turn away from evil and do good" (v27).

The LORD loves justice: (28) the word justice comes from two Hebrew word (mishpat) (shaphat) the first means a favourable or unfavourable a verdict or sentence pronounced judicially by, a human law or divine law upon and individual or a collective community or population that suits the crime and fits the wrong-doing. The second means to judge and pronounce a sentence (for or against) it carries the idea of vindicating or punishing and by extension to govern or rule and condemn the guilty and defending the innocent.

PSALM 37:32-34

Wait for the LORD, and You will See the Wicked Cut Off.

- **Psalm 37:32-34:** The wicked watches for the righteous and seeks to put him to death.
³³The LORD will not abandon him to his power or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial. ³⁴Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.

Again, we see the malice of hatred and murder in the heart of the wicked seeking to kill the innocent. David's words, "The LORD will not abandon the faithful to the power of the wicked," do not refer to life in this corrupted mortal world, many faithful and innocent men and women throughout history have been killed through persecution, wars and random violence. The context is when the wicked stand trial before the judgment seat of God at this trial the wicked will be condemned and the righteous exalted. The promise, "You to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off" (v35) carry an echo of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and

those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

PSALM 37:35-40

a Future for People of Peace, but Destruction for Transgressors.

- **Psalm 37:35-40:** I have seen a wicked, ruthless man, spreading himself like a green laurel tree. ³⁶But he passed away, and behold, he was no more; though I sought him, he could not be found. ³⁷Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace. ³⁸But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off. ³⁹The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. ⁴⁰The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

For an understanding of the word Blameless see the notes under the title: "Blameless," following (v16-22) above.

The laurel tree: grew in Israel it can be a huge tree, reaching heights of seventy feet and more and can be as wide as it is tall. It grew in Israel; is evergreen; produces white flowers and in the summer produces blueberry sized black fruits. Every part of the tree is loaded with aromatic volatile oils that have a really appealing scent. One of the leading features of the tree is that it stays nice and green no matter what the weather is like. Drought, torrential rains and hot winds do nothing to alter its green coloration. The ancient Israelite society not only saw it as being very much a symbol of their homeland, but also as a symbol of triumph over adversity and of people that survived well despite whatever was happening around them. All other ancient civilisations around the Mediterranean were also impressed with the tree the Greeks and Romans used it as head ware for their most esteemed citizens, priests, poets, Olympic heroes, and the like.

The picture of the ruthless man spreading himself like a green laurel tree (v35) carries the idea he is spreading his very prosperous, powerful and successful empire or business of trade far and wide and like the laurel tree, it looks so strong and healthy that it could never crumple, but eventually it did because it was built on a foundation of lies, deceit and the cruel oppression of others. Likewise, a day is coming when all the ruthless that use others for their own gain will be destroyed and be seen no more. In contrast to the destruction of the wicked those who seek peace will be resurrected to eternal glory and everlasting happiness.

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.
