

PRAYING PSALM 37

“Do not fret over evil doers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity” (Psalm 37:1).

This psalm is an acrostic poem. Each stanza begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It was written to help memorization.

The psalm is a reminder that God knows about the wicked, and He will deal with them in His time. 1. COUNSEL FOR THE RIGHTEOUS (1-11). Do not fret over evil doers nor be envious of them. Trust the Lord and do good. Delight yourself in the Lord. Commit your way to the Lord. Rest in the Lord. Cease from anger. 2. CONTRAST BETWEEN THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED (12-20). The wicked plot against the just and the Lord laughs. The sword of the wicked enters his own heart. The little a righteous person has is better than the riches of the wicked. The inheritance of the righteous shall be forever, but the wicked shall perish. The righteous shall be blessed, and the wicked shall be cursed. 3. COMMENDATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS VERSUS THE CONDEMNATION OF THE WICKED (23-33). The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord. The righteous are merciful and lend to those in need. The righteous are preserved forever. The righteous speak wisdom from their hearts. Justice comes from the Lord of truth, not the lies of the wicked. The wicked seek to slay the righteous, but the Lord will not condemn him. 4. CHALLENGE FOR THE RIGHTEOUS TO WAIT (34-40). The righteous will be rescued; the wicked have no future.

You can thank the Lord for every statement in this psalm. You can trust the Lord for what He has promised to do. Then go about your life, and let the Lord take care of what you can do nothing about.