

## Psalms 37

**Psalms 37:3-5 Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and he shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.**

When you read the reason for the Psalm into it then you get a picture of what inspired the Psalm. For example, when Paul instructs the Philippians to be unified, we can conclude that the Philippians were having some trouble getting along. Here, in Psalms 37, where the Psalm describes the plight of the rich and wicked and encourages the poor and righteous it is fair for us to conclude that the poor and righteous are frustrated by the apparent success and comfort of the wicked and righteous. Psalms 37 gives direction for overcoming those frustrations.

The first section of the Psalm is vv. 1-11. First, what not to do: Do not fret (3 times), Do not be envious, Cease from anger, forsake wrath. Next, what to do: Trust in the Lord, do good, dwell in the land, feed on His faithfulness, delight yourself in the Lord, Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, Rest in the Lord, wait patiently

for Him. Reasons for the negatives: They shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb, evildoers shall be cut off, yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more. Reasons for the positives: He shall give you the desires of your heart, He shall bring it to pass - your righteousness as a light, your justice as the noonday, Those who wait on the Lord shall inherit the earth, the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

In section 2, vv. 12-20, the wicked are contrasted with the righteous. The aggressive behaviors of the wicked are enacted as the Lord laughs derisively at their plans and efforts. The little of the righteous is better than the riches of the wicked. The arms of the wicked will break but the Lord upholds the righteous. The inheritance of the upright is forever but the wicked shall perish and vanish away.

Section 3 contrasts the behaviors and character of the righteous and the wicked: the wicked - borrow without repaying. The righteous - shows mercy and gives, his steps are ordered by the Lord, He delights in the way of the Lord, though he fall he will not be utterly cast down, He is ever merciful and lends, his mouth speaks wisdom, his

tongue talks of justice, the law of God is in his heart. The blessings that belong to the righteous - The Lord upholds him with His hand, a testimony of never forsaken, never begging bread, the Lord loves justice and does not forsake His saints, His saints are preserved forever, They shall inherit the land and dwell in it forever, none of his steps shall slide.

The last section describes the outcomes of experienced by both the righteous and the wicked: The wicked's effort to slay the righteous will fail, the wicked will pass away and be no more, the transgressors shall be destroyed together, the future of the wicked shall be cut off. But those who wait on the Lord and keep His way shall be exalted to inherit the land, the blameless and upright will enjoy a future of peace, The Lord will save the righteous, be their strength in times of trouble, shall help and deliver them because they trust in Him.