

Text : Psalm 37

Title : The wicked and the righteous contrasted Psalm 37

INTRODUCTION

1. General Contrast

- a) The Wicked and the Upright
- b) This is found in Psalm 37

2. Specific Contrast

- a) There is also a specific set of contrasts noted in Psalm 37
- b) Some aspects were carefully noted

INHERITING THE EARTH

*⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off;
But those who wait on the LORD,
They shall inherit the earth.*

*¹⁰ For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more;
Indeed, you will look carefully for his place,
But it shall be no more.*

*¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the earth,
And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. Psalm 37:9-11*

1. The Evildoers/ The Wicked

- a) They think that they will inherit the earth
- b) They have “the means”
 - i) The wealth
 - ii) The power
 - iii) The wherewithal to purchase property

c) But the reality is quite different

i) They are “cut off” (Psalm 37:9a)

ii) They will be “no more” (Psalm 37:10a)

iii) Life is in the power of God!

2. The Meek

a) They wait on the LORD (Psalm 37:9b)

b) They delight in the
abundance of peace (Psalm 37:11b)

c) They shall inherit the earth (Psalm 37:9c, 11a)

UPHOLDING OF THE RIGHTEOUS

*¹² The wicked plots against the just,
And gnashes at him with his teeth.*

*¹³ The Lord laughs at him,
For He sees that his day is coming.*

*¹⁴ The wicked have drawn the sword
And have bent their bow,
To cast down the poor and needy,
To slay those who are of upright conduct.*

*¹⁵ Their sword shall enter their own heart,
And their bows shall be broken.*

*¹⁶ A little that a righteous man has
Is better than the riches of many wicked.*

*¹⁷ For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,
But the LORD upholds the righteous. Psalm 37:12-17*

1. The Plots of the Wicked

- a) He plots against the righteous (Psalm 37:12a)
- b) He gnashes at them (Psalm 37:12b)
- c) He takes up weapons
against the poor and needy (Psalm 37:14a)
 - i) Sword
 - ii) Bow
- d) He seeks to slay the righteous (Psalm 37:14c)

2. The Reality

- a) Their plots fail
- b) They harm themselves
- c) The arms of the wicked
shall be broken (Psalm 37:17a)

3. The LORD's Perspective and Plan

- a) He laughs at the wicked (Psalm 37:13a)
- b) He sees their day of reckoning (Psalm 37:13b)

4. He blesses the Righteous

- a) He upholds the righteous (Psalm 37:17b)
- b) The righteous may not have much
- c) But the little he has is better
than the riches of the wicked (Psalm 37:16)

BLESSING AND CURSING

*¹⁸ The LORD knows the days of the upright,
And their inheritance shall be forever.*

*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,
Like the splendour of the meadows, shall vanish.
Into smoke they shall vanish away.*

*²¹ The wicked borrows and does not repay,
But the righteous shows mercy and gives.*

*²² For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth,
But those cursed by Him shall be cut off.*

*²³ The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD,
And He delights in his way.*

*²⁴ Though he (may) fall, he shall not be utterly cast down;
For the LORD upholds him with His hand. Psalm 37:18-24*

1. The Wicked

- a) They are called “the enemies of the LORD” (Psalm 37:20b)
- b) They will perish (Psalm 37:20a)
- c) They will vanish
 - i) Like the meadows (Psalm 37:20c)
 - ii) Into smoke (Psalm 37:20d)
- d) They borrow but do not repay (Psalm 37:21a)
- e) They are accursed (Psalm 37:22b)

2. The upright

- a) He is called “the righteous” (Psalm 37:21b)
- b) He is also called “the good man” (Psalm 37:23a)

3. God's blessings

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|---|----------------|
| a) God knows his days | (Psalm 37:18a) |
| b) He is blessed with an everlasting inheritance | (Psalm 37:18b) |
| c) God will provide for him in the evil times | (Psalm 37:19) |
| d) They will inherit the earth | (Psalm 37:22a) |
| e) God orders his steps | (Psalm 37:23a) |
| f) He delights in his way | (Psalm 37:23b) |
| g) He may stumble and fall
But God upholds him | (Psalm 37:24) |

CONCLUSION

1. The challenge

- a) To choose the way of the upright
- b) To choose to draw closer to the Lord

2. The blessings of the Lord

- a) To await His blessings
- b) To bless the LORD for His goodness