

## Good vs. Evil

### Psalm 37

**Gen 2:16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: **17** But of the tree of the **knowledge of good and evil**, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

#### According to Barnes:

Dr. Delaney supposed that the Psalm might have been written by David in the behalf of Mephibosheth, who, being falsely accused by his servant Ziba, had formed the resolution to leave a land where he had met with such bad treatment. David, being convinced of his innocence, entreats him to dwell in the land, with the assurance of plenty and protection.

Much of David's advice to Mephibosheth can also apply to us.

**2Ti 3:16** All **scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for **instruction in righteousness**: **17** That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

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**Psa 37:1** *A Psalm of David.* Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

- Jealousy over the prosperity of the wicked should never enter the mind of the righteous!

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**Psa 37:2** For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. **3** Trust in the LORD, and do good; *so* shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. **4** Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

- Life is a vapor (**James 4:14**) and whatever we do won't be done for very long, whether good or evil. We are to be confident that **He** will take care of our needs. To delight in the **Lord** is to expect all happiness to come from **Him**. With this **Godly** mindset **He** will grant our requests because they will be **according to His will** and not ours.

**Mat 26:42** He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, **O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done.**

**Rom 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to **them that love God**, to them who are the called **according to His purpose**.

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**Psa 37:5** Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring *it* to pass. **6** And He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. **7** Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

- When we trust in **God** **He** will expose our character as being right in **His** sight and our verdict as not being guilty when the wicked try to slander us because of **Him**.

To "rest in the Lord" is to "be silent to Jehovah"; to not be anxious while handing our cares over to Him.

1Pe 5:7 Casting **all** your care upon Him; for He careth for you.

We are not to worry about the non-believer who has everything this life has to offer. Especially when his prosperity is from ill gotten gain.

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**Psa 37:8** Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. **9** For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. **10** For yet a little while, and the wicked *shall not be*: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it *shall not be*. **11** But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

- How can we separate ourselves if we do as the world does? We are to stay calm so as not to even think of saying something evil that we might regret later. Even though these passages speak of another time, they speak to us now. The wicked will regret their sin when judgment comes.
- **Meek**- Heb.6035-saintly, humble. **Only** the humble will submit to **God** in obedience and thus are rewarded with the inheritance.
- **Inherit**- Heb.3423-to occupy, to possess.
- **The earth**- Heb.776-country, earth, ground, land, world.

**Mat 5:5** Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

- **Jesus** was speaking about a soon to be realized, then, kingdom on earth, the church, which could only be occupied by the humble. Only there can be found "the peace of **God**, which passeth all understanding...(Phil 4:7)

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**Psa 37:12** The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. **13** The Lord shall laugh at him: for He seeth that his day is coming.

**Psa 1:6** For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

**Psa 2:4** He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh (*Heb.832-mock*): the Lord shall have them in derision (*Heb.3932-laugh to scorn, mock [on]*).

**Psa 139:2** Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought **afar off** (*Heb.4480, 7350-from a remote place or time*). **3** Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted (*Heb.5532-familiar*) with all my ways. **4** For *there is* not a word in my tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether (*Heb.3605-whole, all, any or every*). **5** Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. **6** *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful (*Heb.6383-remarkable, secret*) for me; it is high (*Heb.7682-to be lofty, inaccessible*), I cannot *attain* unto it.

- Since, as **Ps 139:2-6** states, **God** is all knowing, the unrighteous are not outside **His** range of vision.

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**Psa 37:14** The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, *and* to slay such as be of upright conversation. **15** Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

- When we think of the word of God as being a sword, the wicked also have their swords. Their sharp tongues speak evil of those of good behavior in the hope of degrading the saints. Their arrows are the bitter words of insult. But in the end it will all backfire.

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**Psa 37:16** A little that a righteous man hath *is* better than the riches of many wicked. **17** For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.

- God "maketh His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust". Mat 4:45

Thus the wicked are blessed because of the just. Whatever we have is a blessing from God but because the righteous man knows from whence it came he is that much more blessed.

**Jas 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

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**Psa 37:18** The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever. **19** They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. **20** But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD *shall be* as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.

- God understands when we are tested. To our own benefit He allows those trials to strengthen us.

**Mat 24:13** But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

**1Pe 1:7** ... the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

**Jas 5:11** Behold, we count them happy (*fortunate*) which **endure**. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

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**2Ti 1:12** For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless **I am not ashamed**: for I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.

- The wicked will be consumed by the fire of God's wrath like the fat of lambs on the altar when they were consumed by the sacrificial fire.

**Rev 11:18** And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward

unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

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**Psa 37:21** The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth. **22** For *such as be* blessed of Him shall inherit the earth; and *they that be* cursed of Him shall be cut off.

- To borrow **knowing in advance** it cannot or **will** not be repaid is sin. Because the righteous know they received mercy from God they also show it to others, even their enemies.

**Rom 12:20** Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. **21** Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

The hotter the furnace the more the dross will separate from the silver and leave a purer metal. And so it is when we do good to our enemies. The blessed are the humble but the cursed will not obtain the inheritance of the kingdom.

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**Psa 37:23** The steps of a (*good*) man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in His way. **24** Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him with* His hand.

- Since "good" is not in the original text we understand that (*according to Clarke*) "even the most powerful must be supported by the Lord". (Pharoah, Nebuchadnezzar, etc.) Who wouldn't delight in God's way when He orders it.

**Jer 10:23** O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

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- Though he fall- not so much as into the snare of the Devil but when his enemies get the best of him. God will be there at his side.

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**Psa 37:25** I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. **26** *He is* ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed *is* blessed.

- Speaking from experience, David states he has never seen a righteous man go without or in need. He is always merciful and lends. The wicked man borrows but the good man lends. Because of his righteous living his actions are seen by his offspring and are thus emulated (copied).

**Pro 22:6** Train up (*Heb.2596-to narrow, to initiate or discipline*) a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

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**Psa 37:27** Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.

- The sum of this psalm is to shun wrongdoing.

- Dwell for evermore- concerns a righteous man and his posterity. As long as each generation succeeds in righteousness it thus carries on the name as being of a righteous family. (*Lk.1:32-34*)

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**Psa 37:28** For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not His saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. **29** The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.

- Judgment- Heb.4941-verdict pronounced judicially. God loves doing right. To the good, justice is rewarded with good. To the wicked, justice is served with punishment. In both instances God would be doing what is right.

**Rom 3:5** ... *Is* God unrighteous Who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) **6** God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?

**Heb 13:5** *Let your* conversation (*character*) *be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

- Preserved- here means *to hedge about, guard, protect* (Heb.8104). In the context they are always protected. The wicked have lost their favor in God's sight. Even though David is speaking of the physical land at the time of this writing, the children of the righteous would carry on through the generations thereafter and eventually the kingdom would be established by Christ through them.

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**Psa 37:30** The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. **31** The law of his God *is* in his heart (*Heb.3820-intellect, mind*); none of his steps shall slide.

- To speak wisdom shows a person's character. He knows how to control his language and demeanor when speaking. He doesn't take part in conversations that are of ill repute but enjoys speaking of good things with good men.

**Tit 1:8** ... a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

- How is it that the law of God got into his heart/mind in the first place?

**Deu 11:18** Therefore shall ye **lay up these My words in your heart** and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. **19** And ye shall **teach them your children**, speaking of them **when** thou sittest in thine house, and **when** thou walkest by the way, **when** thou liest down, and **when** thou risest up. **20** And thou shalt **write them** upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: **21** That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

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**Psa 37:32** The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him. **33** The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.

- Why do people watch us so intently? So that they can justify their bad behavior by our faults. And they watch closely calling us "self-righteous" when we know from whence our righteousness comes. These are the arrows of insult of verse 15.

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

- God will not forsake the righteous. He will not allow the wicked to accomplish his goal of condemning the innocent when the innocent are judged by them.

**Psa 37:34** Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and He shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see *it*. **35** I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. **36** Yet he passed away, and, lo, he *was* not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

- As we fear God and serve Him and remain in the path in which He guides us we rule the earth via the kingdom, the church. It is easy to recognize the courses of good and evil. When an unrighteous man prospers and has great influence to the point of believing he obtained it through his own strength, he soon realizes from whence it came. Remember Nebuchadnezzar? (Dan 4) His days are numbered! The memory of such a man will fade as if he never existed.

**Psa 37:37** Mark the perfect *man*, and behold the upright: for the end of *that man is* peace.

- Regard the one who is morally pious and undefiled. Consider the one who is just because his reward will be an eternal rest. O to be in the company of such a saint.

*Eze 9:4* And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and **set a mark upon the foreheads** of the men **that sigh** and **that cry** for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

**Psa 37:38** But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.

- The only thing in common the wicked have is they will all suffer the same fate. Just as the future of the righteous will be peace, the future of the ungodly will be "where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched". (Mk 9:43-48)

**Psa 37:39** But the salvation of the righteous *is* of the LORD: *He is* their strength in the time of trouble. **40** And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him.

- We give credit to God for our deliverance. He fortifies His saints who suffer tribulation. The Lord surrounds them and gives them an escape from the hands of the ungodly by opening wide the gate to freedom. Why? Because we have a hope in Him for He is our refuge.

If you are uncertain where the dividing line between good and evil is, you need to know and we are here to help you find it. (Heb 4:12)

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