

PSALM 37

A Psalm of David.

Man is too shortsighted in spiritual matters to be able to judge rightly of the ways of Providence. We must not draw rash conclusions from seeing the prevalence of wickedness and the triumphs of wicked men in this world. Faith and patience assure us that there is a God who judges the earth, and that there is a reward laid up for the righteous. Although the good man may have many troubles and trials, yet the Lord will support him; for they come to purify his faith and love. God will order the steps of his path and make his way acceptable.

- 1 Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!
- 2 For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.
- 3 Trust in YAHWEH, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
- 4 Delight yourself in YAHWEH, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- 5 Commit your way to YAHWEH; trust in him, and he will act.
- 6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

- 7 Be still before YAHWEH and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!

- 8 Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.
- 9 For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for YAHWEH shall inherit the land.
- 10 In just a little while, the wicked will be no more;
though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.
- 11 But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.

- 12 The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him,
13 but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming.
- 14 The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy,
to slay those whose way is upright;
- 15 their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

- 16 Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked.
- 17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but YAHWEH upholds the righteous.
- 18 YAHWEH knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will remain forever;
- 19 they are not put to shame in evil times; in the days of famine they have abundance.

- 20 But the wicked will perish; the enemies of YAHWEH are like the glory of the pastures;
they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.

21 The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives;
22 for those blessed by YAHWEH shall inherit the land,
but those cursed by him shall be cut off.

23 The steps of a man are established by YAHWEH, when he delights in his way;
24 though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for YAHWEH upholds his hand.
25 I have been young, and now am old,
yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.
26 He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing.

27 Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever.
28 For YAHWEH loves justice; he will not forsake his saints.
They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.
29 The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever.
30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice.
31 The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.

32 The wicked watches for the righteous and seeks to put him to death.
33 YAHWEH will not abandon him to his power
or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial.

34 Wait for YAHWEH and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land;
you will look on when the wicked are cut off.
35 I have seen a wicked, ruthless man, spreading himself like a green laurel tree.
36 But he passed away, and behold, he was no more;
though I sought him, he could not be found.

37 Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace.
38 But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed;
the future of the wicked shall be cut off.
39 The salvation of the righteous is from YAHWEH;
he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.
40 YAHWEH helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

PRAYER

Almighty God, you never forsake the godly but preserve them forever. Let your law be grounded and fixed in our hearts that we may make our ways acceptable to you, committing ourselves wholly to your providence and putting our trust in your mercies. Stand by us, and do not permit Satan to have dominion over us, but bring us at the last day to your heavenly rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.