

Seeing The Care of God in Turbulent Times
Psalm 37, Part 2

Inspired counsel for the perplexity and aggravation of our souls, and the even injury to our lives produced by the evil conduct of ungodly people.

One additional Imperative: “Wait on the Lord (verses 7, 9, 11, 34)

Not an empty waiting. “**Before the Lord**” is a focused waiting; a watching--waiting for the guidance of God.

“Patient” waiting expresses that waiting is not always easy. It can involve stress. The “meek” have the character to endure the stress. They are rewarded with inheritance of “the Land” and the peace of God.

Waiting is also combined with “keeping” the Lord’s way. “Keeping” can refer to focus Scripture’s description of God’s way or watching for how God is working in your circumstances to open up opportunities for righteous action on your part.

There are times when inactivity will be good If it is combined with careful watching for the Lord’s working. Proverbs 23:9; 29:9

The confidence for submitting to this imperative comes from taking the “long view” on life.

David’s angles on the “Long view” on life:

1. Contrasting the destiny of the righteous and that of the wicked
(verses 2, 9, 10, 20, 28, 35-36, 38).

David’s illustrations of the temporariness of the prosperous wicked.

The endurance of the wicked and any hope for their posterity is fleeting and vain.

It is foolish to let yourself become either annoyed, impressed, or focused on the lifestyle of people who have prosperity but no relationship with God.

2. How God works against the wicked (verses 12-15).

God mocks the wicked and turns their wicked efforts back on themselves. They suffer their own vexations. Something not necessarily visible to you.

They shift the blame to the righteous. They gnash their teeth at the righteous. But while they are gnashing, God is laughing (v. 13).

Not only does God mock the wicked, He also resists them. He turns their violence back against them (v. 15).

3. The Lord actively works to care for the righteous.

A. The Lord sees to the physical needs of the righteous (verses 16-21).

The wicked struggle and strive to acquire and maintain their wealth—it is their security.

But the Lord is the preserver of the righteous.

No matter what losses the righteous must endure, they always have the Lord.

Each day of the blameless is known to the Lord (v. 18).

In times of disaster God has ways of keeping us supplied well enough to survive the hardship (19).

David contrasts the durability of wicked and the righteous in days of adversity (verses 20-21).

The wicked cannot overcome their losses in the days of disaster. In contrast, The Lord cares for the righteous making it possible for them to give generously.

B. The Lord sees to the stability of the righteous (verses 23-24)

The Lord delights to steady the steps of the righteous man especially when he encounters hardships and struggles.

C. The Lord protects the righteous from the wicked (verses 32-33)

Even though the wicked try to ambush you, the Lord will not let them prevail. But even if there is a case where the wicked have appeared to prevail, at the bar of eternal justice, the righteous will be vindicated.

D. David’s personal witness of the Lord’s care for the righteous (vss. 25-26).

Is David’s testimony a guarantee against Christians suffering extreme poverty?

1) In Hebrew wisdom literary statements are not usually absolutes but observations of what is generally real.

2. Under the **law of Moses** ample provision was made for the temporal needs of every Israelite.

3) The New Testament challenges wealthy churches to support fellow believers who are suffering destitution due social disfavor, natural disaster, or political repression. 2 Corinthians 8 and 9.

A concluding summary (verses 39-40).