

Psalm 37

The theme of this Psalm is to wait patiently for God to act, trusting He knows when and how.

The Psalm vividly contrasts the wicked person with those in harmony with the Creator God.

This Psalm is an exposition of Matthew 5:5, a wisdom Psalm that has the tone of Proverbs, [Proverbs 24:19-20; Proverbs 23:17; Proverbs 24:1].

Psalms 37:1-2 [New King James] *“Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.”*

We should never envy evil people if they are popular or excessively rich. No matter how much they have, for it will only last, if they are lucky, for their lifetime, [Luke 12:15-21].

Psalms 37:3-6 [New King James] *“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. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.”*

To trust in the Creator God we have to know Him well, we do this through our study of the life of the Son, Jesus Christ, [**John 14:7-11**] as recorded in God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

The Hebrew word translated “delight” is “ânag” meaning to be soft and pliable in an effeminate way.

This relationship can only come as a result of complete trust, and a loving relationship, prompted by what God has done for all humanity through His Son Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

The Greek word translated “bodies” is “soma” meaning whole life, physical body, mind and human spirit, [**Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11**].

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Once we make this decision, this total trust and surrender, we will be re-educated by an active indwelling Holy Spirit to make us acceptable to a Holy Creator God, [1 Peter 1:15-16; Galatians 5:22-25].

Psalms 37:7-9 [New King James] *“Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; **do not fret**, it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.”*

Anger and worry [fretting] are two destructive emotions. They also reveal a lack of faith in the Creator God and His love for us.

Worry, the result of an obsession with enemies and rivals, cannot be simply switched off, but it can be negated by a new focus of attention towards our Saviour and Creator God, “trust” [verse 3], “delight” [verse 4], “commit” [verse 5], “rest” and “wait” [verse 7].

Look forward to our eternal inheritance with our Saviour and Master Jesus Christ, “will inherit the land,” focus on things eternal.

Romans 8:16-17 [New King James] *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”*

This is the glorious future for all who focus their lives on serving our Saviour Jesus Christ, fulfilled in the future world tomorrow after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, [**Revelation 21:7**].

Psalms 37:11 [New King James] *“But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”*

Meekness is one of the characteristics of all who will be part of this inheritance, [**Matthew 5:5**].

The positive focus of this Psalm is on the future of all who trust and yield to the guidance of the Creator God, an eternal future on the earth, [**verses 18, 22, 28-29, 34**].

Psalms 37:34 [New King James] *“Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.”*

It is always difficult for a human being who is “locked in time” to wait patiently for a Creator God who exists “outside of time” when He does not respond right away.

But God promises that if we submit to His timetable He will honour us.

1 Peter 5:6-7 [New King James] *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”*

This same message and promise is found in **Psalm 37**, for it is an eternal promise from an all-powerful Creator God who cannot lie, [**Titus 1:2**]. **Make this part of the foundation of our present physical life.**