

Daily Encouragement from Adam – Wednesday 29th April

Psalm 37

Of David.

A question on a lot of our minds in life may be this: Why do the righteous suffer, while the wicked appear to prosper? This is a theme David seeks to address and one that his son Solomon picks up on in the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. It is thought this Psalm may be part of David preparing his son for the throne.

¹ Do not fret because of those who are evil
or be envious of those who do wrong;
² for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.

³ Trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
⁴ Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

The contrast here is that the wicked are temporary and will soon be gone, but the righteous will 'enjoy safe pasture' and will shine (verse 6). We need not focus on others and be envious or fret because of them. We can focus on trusting in the Lord and doing the good He has called us to (Ephesians 2:10/Galatians 6:9). If we find our greatest joy in the Lord (in who He is), then our desires will be aligned with His desires.

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him and he will do this:
⁶ He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.

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.

⁸ Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;
do not fret—it leads only to evil.

⁹ For those who are evil will be destroyed,
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.- They will have future security just as the Israelites found the security of future generations living in the land of God's promise and blessing. We are 'children of the promise' if we trust in Jesus Christ (Romans 9).

¹⁰ A little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look for them, they will not be found.

¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land
and enjoy peace and prosperity.

¹² The wicked plot against the righteous
and gnash their teeth at them;

¹³ but the Lord laughs at the wicked,
for he knows their day is coming.

¹⁴ The wicked draw the sword
and bend the bow
to bring down the poor and needy,
to slay those whose ways are upright.

¹⁵ But their swords will pierce their own hearts,
and their bows will be broken.

The meek (humble) in spirit will ultimately inherit the earth (verse 11. See also Matthew 5:5) not the wicked, some of whom use their power to suppress and control others (verse 14).

Glen Scrivener points out: '*...within a couple of centuries, the empire that crucified Jesus in weakness, hailed him, as Lord and God and today his movement is sweeping the globe. The meek really do inherit the earth.*'

¹⁶ Better the little that the righteous have
than the wealth of many wicked;
¹⁷ for the power of the wicked will be broken,
but the LORD upholds the righteous.

¹⁸ The blameless spend their days under the LORD's care,
and their inheritance will endure forever.
¹⁹ In times of disaster they will not wither;
in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ The wicked borrow and do not repay,
but the righteous give generously;
²² those the LORD blesses will inherit the land,
but those he curses will be destroyed. (two contrasting eternal realities)

²³ The LORD makes firm the steps
of the one who delights in him;
²⁴ though he may stumble, he will not fall,
for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

Such great encouragement for us, that though we will make wrong turns along the way, we ultimately will not fall. Why? Because God's hand upholds us, he makes firm our steps! The Lord *has* worked in our heart by His spirit in bringing us to faith and He *is* working in us by His spirit enabling us to persevere in faith today. God truly blesses His people.

²⁵ I was young and now I am old,- David is writing this Psalm later in life
yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken
or their children begging bread.

²⁶ They are always generous and lend freely;
their children will be a blessing.^[b]

²⁷ Turn from evil and do good;
then you will dwell in the land forever.

²⁸ For the LORD loves the just
and will not forsake his faithful ones.

God has not forgotten his people. He abundantly blesses them (in various ways), so they can be a blessing to others. Who might you be able to bless this week?

Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed^[c];
the offspring of the wicked will perish.

²⁹ The righteous will inherit the land
and dwell in it forever.

God does not want anybody to perish (2 Peter 3:9). Sadly, many refuse to repent and even influence their children to disobey God.

³⁰The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak what is just.

³¹The law of their God is in their hearts;
their feet do not slip.

³²The wicked lie in wait for the righteous,
intent on putting them to death;

³³but the LORD will not leave them in the power of the wicked
or let them be condemned when brought to trial.

God is a God of justice, the highest judge, and He will vindicate His people. (verse 6, verse 33)

³⁴Hope in the LORD
and keep his way.

He will exalt you to inherit the land;
when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it.

³⁵I have seen a wicked and ruthless man
flourishing like a luxuriant native tree,

³⁶but he soon passed away and was no more;
though I looked for him, he could not be found.

Those who think they are great in this life will pass away, and so too will evidence of their existence, prestige and power. Those who humbled themselves and hope in the Lord will be exalted (v34).

³⁷Consider the blameless, observe the upright;
a future awaits those who seek peace.^[d]

³⁸But all sinners will be destroyed;
there will be no future^[e] for the wicked.

³⁹The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴⁰The LORD helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

Praise God that He enables us to have faith over fear, firm steps over fretting and fruitfulness over worldly fame. He has delivered all those who trust in Him from eternal judgement and has brought us eternal salvation through Christ. In the present He delivers us from the accusations of the wicked. The Lord can be trusted and He is our stronghold in times of trouble.

I hope you have a good week whatever comes to pass.

May we all find our deepest Joy in the Lord.

Adam