

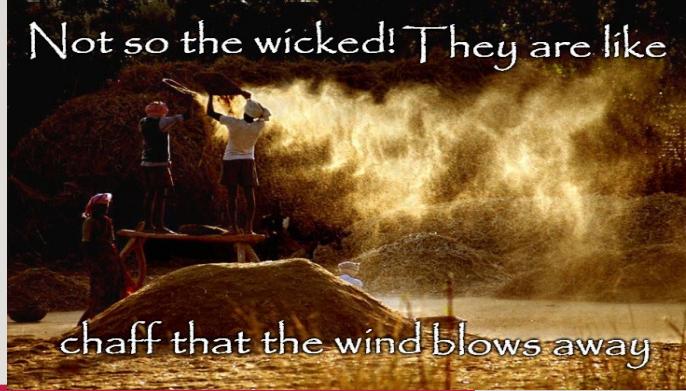
PSALM 37: RIGHTEOUS REFUGEES

PSALM 37 SUNDAY SCHOOL | 10.20, 27.19

DANNY SCOTTON JR



PSALM 1



- Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. (Ps 1:1-3, NIV)
- Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. (Ps 1:4-6, NIV)
- What happens when it seems like Psalm 1 isn't true? (Goldingay, 517; Futato, 144)
- Many laments between Psalm 1 and Psalm 37 suggest that Psalm 1 might not be true (Goldingay, 517)
- Like Psalms 73, 91, 119, etc., this Psalm acknowledges that though there may be evidence to the contrary, Psalm 1 will be confirmed in the long run (cf. Goldingay, 517)



PSALM 37 PROVERBS FROM A-Z



- Psalm 37 is an acrostic psalm (Craigie, 296; Hilber, 352; Longman, 177; Motyer, 509; Wilcock, 127; Tanner, 348; VanGemeren, 341): each section (mostly) begins w/ a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet (Kidner, 166; Futato, 144).
- Alphabetical structure was a mnemonic device to help people **memorize** (Craigie, 296; Wilcock, 127; VanGemeren, 341)
- Psalm 37 is a **wisdom psalm** meant to instruct (Futato, 144)– like the Book of Proverbs (Craigie, 296; Goldingay, 517; Kidner, 166; Wilcock, 127; Tanner, 348; cf. Longman, 177; VanGemeren, 340)
- Basically a **collection** of proverbs (Craigie, 296 cf. Goldingay, 517). Proverbs are generally not meant to be isolated, **comprehensive** claims. Proverbs modify and clarify each other as tensions emerge (Broyles, 183)
- **Do not answer a fool** according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him. (Pr 26:4, NIV; Broyles, 183)
- **Answer a fool** according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes. (Pr 26:5, NIV; Broyles, 183)



PSALM 37 PROVERBS FROM A-Z



- Similar to Psalm 1 (delight, tree metaphor, the instruction of the LORD, the way or the wicked vs. righteous, etc.)
(Goldingay, 517 cf. Wilcock, 128; Tanner, 348)
- Psalm 37 provides instruction on how to live an upright and God-fearing life – even when the **wicked** seem to **prosper** (Craigie, 297; Goldingay, 518; Longman, 177; Futato, 144; Tanner, 348)
- Main message: The LORD “looks after the **faithful**, while the **faithless** perish” (Goldingay, 517)
- Though the wicked may **seem** to be successful and powerful and even oppressive, in the long run, they will fall (Futato, 144), and the righteous will be delivered and take possession of the land (cf. VanGemeren, 340)
- **Two Ways:** “being wicked seems like the stupidest choice one can make. You may choose to trust in God and inherit the land **or** forsake God, trust **yourself**, and disappear!” (Tanner, 353)



PSALM 37:1-2 (x)



- Do not **fret** because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. (Ps 37:1-2, NIV)
- Do not **fret** because of evildoers or be envious of the wicked, for the evildoer has no future hope, and the lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out. (Pr 24:19, NIV cf. Pr 24:1; Craigie, 297; VanGemeren, 342; Goldingay, 518; Kidner, 166; Kraus, 405; Wilcock, 128)
- Do not let your heart **envy** sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD. (Pr 23:17, NIV; cf. Craigie, 297; Kidner, 166; cf. Pr 3:31; VanGemeren, 342)
- **Fret** (חרה |*ḥārâ*) = “**burn, be kindled (of anger)**” (TWOT, 322 cf. Goldingay, 518; Kidner, 166; Tanner, 352). “**Do not become enraged**” (Broyles, 180)



PSALM 37:1-2 (x)



- Verb tense suggests anger boils inside **oneself**, not having an opportunity to express it to those who caused it (Goldingay, 519).
- Not merely moral indignation; anger at the **moral order** (Kraus, 405). “Anger, resentment, and jealousy destroy [faith] in God’s goodness and justice...” (VanGemeren, 342)
- It is tempting to be jealous of those who do wrong and yet still succeed (Craigie, 297; VanGemeren, 341) – Especially when godly living leads to **hardship** (Craigie, 297) as the NT **promises** (1 Tim 3:12; Jn 15:20, 16:33; Mk 13:13; Mt 10:22 cf. 2 Cor 11:24-28, etc.)
- Psalm 37 says their success will be **short-lived** (Craigie, 297; Goldingay, 519; Longman, 178; Broyles, 180)
- In the Middle East, green plants could wither in a few days after a dry desert wind (cf. Ps 90:5-6, 103:15-16; Is 40:6-8; VanGemeren, 341)

STAY
FOCUSSED
ON GOD

SEEK GOD'S
FACE
NOT HIS
HAND

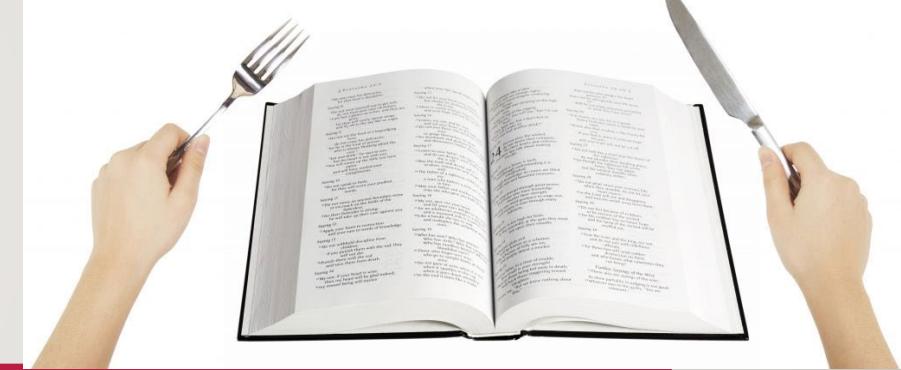
PSALM 37:3-4 (ב)



- Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take **delight** in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (Ps 37:3-4, NIV)
- Don't envy the wicked, trust in the LORD (Craigie, 297; Goldingay, 519; cf. Pr 3:5, 16:20, 28:25; Is 26:4; VanGemeren, 342). Don't get mad at those who **do bad**, delight in the LORD & **do good** (Goldingay, 519)
- Remedy: Don't focus on them; focus on God! (Goldingay, 519 cf. Is 26:3; Longman, 178) "**Deliberate redirection**" (cf. Paul & Silas (Ac 16:16-40; Kidner, 167)). Be preoccupied with God, not prosperity (Broyles, 181)
- **Land** is very important in this context; people lived off the land/ The OT Promised Land (Goldingay, 520; Longman, 177, 181)
- **Enjoy safe pasture** can also be translated "tend faithfulness" (Kidner, 167; Motyer, 509 cf. Broyles, 184; VanGemeren, 343). **Cultivate** being faithful to God (Motyer, 509; Wilcock, 128)



PSALM 37:3-4 (ב)



- Desires (מְשֻׁאָלָה | *miš'ālāh*) from same root as **Saul** (שָׁאָל | *šā'āl*) meaning “petition” (TWOT, 89 | cf. Jas 4:2; Goldingay, 520; cf. IVP; Motyer, 509; Tanner, 348)
- but whose **delight** is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. (Ps 1:2, NIV; Goldingay, 517)
- **Delight** (cf. Job 27:10; Is 55:2, 66:11) in the LORD, not merely in His blessings (Goldingay, 520)
- **Delight** (עֲנָג | *‘ānag*) = “**enjoy oneself**” (HALOT, 851; Tanner, 348) > **envy** (VanGemeren, 342)
- The wicked live for the themselves (Craigie, 297), the godly receive legitimate (godly) desires (Craigie, 297) – that **conform to God's will** (Longman, 178)
- **If we delight in worldly things, we might be worldly people!**



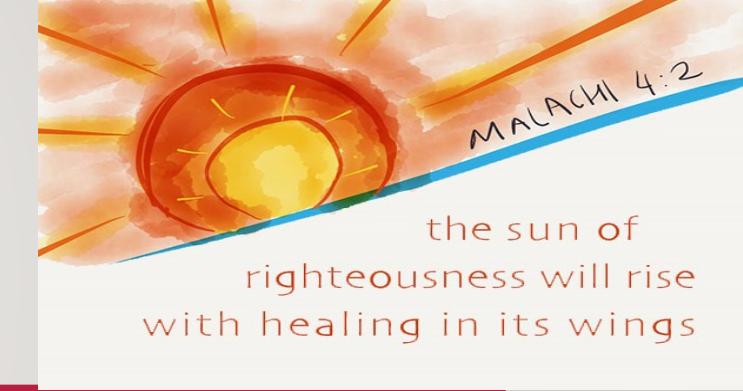
PSALM 37:5-6 (ג)



- Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. (Ps 37:5-6, NIV)
- **Commit** to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. (Pr 16:3, NIV; Craigie, 297; Kidner, 168; Longman, 178).
- Commit (גָּלַל | *gālal*) lit. “**roll**” or “**roll away**” (TWOT, 162; VanGemeren, 342; NIDOTTE, 867; BDB, 164)
- **Cast** all your anxiety on **him** because he cares for you. (1 Pet 5:7, NIV; VanGemeren, 342, etc.)
- **Trust** in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Pr 3:5-6, NIV; VanGemeren, 342, etc.)



PSALM 37:5-6 (ι)



- Your **way** can refer to one's career (Kidner, 167) but likely one's **entire way of life** (VanGemeren, 342); Your **vindication** can refer to one's reputation (Kidner, 167)
- Lit. "And he will make your righteousness come forth as a light and your justice like the midday sun." (Craigie, 294)
- The path of the **righteous** is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the **full light of day**. (Pr 4:18, NIV; VanGemeren, 342)
- But for you who revere my name, the **sun of righteousness will rise** with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. (Mal 4:2, NIV; cf. Pr 4:18; Is 58:8; VanGemeren, 342)
- One day the faithful will be vindicated; "Setbacks are temporary" (Craigie, 297)

PSALM 37:7 (7)

- Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not **fret** when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. (Ps 37:7, NIV)
- Be patient; don't go for the “**instant-success schemes** of this world” (Craigie, 297)
- Being **still** → a “willingness to submit” to the LORD and not to take matters into one’s own hands (Goldingay, 521)
- Wait on the LORD and His timing (Craigie, 297)

PSALM 37:8-9 (נ)

- Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not **fret**—it leads only to evil. For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land. (Ps 37:8-9, NIV)
- Life often seems **unfair** (Craigie, 297). When it does, don't succumb to the anger that can lead to you doing something evil (Craigie, 297; Broyles, 180); Don't get **heated** (Ps 37:1, 7, 8; Kidner, 166)
- Getting heated at evildoers can result in one becoming an evildoer (Goldingay, 522; Longman, 178). Overcome anger with good (Jas 1:20; Rom 12:21; Lk 6:27; Pr 25:21; Kidner, 167)
- **Destroyed** (כָּרַת | *kārat*) lit. “cut off” (TWOT, 456 cf. Goldingay, 522). The evil will be cut off (like the Canaanites) and the faithful will inherit the land (like the Israelites) (Craigie, 297; Wilcock, 130; but cf. Is 57:15, 60:21, 65:9; Mt 5:5; VanGemeren, 344; cf. Goldingay, 522)
- **Inherit** (יְרַשּׁ | *yāraš*) = “take possession of” (BDB, 439; TWOT, 409 cf. Ps 37: 11, 22, 29, and 34; Goldingay, 514, 522; Motyer, 509)
- Be still, wait for the LORD to act (Goldingay, 522)

PSALM 37:10-11 (1)

- A little while, and the **wicked** will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found. But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy peace and prosperity. (Ps 37:10-11, NIV)
- **Wicked** (עִשְׂרָא | *rāšā*'), also in Ps 37:12, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 32, 35, 38, 40 = **faithless** (Goldingay, 593). Those who resist God's will (Kraus, 404) **Practical atheists**: people for whom God is **irrelevant** (Motyer, 509 cf. Wilcock, 128). Mentioned 13 times (Futato, 144)
- In his pride the **wicked** man does not seek him; in all his thoughts **there is no room for God**. (Ps 10:4, NIV)
- Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. (Mt 5:5, NIV; Craigie, 300; Goldingay, 518; Kidner, 166; Longman, 181; Wilcock, 128). The meek inherit not because of their meekness or effort, but because of God (Craigie, 297).
- Meek (עֲנָו | 'ānāw) = "**humble**" (TWOT, 682). 3 (Now Moses was a very **humble** ['ānāw] man, more **humble** ['ānāw] than anyone else on the face of the earth.) (Nu 12:3, NIV)
- **Look ahead!** (cf. Is 40:8; 1 Jn 2:17; Kidner, 167) God removes the faithless and raises up the faithful (Goldingay, 523). God gives them peace (*shalom*) (Craigie, 297; VanGemeren, 344) "abundance of well-being" (Goldingay, 523)

PSALM 37:12-13 (r)

- The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them; but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming. (Ps 37:12-13, NIV)
- Wicked not only prosper, they prosper by **oppressing** the faithful (Craigie, 297; Goldingay, 523; Motyer, 509; Broyles, 181)
- **Gnash their teeth** → “grinding the teeth” (Goldingay, 523; Kidner, 168) as if ready to devour the godly (Longman, 178)
- God sees/**has seen** (perfect tense; Goldingay, 524 cf. Kraus, 406) all; He knows their time is limited (Craigie, 298)
- Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the LORD and against his **anointed**, saying, “Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.” The One enthroned in heaven **laughs**; the Lord scoffs at them. (Ps 2:1-4, NIV; Goldingay, 524; Kraus, 406; Longman, 178; Wilcock, 129)



PSALM 37:14-15 (נ)



- The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the **poor** and **needy**, to slay those whose ways are upright. But **their swords will pierce their own hearts**, and their bows will be broken. (Ps 37:14-15, NIV)
- The “boomerang” principle (Craigie, 298; Motyer, 509 cf. Goldingay, 524), **poetic justice** (Futato, 144)

PSALM 37:16-17 (v)

- Better the **little** that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked; for the **power** of the wicked will be broken, but the **LORD** upholds the righteous. (Ps 37:16-17, NIV)
- Better a **little** with the fear of the **LORD** than great wealth with turmoil. (Pr 15:16, NIV; Craigie, 298; Hilber, 352; Longman, 179; VanGemeren, 345)
- Better a **little** with righteousness than much gain with injustice. (Pr 16:8, NIV; Goldingay, 525; Hilber, 352; Longman, 179; VanGemeren, 345)
- Better to be lowly in spirit along with the **oppressed** than to share plunder with the proud. (Pr 16:19, NIV; Goldingay, 525)
- Better the **poor** whose walk is blameless than the rich whose ways are perverse. (Pr 28:6, NIV; Kidner, 169; Longman, 179)
- Lit. the “**arms** of the wicked shall be broken” (Craigie, 298; Goldingay, 525; VanGemeren, 347).
- Wealth is not inherently bad, poverty is not inherently good (Craigie, 298) or vice versa! The main contrast is between the righteous and the wicked (Craigie, 298)

PSALM 37:18-19 (י')

- The blameless spend their days under the LORD's care, and their inheritance will endure forever. In times of **disaster** they will not wither; in days of **famine** they will enjoy plenty. (Ps 37:18-19, NIV)
- If times got rough, families might borrow from others and use their land as collateral. If things got too bad, they would lose their land (Goldingay, 526)
- The psalmist has confidence that this won't happen for the blameless (Goldingay, 526), **Blameless** (תָּמִימָה | *tāmîm*) = people of "**integrity**" (BDB, 1071 cf. Wilcock, 128)
- **Inheritance** likely refers to the Promised Land (Longman, 179)
- The Israelites ate manna **forty years**, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan. (Ex 16:35, NIV; Wilcock, 129). They had **enough**
- During a drought, the LORD provided for Elijah with ravens who brought bread (1 Ki 17:2-6) and through the miraculous supply of flour and oil from the Widow at Zarephath (1 Ki 17:7-16; Craigie, 298)



PSALM 37:20 (ב)



- But the wicked will perish: Though the LORD's enemies are like the flowers of the field, they will be consumed, they will go up in smoke. (Ps 37:20, NIV)
- This verse is hard to translate (Craigie, 298). Likely means that the wicked will die quickly like the green pasture dies quickly in the summer heat (Craigie, 298)
- Accidental fires would cause famines (Goldingay, 526)
- The wicked won't make it through hard times (Goldingay, 526)
- Similar to Psalm 1 (Kidner, 169)

PSALM 37:21-22 (ל)

- The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously; those the LORD blesses will inherit the land, but those he curses will be destroyed. (Ps 37:21-22, NIV)
- **Blessings of the Old Covenant:** The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will **lend** to many nations but will borrow from none. The LORD will make you **the head, not the tail.** If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. (Dt 28:12-13, NIV; Craigie, 298; Wilcock, 130 cf. Pr 3:33; Craigie, 298)
- **Curses of the Old Covenant:** They will **lend to you**, but you will not lend to them. **They will be the head, but you will be the tail.** (Dt 28:44, NIV; Craigie, 298; Wilcock, 130)
- Due to their faithlessness, the wicked will not be able to get out of poverty (Goldingay, 527). The righteous are generous (cf. Pr 28:27, 29:27; Longman, 179)



PSALM 37:23-24 (נ)



- The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand. (Ps 37:23-24, NIV)
- for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes. (Pr 24:16, NIV; Craigie, 298; VanGemeren, 346)
- On life's journey (Longman, 180), the righteous may fall down, but the LORD will help them get up (Craigie, 298 cf. Goldingay, 527)
- Like a parent who supports a stumbling child (cf. Ps 73:2, 23; Broyles, 181)

PSALM 37:25-26 (ג)

- I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing. (Ps 37:25-26, NIV)
- “**Begging**” (בָּקַשׁ | *bāqas*) = “seek to find” (BDB, 134 cf. TWOT, 126; Goldingay, 516; Tanner, 37). **In the long run**, it is clear to the psalmist that the LORD does not forsake the faithful (Craigie, 298; Motyer, 509; cf. Ge 17:7; 28:15; Mt 28:20; VanGemeren, 347; cf. Dt 31:6)
- The faithful may **stumble** (Ps 37:24; Goldingay, 528; Motyer, 509), have **trouble** (Ps 37:39), endure **famine** and **disaster** (Ps 37:19), and face **adversity** from the **wicked** (Ps 37:7, 12, 14, 32-33, 40; VanGemeren, 346)
- However, “The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.” (Pr 10:3, NIV; Longman, 180). Though, not all abundance is material (2 Cor 6:10, NIV cf. Php 4:12; Ps 73:26; Kidner, 169).
- Despite psalmist’s experience (cf. Craigie, 298), Proverbs are **proverbial**, not necessarily **universal** (Longman, 180)
- Re: children could be **hyperbole** (Goldingay, 528). But, the **generosity of the faithful community likely prevents children from seeking bread** (Broyles, 182). They lend graciously (likely w/ **no interest** cf. Ex 22:25; Goldingay, 528)

PSALM 37:27-28A (5)

- Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever. For the LORD loves the just and will not **forsake** his faithful ones. (Ps 37:27-28a, NIV)
- for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his **faithful ones**. (Pr 2:8, NIV; Craigie, 298)
- “faithful ones” (תִּשְׁעָד | *hāsîd*) are members of God’s covenant community who, in response to God’s loyal love (**lovingkindness**, תִּשְׁעָד | *hesed*), emulate God’s loyal love in their lives (Craigie, 253)
- The faithful ones are those who are committed to the LORD, **no matter what** (Goldingay, 592)
- **Do good!** It can be tempting to **fight fire with fire** (Kidner, 170)

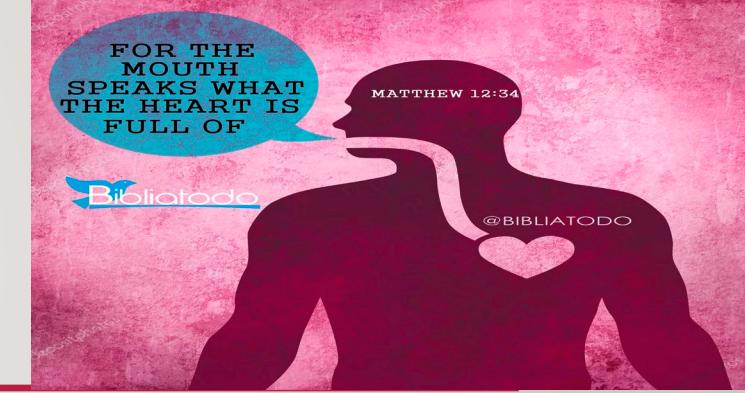
PSALM 37:28B-29 (յ)

- Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed; the offspring of the wicked will perish. The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever. (Ps 37:28b-29, NIV)
- For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful will be torn from it. (Pr 2:21-22, NIV; Goldingay, 529)
- “completely” → lit. “**forever**” – but likely not referring to the afterlife (Craigie, 299)
- Destroyed = “cut off” (Goldingay, 529)
- The unfaithfulness of the wicked has **ramifications for their descendants** (Goldingay, 529)
 - things roll down hill

It is on the tip
of my tongue.



PSALM 37:30-31 (ם)



- The mouths of the righteous utter **wisdom**, and their tongues speak what is **just**. The law of their God is in their hearts; their feet do not slip. (Ps 37:30-31, NIV)
- 31 From the **mouth** of the righteous comes the **fruit of wisdom**, but a perverse tongue will be silenced. (Pr 10:31, NIV; Craigie, 299; VanGemeren, 349)
- **Heart** refers to thoughts (Craigie, 299) not just emotions. **Law** (תֹּרַה | *tôrâ*) = Torah: “direction, **instruction**, the law” (NIDOTTE, 284 cf. Craigie, 299; “teaching” Motyer, 509; cf. Ps 1:2; Goldingay, 530)
- for gaining **wisdom** and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and **just** and fair (Pr 1:2-3, NIV; Goldingay, 530)
- No, the word is very near you; it is in your **mouth** and in your **heart** so you may **obey** it. (Dt 30:14, NIV; Goldingay, 530; cf. Ps 40:8; Is 51:7; Jer 31:33; Eze 36:27; VanGemeren, 348; cf. **Ps 119:11**)
- Lit. “**steps**” do not slip → moral mistakes (Goldingay, 530 cf. VanGemeren, 350).

PSALM 37:32-33 (v)

- The wicked lie in wait for the righteous, intent on putting them to death; but the LORD will not leave them in the power of the wicked or let them be condemned when brought to trial. (Ps 37:32-33, NIV)
- Wicked people often prey on the innocent (cf. Pr 1:11f; Craigie, 299)
- The faithful do stumble (Ps 37:24), but the LORD does not leave them down (Goldingay, 533)
- Implies that sometimes the **wicked will be in power** (Longman, 180)
- Perhaps they bear false witness, breaking the 9th commandment (cf. Ex 20:16; Craigie, 299)
- However, God is the Chief Justice (Craigie, 299)

PSALM 37:34 (¶)

- Hope in the LORD and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it. (Ps 37:34, NIV)
- Don't look to seize control and take matters into your own hands (Goldingay, 531; Hilber, 352); trust and obey the LORD (cf. VanGemeren, 350)
- Similar to Ps 37:7, 9, 11, etc. (Craigie, 299 cf. Goldingay, 531)
- The wicked will be cut off “soon” (Ps 37:2), in a **little while** (Ps 37:10; Broyles, 182)
- **You will see it:** For the psalmist, this likely does **not** refer to life beyond the grave (Broyles, 182)

PSALM 37:35-36 (ג)

- I have seen a wicked and ruthless man flourishing like a luxuriant native tree, but he soon passed away and was no more; though I looked for him, he could not be found. (Ps 37:35-36, NIV)
- (Another) autobiographical note similar to other wisdom literature (Job 5:3; Pr 7:6ff, 24:30ff; Ec 2:1ff; Kidner, 170)
- Psalm 1:3 (tree planted by the water) in reverse (Craigie, 299; Wilcock, 131)
- The faithless may have (temporary) power (Goldingay, 531)
- The tree is there one day and gone the next (Craigie, 299; Longman, 180)

PSALM 37:37-38 (וְ)

- Consider the blameless, observe the upright; a future awaits those who seek peace. But all sinners will be destroyed; there will be no future for the wicked. (Ps 37:37-38, NIV)
- Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD. There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. (Pr 23:17-18, NIV; Craigie, 299)
- **Sinners** (עֲשָׂרִים | *pāša'*): “**rebels**” (Goldingay, 598 cf. Motyer, 509), those who “**transgress**” (TWOT, 741)
- **Future** (אַחֲרִית | *'ahărît*) could refer to someone’s future prospects or to their **posterity** – the legacy of their **children** (cf. Dt 28:62-63; Craigie, 299; cf. Goldingay, 532; cf. Jer 31:7; VanGemeren, 351)
- For the Christian... this future extends beyond death (Kidner, 170)

PSALM 37:39-40 (ה)

- The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD; he is their stronghold in time of trouble. The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him. (Ps 37:39-40, NIV)
- **Salvation** or “deliverance” here refers to someone being rescued from oppression due to wicked people or illness (Goldingay, 593; Longman, 181) – not necessarily referring to eternal life (Goldingay, 593)
- The world: “God helps those who helps themselves” (VanGemeren, 351)
- Psalm 37: God helps those who take refuge in Him (VanGemeren, 351)
- We should be **righteous refugees** (Broyles, 183)

PSALM 37

CONCLUSION

- What should we do when the wicked seem to prosper? (Craigie, 299) – often **more** than the faithful and at their expense (Goldingay, 533)
- Drop anger; trust God. Delight in and be committed to God. Be still before and wait for the LORD. (Goldingay, 533)
- Better to have **little** and **be faithful** (Goldingay, 533). The wicked's wickedness will **boomerang**. They'll be cut off (Goldingay, 533). Their time is short (Davis, 510)
- The faithless will fall and the faithful will be saved (Craigie, 299; Goldingay, 533; Broyles, 182). The faithful will be able to live in (and off of) their land – not build themselves an empire (cf. Mt 6:33; Goldingay, 534; cf. Mt 19:29; Kidner, 169; VanGemeren, 342)
- May not look like it in the **short run**, but things will work out in the **long run** (cf. Job; Goldingay, 534)
- Under the New Covenant, **we are not promised physical land**. But, even better, we will dwell in the **New Jerusalem** with the LORD forever (Longman, 181; Rev 3:12, 21:2; cf. Wilcock, 133)
- Hope in the LORD and keep His way; salvation comes from the LORD! (Longman, 181). “Psalm 1 is true – in the end” in God’s time (cf. Ps 90:4) (Futato, 145)

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