**"THE BOOK OF PSALMS"**

**Psalm 37 - The Meek Shall Inherit The Earth**

**January 13, 2021**

**OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS PSALM 37**

1) To learn why we should not fret, become angry, or be envious of the wicked when they prosper

2) To see the importance of trusting in the Lord and committing our ways to Him

3) To note the context from which came the beatitude "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

**SUMMARY:** This psalm of David is didactic in nature, filled with instruction for

God's people. It was evidently written late in life, in which David shares his observations in verse 2. A recurring theme is who will inherit the earth (**9,11,22,29,34**), and the answer of the psalmist is one of the beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount (cf. **Mt 5:5**). From the context of the psalm, we might understand the beatitude to refer to blessings in this life for those who trust in God (cf. **Mt 6:33; Mk 10:29-30**). Not

that they may literally possess more of this earth's riches, but their ability to enjoy it is blessed by God (**16;** cf. **Ec 5:19-6:2**).

Acrostic in the original Hebrew, the psalm is somewhat difficult to outline. It begins with a series of exhortations directed to the righteous, to trust in the Lord and not fret or be angry when the wicked prosper (**1-8**). It continues with an exposition contrasting the wicked and the righteous, illustrating the futility of the wicked and the steadfastness of the righteous (**9-26**). It ends with counsel for one to do good and depart from evil, to wait on the Lord and keep His way, and to take careful note of the future of the righteous as opposed to the end of the wicked (**27-40**).

**OUTLINE**

**I. EXHORTATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS (37:1-8)**

**A. DO NOT ENVY EVILDOERS (1-2)**

1. Do not fret nor be envious of the workers of iniquity

2. They shall soon wither and be cut away

**B. PUT YOUR FAITH IN THE LORD (3-8)**

1. Trust in the Lord and do good

a. Dwell in the land, feeding on His faithfulness

b. Delight in the Lord, who will give you the desires of your heart

2. Commit your way to the Lord, trusting in Him

a. He shall bring your plans to pass

b. He shall bring forth your righteousness and justice

3. Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him

a. Do not fret because of the prosperous or wicked

b. Cease from anger, wrath and worry, it only causes harm

**II. EXPOSITION ON THE WICKED AND RIGHTEOUS (37:9-26)**

**A. THE FUTILITY OF THE WICKED (9-17)**

1. The wicked shall be cut off and be no more

a. While those who wait on the Lord shall inherit the earth

b. While the meek shall inherit the earth and enjoy an abundance of peace

2. The wicked shall be defeated

a. Despite their plots against the just and gnashing of teeth

1) The Lord laughs

2) He sees their day coming

b. Despite their weapons against the poor and righteous

1) Which they have drawn to cast down and slay

2) Which shall enter their own hearts and be broken

3. Better than the riches of the wicked is the poverty of the righteous

a. The arms of the wicked shall be broken

b. The Lord will uphold the righteous

**B. THE STEADFASTNESS OF THE RIGHTEOUS (18-26)**

1. The LORD knows the days of the righteous

a. Their inheritance shall be forever

b. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time

c. They shall be satisfied in the days of famine

2. The wicked and enemies of the LORD shall perish

a. They shall vanish like the splendor of the meadows

b. They shall vanish away like smoke

3. The righteous shows mercy and gives, the wicked who borrows and does not repay

a. For those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the earth

b. While those cursed by Him shall be cut off

4. The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD

a. The Lord delights in his way

b. Even though he falls, he is not utterly cast down

c. For the Lord upholds him with His hand

**III. COUNSEL FOR THE RIGHTEOUS (37:27-40)**

**A. DEPART FROM EVIL, DO GOOD, AND DWELL IN THE LAND (27-33)**

1. For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His saints

a. They are preserved, while the wicked shall be cut off

b. The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell in it forever

2. The virtues of the righteous

a. His mouth speaks wisdom, his tongue talks of justice

b. The law of his God is in his heart, none of his steps shall slide

3. The protection of the LORD

a. Despite the attempts of the wicked to slay the righteous

b. The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged

**B. WAIT ON THE LORD AND KEEP HIS WAY (34-36)**

1. He shall exalt you to inherit the land

2. You shall see it when the wicked are cut off

a. Even as the wicked once grew like a tree in great power

b. But later could not be found for he was no more

**C. NOTE THE BLAMELESS AND UPRIGHT (37-40)**

1. Mark the blameless, observe the upright, in contrast to the wicked

a. The future of that man is peace

b. The future of wicked shall be destroyed and cut off

2. The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD

a. He is their strength in times of trouble

b. He shall help and deliver them from the wicked, because they trust in Him

**REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE PSALM 37**

**1) What are the main points of this psalm?**

- Exhortation for the righteous (1-8)

- Exposition on the wicked and the righteous (9-26)

- Counsel for the righteous (27-33)

**2) What does David tell us not to do when others are wicked and prosperous? Why? (1,7,8)**

- Do not fret, be envious, or angry; it only causes one harm

**3) Why should we not be bothered about the prosperity of the wicked? (2,9,10)**

- They shall soon be cut off; they shall soon be no more

**4) What are we encouraged to do? (3-7)**

- Trust in the Lord, do good

- Dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness

- Delight in the Lord

- Commit your way to the Lord

- Trust in Him

- Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him

**5) Who is said to inherit the earth? (9,11,22,29,34)**

- Those who wait on the LORD

- The meek

- Those blessed by the LORD

- The righteous

- Those who wait on the LORD and keep His Way

**6) What will happen to the efforts of the wicked against the just? (12-15)**

- Their efforts will turn on to themselves

**7) What is better than the riches of many wicked? Why? (16-17)**

- A little that a righteous man has; because the LORD upholds the righteous

**8) What is said concerning the upright? (18-19)**

- The LORD knows their days

- Their inheritance shall be forever

- They shall not be ashamed in the evil time

- They shall be satisfied in the days of famine

**9) What will happen to the wicked and the enemies of the LORD? (20)**

- They shall perish and vanish away

**10) What difference is noted between the wicked and righteous concerning money? (21)**

- The wicked borrows and does not repay; the righteous shows mercy and gives

**11) What is said about the steps of a good man? (23-24)**

- They are ordered by the LORD, He delights in his way

- If he falls, he will not be utterly cast down, for the LORD upholds him

**12) What observation has the psalmist made in life? (25-26)**

- He has never seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread

- The righteous is ever merciful and lends, his descendants are blessed

**13) Why should we depart from evil and do good? (27-29)**

- For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His saints

- They are preserved, and the righteous shall inherit the land

**14) What is noted about the mouth and heart of the righteous? (30-31)**

- The mouth speaks wisdom and tongue talks of justice; the law of his God is in heart

**15) Who protects the righteous from the wicked? (32-33)**

- The LORD

**16) What is one exhorted to do in verse 34? Why?**

- Wait on the LORD and keep his way; He shall exalt you to inherit the land

**17) What has the psalmist seen? (35-36)**

- The wicked in great power, spreading like a tree; yet he passed away and could not be found

**18) What are we told to notice about the blameless and upright man? The**

**wicked? (37-38)**

- His future is peace; their future shall be cut off

**19) What is said about the righteous in the last two verses? (39-40)**

- Their salvation is from the LORD

- He is their strength in time of trouble

- They LORD shall help them and deliver them from the wicked

**20) Why will the LORD save the righteous? (40)**

- Because they trust in Him