

Psalm 37:1-6

¹Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!
²For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.
³Trust in the LORD, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. [*cultivate faithfulness/enjoy faithfulness*]
⁴Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
⁵Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
⁶He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.

Acrostics: *a literary form in which each line, verse, or section begins with successive letters of the alphabet (or another ordered sequence of letters).*

The purpose of Psalm 37: *Those who (by continual trust and obedience) wait for God to judge, will inherit the land.*

Stanza 1 – Psalm 37:1-2

¹Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!
²For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.

“Fret not yourself because of evildoers” – Don’t work yourself up!

Psalm 37:8

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. [*“it leads only to evildoing”*]

Detour 1: Cain (cut off)

Genesis 4:5-6

⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?”

Psalm 37:12

The wicked [*Cain*] plots against the righteous [*Abel*]
and gnashes his teeth at him

Psalm 37:14

The wicked [*Cain*] draw the sword and bend their bows
to bring down the poor and needy,
to slay those whose way is upright [*Abel*]

Psalm 37:32

The wicked [*Cain*] watches for the righteous [*Abel*]
and seeks to put him to death.

The wicked will be “cut off” – exterminated

Psalm 37:2

For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.

Psalm 37:9a

For the evildoers shall be cut off...

Psalm 37:10

In just a little while, the wicked will be no more;
though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.

Psalm 37:15

their sword shall enter their own heart,
and their bows shall be broken.

Psalm 37:17a

For the arms of the wicked shall be broken...

Psalm 37:20

But the wicked will perish;
the enemies of the LORD are like the glory of the pastures;
they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.

Psalm 37:28b

...the children of the wicked shall be cut off.

Psalm 37:34b

...you will look on when the wicked are cut off.

Detour 2: David (restraint)

1st Samuel 24:12

May the LORD judge between me and you, may the LORD avenge me against you,
but my hand shall not be against you.

1st Samuel 26:10-11a

¹⁰And David said, “As the LORD lives, the LORD will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish. ¹¹The LORD forbid that I should put out my hand against the LORD’s anointed.

We wait patiently for the revelation of the vengeance that God will bring upon this world through His Son.

- *God has placed the authorities in position. He is sovereign.*
- *Judgement belongs to God and to His Christ, not to us.*
- *Our role is patient faithfulness, not seizing control.*

See Romans 13:1-7.

Romans 12:19

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it [*give place*] to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

Psalms 37:10

In just a little while, the wicked will be no more;
though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.

Detour 3: Jesus Christ (judgement)

John 5:25-29

²⁵“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Revelation 19:11-21

¹¹Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

¹⁷Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of

God, ¹⁸to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.” ¹⁹And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. ²⁰And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. ²¹And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Stanza 2 – Psalm 37:3-4

³Trust in the LORD, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
⁴Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Detour 4: Abraham (lifelong faithfulness)

Hebrews 11:8-10

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Romans 4:13-25

¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.
¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for

his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Gentiles too dwell in a land that they may also inherit.

Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

“Fret not yourself...Delight yourself...”

Psalm 37:4 is about the “the land”... the future, visible Kingdom of God upon this earth

Stanza 3 – Psalm 37:5-6

⁵Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.

⁶He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.

Psalm 37:9b

...those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

Psalm 37:11

But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant peace.

Psalm 37:18

The LORD knows the days of the blameless,
and their heritage will remain forever

Psalm 37:22a

for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land...

Psalm 37:29

The righteous shall inherit the land
and dwell upon it forever.

Psalm 37:34a

Wait for the LORD and keep his way,
and he will exalt you to inherit the land...

Daniel 12:2-3

²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³And those who

are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Matthew 13:41-43

⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.