

A Real Report on the Gospel of Prosperity

While the Bible is full of Reports that teach the real Gospel of Christ and all the implications for living and life, over this very popular and present Gospel of Prosperity and Health, exegesis in this chapter will be done on just one chapter of the Psalms, Psalm 37. Just like the rest of the Bible, and more pointedly in this chapter, the whole perspective of an other than Gospel of Prosperity permeates this whole chapter, verse by verse. However in one section before we get into the verse by verse detail of Psalm 37, let SunGrist_Bible provide the same answer given to the Bible Question on the websites of www.biblecombibleman.com and www.SunGristBible.com, of "Why Are We So Poor"?"

13-1: The Dangers, Unwise Wisdom if you Would, of the Gospel of Prosperity.

While the Gospel of Prosperity profits the Popular Preachers, especially in money and status and listeners, it is a high risk philosophy for Christians and other church members.

1. It ignores and perverts the "chastisement of God".

While almost all are aware of how God chastises His own children and does not do so for bastard children, we all need to be reminded from the Bible exactly how God chastises. In other words, while all would recognize immediately that (1) God does chastise, and (2) That the chastisement is for real children, not the

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tares or those without the proper wedding garments, the issue comes in recognizing what happens daily and yearly in our lives that is chastisement from God. Could it be that a lack of material gain, even a temporary illness or a more permanent one is also chastisement from God; and therefore by praying for and working for and believing in the Gospel of Prosperity we are trying to thwart the very will of God for our lives.

2. It creates false hopes and false expectations that can have deadly consequences in the lives of church members.

Literally, popular preachers can destroy their own members with this false gospel! Granted this may not happen to most of the church members at any given time, and may require 40 or more years to see the consequences, but certain for some it will have immediate and disastrous results, especially among those who are going to die no matter what this Gospel says, who therefore will ignore the need for current treatment and care. So many are those who sit at the feet of popular preachers, who in order to look like a person of faith and one who believes and practices the Gospel of Prosperity, will LIVE A LIE! After all, a community of church believers must care about the opinions of fellow church members; however if the popular preacher and the members who have heaped him up believe like over 61% of the Americans in the Gospel of Prosperity, then that care for the opinion of fellow church members and the respected pastor can have deadly consequences; and believe me, it does!

13-2: Reports of the Bible, Oracles, and Bad Reports of Special Revelations.

Surely by now you know that the specific "Reports", as in "Who Has Believed our Reports" from the Prophet Isaiah, and as quoted by Paul and Jesus in John, were essentially the real Gospel Message with implications, and how although sounded and heard throughout the world, then and now, were not listened to or heeded by the majority of people, not even of God's own people. In fact, the primary non-listening culprits then and now are among the called of God's people who may or may not necessarily be among the "chosen" of God's people. And although the popular mentality can not conceive of this Bible concept, in spite of the world and the world opinion of the majority, the Gospel Reports with implications of the Bible are TRUE! They are real and they are Biblical, from the only Book that God the Father has written through Christ and the Holy Spirit in order to communicate to the world essential messages.

Perhaps you recall from Jeremiah, that God became so infuriated with the usage and mention of "oracle of God" from the official Prophets, that He said I

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don't want to hear the word "oracle" any more, unless it refers to specially what is in the Bible. Yet today on the part of popular preachers, we hear so much of special revelations with words like "God told me" or "God gave me a word"--messages which these false prophets like have supplemented or complemented the Word of God of 66 books, the most frequently heard of which is about the Good Life Now, the Gospel of Prosperity and Health, and a forbidden first seeking of things. These are also Reports; but false reports, and not from the Bible. Oh yes, these heaped up popular and false teachers and prophets of prosperity will take every now and then, in their weaker moments, some scripture out of context, especially out of the total context and perspective of the total Bible. This is the main reason we take just a typical chapter of the Bible, Psalm 37, and look at God's real perspective from one of God's real reports to determine if there is really anything at all real about the Gospel of Prosperity!

13-3: Psalm 37.

You know about the Psalms from David, and perhaps how often the "Spirit of Christ" spoke through the psalmist to speak of a future event or happening, like for example in the very words the Crucified Christ would later speak on the cross, "My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me" of Psalm 22:1, or the "thou wilt not leave my soul in Hades" of Psalm 16:8-11 and Acts 2:25-28; and how David, like us today, had a personal experience which invoked the original prayer and the answer in the same psalm also met his need, say for examples as in Psalm 110:1 and Acts 2:34,35, it was not David as the Apostle Peter explained that Ascended in heaven, it was Christ. Therefore it was the Spirit of Christ on a second and higher level in these Psalms and as in Psalm 37, a reality of revelations in the Old Testament through Prophets as the Apostle Peter also made clear to us in one of his little epistles. (X Peter 1:10)

What is true of all the Prophets and the books from the Prophets is that there is a message for the Prophet like David, a contemporary message for the people, and a predictive message for the future, sometimes for the future here on earth and sometimes for the future of the New Earth.

13-4: A Real God-given Report on the Good Life Now.

1. The first verse of Psalms 37, Psalm 37:1, begins with David's own encouragement as an example also for those of us who later would "fret", yes the Bible word is to fret just like Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount not to fret about things and tomorrow...specifically not to fret about the prosperity and health of "the workers of iniquity".

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a. Specifically you are not to "envy" the workers of iniquity. Like Pastor James said, and it is amazing how similar in content and message is the whole Bible, wars and rumors and wars and so many conflicts in our churches come from "the spirit in us that lusteth {covets} to eny." Further we have not because we ask not, or because we ask unrighteously in order to satisfy our own personal lusts for "the things of the world, the lust {covetousness} of the flesh, the lust {covetousness} of the eyes, and the pride of life".

b. These workers of iniquity are just passing through this life without any eternal future on the New Earth, between believers and then there is a great gulf fixed and you will be able to remember them no more. Like Jesus taught in the parable about Lazarus and the rich man, while workers of iniquity like the rich man without even a cup of water for Lazarus who begged every day for years at the gate of his mansion, these workers of iniquity {"he that knoweth to do good and do it not", it is sin or work of iniquity (James x:xx)} have all their security and comfort and pleasure during this life, but the non-workers of iniquity, today's real believers, have only the comfort of eternity on the New Earth. Of course, which is better and lasts longer!

2. The real Gospel with implications, whether in Peter or Psalm 37, is always the same, not Prosper and Be Healthy as your primary goals, but rather "Trust in the LORD, and do good." (Psalm 37:3) The Apostle Peter in describing the good and long life, not at all the things of the GOOD LIFE NOW popularity from Osteen from the most popular preacher of the Gospel of Prosperity of these days, and the most prosperous with millions from his books, quotes from another Psalm, Psalm 34:12-16.

3. That the reference in Psalm 34:12-16 and I Peter 3:10-12 is for the present "good life" on this earth and now, is obvious in the "see good days" (3:10). You might call it the good life in learning to live the wisdom of God like the "Numbering of Your Days" chapter of HIDEOUT FOR BAD HABITS. Of course here in Psalm 37:2 it is "dwell in the land". As long as God's people were obedient to the covenant with God, a covenant that promised either blessings or curses, they were allowed to dwell with a real good life in the Promised Land; however as they disobeyed and honored after other false gods, they were punished with Captivity from the Land, the majority story of the Old Testament. And will this be repeated in the New Testament age of "last days" or the 1000 years for the Gentiles. Yes, with a Falling Away near the end of the last days that is very similar to the Falling Away of almost all the people of God in the wilder-

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ness, the many who were called but not chosen, and the disobedient for over 40 years.

13-5: First Command or Teaching and then Blessing.

If you are going to get a blessing or blessings from this Gospel of Prosperity that these popular Evangelists offer you, what most generally is the necessary and pre-requisite command from God that they also present to you. You know what it is, give money to us and support to us; and God will bless you, but you know that is not Bible. Their special revelations which they falsely claim as from God, and expect you to believe them like they are Word of God, like in Jeremiah are just personal dreams and oracles which God has not really spoken.

1. What is called "seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, or called the "wisdom of God" for which we are to pray God to number our days in Psalm x:xx, is here in Psalm 37:4, called a matter of so living by habit as to "delight yourself also in the LORD"; and when many read that God "shall give you the desires of your heart" in the second part of the same verse, they tend to forget or ignore the prerequisite of the first part, like with so many of the blessings of God which are preceded by a commandment of teaching of Jesus and the Bible.
2. Also with the next verse, Psalm 37:5, there is a command followed by a promise of blessing: (1) the promise of blessing is a promise of the good life with the words of "He shall bring it to pass", of course which you know to be the wisdom of God for your life, the real good life; and the previously required command for obedience is "commit your way to the LORD", further amplified as the Bible often does with different words, two ways for saying the same thing, is "Trust also in Him".
3. Now, the real long-range blessing of the good life, not prosperity or health necessarily like in the Gospel of Prosperity, just like in the "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" is RIGHTEOUSNESS: "He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday." (Psalm 37:6)
 - a. Don't fret over the prosperity and health of the workers of iniquity as JUSTICE will come for you with Righteousness, if not all now, and more than likely, in the New Earth of Eternity.
 - b. Leave your justice, righteousness, and rightness in the hands of God!

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4. Well, this Psalm 37 is just full of ways to say the same thing about the good and long life; for here in 37:7, the TRUST and COMMITMENT and SEEKING is described as "rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him."

a. Again "do not fret" (37:7), Psalm 37 continues, because of "him who prospers in his way", do not fret and design your life and Christian testimony and witness around the Gospel of Prosperity. Is that clear? And can you not see that in this perspective of Psalm 37?

b. There are a lot of men, popular preachers and itching ears church members that heap up these popular preachers as part of a grassroots movement, who "bring their wicked schemes to pass". Yes, they are successful, and God allows it even among those who claim to be God's own people. They with their Gospel of Prosperity and Fitness have their comfort like the rich man in this life, while often God's real chosen people like Lazarus may experience some suffering in this life. Yet the suffering or chastisement is intended by God to be your gain, that you may be more righteous and more like Christ and receive greater rewards on the New Earth to come.

13-6: Contrasts of Wicked and Those that Wait Upon God.

1. Cease from anger, forsake wrath, and do not fret: it only causes harm. Don't damage yourself, your faith, and your testimony and walk with Christ by such adverse reactions to the workers of iniquity and their prosperity (Psalm 37:8)

2. The ordained fate by God of the two groups: (1) those that wait upon the LORD, again those of the wisdom of God and of the real good life from God; and (2) the "evildoers".

a. Fate of the evildoers: they "shall be cut off" with the exact meaning of cut off to be defined later in this chapter and later in the Bible, however you see that the definite implication is from God, from God's people, and from eternal blessings.

b. Fate of those who wait on God: "they shall inherit the earth". (Psalm 37:9)

NOTE: Now at this very point is where the Psalm slides from the present to eternity, and from the inheritance of things on this Old Earth as compared to things on the New Earth. It is here that so many falsely look for

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blessings of God and prosperity here in this life and on this earth while it is obviously primary for the life of the New Earth. It is here that the PREs are deceived with their desires for a thousand years of peace and prosperity on this Old Earth before Christ wraps up this old earth and universe with complete destruction. It is here that the fundamentalists and others deceive themselves on a New Jerusalem of this earth where the Jews are materially blessed, since the promise here and so many of the prophetic Scriptures is for the New Jerusalem of the New Age and New Earth.

Let you doubt this "inherit the earth" is the new earth, look again at the Beatitudes of Jesus which are especially for God's own people that are suffering and will suffer in this life as compared to the blessings that they will have in the New Earth.

NOW:

ON THE NEW EARTH:

"Blessed are those considered the poor and humble {meek} in this life..."
(Matthew 5:5) "they shall inherit the {NEW} earth"

Another NOTE: Why is that the Bible in both cases, the beatitudes and Psalm 37:9 above, does not say "NEW EARTH" instead of inherit the earth. For two reasons: (1) there is a minor aspect to the Scriptures here in that there can be, or not, an inheritance of something of prosperity {more of a provision of daily needs which God promises in the Sermon on the Mount and in the real Reports of the Bible} here with the real good and long life on earth; and (2) you have to keep tuned to the rest of the Psalm and the Bible for the rest of the story, the real and eternal story.

Well lets summarize the NOW of the present life, the real gospel of prosperity and health of this life, with the blessings of prosperity in the NEW AGE on the NEW EARTH in a Table of the Beatitudes.

NOTE AGAIN: It should be obvious that here in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is first of all trying to distinguish between the real children of God and the false, between real blessings and prosperity now and then, and between what you can expect as a child of God now as compared to what you can expect eternally!

TABLE 1.

What to Expect NOW in this life on earth?	What to expect on the New Earth of the New Age?
1. Mourning and Chastisement.	1. Comfort of no pain, no sorrow, no death, and no eternal judgement, alias long lasting comfort!
2. The average, humble, and meek citizen.	2. Unlike the great and workers of iniquity these meek shall "inherit the earth".
3. The hungry and thirsting right now. {You see God expects, and Jesus predicts that there will be some hungry and some thirsting, although later in chapter 6 he will guarantee for those who "seek the first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" that their daily needs will be provided, no more.	3. "They shall be filled". Here again although consistent with the rest of the teachings and thrust of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, the emphasis is on eternity, Jesus knows that shortly in the next chapter He will talk of the guarantees of daily necessities. And if you are not getting these, then you and your community either and or are not praying to God with righteous fervent prayer or you are not seeking first what you know you should be seeking first.
4. The people of mercy and graciousness right now, often thought weak.	4. These, and none others, will obtain eternal grace and mercy.
5. The pure in heart now.	5. Only the ones who see God.
6. The real peacemakers of evangelism.	6. Shall eternally be called the sons of God, like Jesus.
7. Those persecuted for the sake of right and righteousness, for Christ and the Word of God.	7. SURPRISE, they get the "kingdom of heaven", the kingdom with the New Jerusalem lowered down from heaven for Christian Jesus and Apostles with the Nations of Gentiles surrounded the City and to which the river of life flows outward for healing of the nations.

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And I pity you, for you are in trouble with the Bible, if you can not see that Jesus presents a contrast between the dominant thought patterns of the world, alias the way the majority in the world think, and the true perspective of God Himself, alias the way of Christ, the way of the minority "few chosen".

3. {Psalm 37 continued with 37:10} A further description of the fate of wicked, amplification of the "cut off" as: (1) shortly to come to pass, and (2) the "no more" existence of the wicked.

The No More existence of the wicked lacks in clarity the second death of the wicked and unbelievers, as presented in the last chapter, yet you begin to suspect at even this point in the Bible that is very bad. Even in eternity "you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more" (Psalm 37:10).

4. Well, well, look what is here in Psalm 37:11 just like in the beatitude of Matthew 5:5, "But the meek shall inherit the earth...". In fact, if you look carefully you will find all the beatitudes in the book of Psalms as they are not at all new teachings from God like most of the Sermon on the Mount. And to see that an "abundance of peace", not on this earth but for the next, is an adequate description of the New Earth is an understatement!

13-7: God Laughs at the Unjust and Patiently Waits While He Tabulates.

1. Verse 12 of Psalm 37 provides us more details on the previously introduced "schemes of the wicked": (1) "the wicked plot against the just", and (2) the wicked "gnashes at him with his teeth".

a. This is the first mention in this chapter of "the just", previously described as those "who wait upon the LORD". We know from the rest of Scripture the just to be "the just who live by faith" {Hagaii x:xx and Romans x:xx}, those who are justified according to Romans and Galatians by faith, not works, and of those in heaven with the church of the firstborn, God and Christ, "the spirits of the just" (Hebrews 11:xx).

b. The gnashing of the wicked at the just reminds us of those church members who have the bad habit of despising the good of the bad habits of church members as recorded in II Timothy 3:1-8.

2. The Perspective of God while all this warfare between the just and the unjust is going on on this old earth, it is an long range and eternal perspective, the per-

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spective that dominates the Bible and permeates through almost all its pages, books, and chapters: that God LAUGHS at the unjust. (37:13)

a. You only have a glimmer here of the famous Day of the LORD and Lord so often taught in the Bible, Old and New Testament and by Jesus and the Apostles and Prophets; yet if you read the Bible in the total context of expressing the mind and heart of God to humanity, you can see in this "He sees that his day is coming" of 37:13 this same inevitable, near the end of time and this Age, that final Day of the Lord. You see, but so many of these unjust of now and Old Testament days will be gone! Yes, but not beyond the justice and judgment of God as you know from the previous chapter about the NEW EARTH and the fate of those now in Hades.

b. "Why do the heathen rage and the people of God imagine a vain thing" (Psalm x:xx), David and the Spirit of Christ will record in another Psalm. And Paul will later write how "the wisdom of the world is foolishness with God" (X Corinthians x:xx). Also how God takes in many ways "the wise in their own craftiness". In the evolution and progression of this world as the wise get wiser and the intellectual and scholarly and scientific get smarter in the things of this world and universe, God in turn, always one step ahead of them, gets more crafty and subtle in the way He catches them in their own wisdom. I think one obvious way is through their ignorance of the way He created the universe from a gigantic body of water with evidences of that water on all the planets, "the spirit breathed on the face of the deep" according to Genesis; also their deception about age of the earth and universe, most generally based on the false assumption that the newest rocks are on the top and so on down in levels until the oldest rocks, which ignores how the Flood operated to mix the balance of rock levels, and so on and on.

3. War, turmoil, fightings, and "taking advantage of the people in the land", just as prevalent today with the greed of Oil Companies, stock holders, and other CEOs of large companies who destroy even the 401Ks of their own employees, and this so defined 10% of Americans who spend over 50% of the money, surely among the rich men who receive all their comfort in this life and ignore the needs of men like Lazarus: these have the ultimate goal and motivation and outcome "to cast down the poor and needy, to slay those who are of upright conduct" (37:14).

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4. What has been used as weapons or means against the just people in the land will be used by God to balance the scales of justice after the Second Coming of Christ: "their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken."

13-8: Consider some final Bible Reports on the Prosperity of God's Salvation.

1. Now does this sound like the Gospel of Prosperity of the Popular Preachers, when it describes what the righteous man has in this life of material possessions as "a little". (37:16) Boy, you really have to press Scripture here as in almost all the Bible in order to describe this as what we are currently hearing on Prosperity and the "good life now". "A little...", "a little", "a little", did you hear that Joel and Lakewood Church and the 61% of American church members who believe in the Gospel of Prosperity like it was the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ originally delivered to the Apostle Paul and of which he wrote in Galatians. A gospel not to be replaced by another gospel of a different kind, for it could not be a gospel of the same kind; and a gospel replacement, say like the so called Reformed Gospel of the Mormons, putting works back in as necessary for salvation, that brings a curse on the listener and the preacher.

a. What we are dealing with in this verse is; why is the little prosperity or material gain that the righteous have better than all the riches of the wicked?

b. Because the arms or power and wealth of the wicked will be broken when they die and suffer the second death in the lake of fire and brimstone or when Christ comes again. Actually both, as you saw in the last chapter the temporary abode of the wicked in Hades is nothing compared to the lake of fire and brimstone and punishment into which "death and Hades" and Satan and the son of perdition are cast into.

c. God upholds the righteous. God's support and comfort and plans are for the benefit of the right and righteous, the just men and women and youth.

2. More Details on the Fate of the Righteous and of the Wicked. (37:18-20).

a. Since as stated in verse 18, God knows the "days" the days of the upright, it is so easy to pray the prayer, "Teach us to Number our days to apply our heart to wisdom"; and to receive an answer to this prayer as it is a prayer that God likes to hear and honors. {If you want to see more on this subject, please go to the chapter, "Numbers for Life" in HIDEOUT FOR BAD HABITS. On the index page of www.biblecombibleman.com you can find more info on this book, or you can order it from SunGrist_Bible@netscape.com, pdf soft copy for \$7 and hard

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copy for \$14. If you wish you may request in the same email a review copy to look at.}

b. While the knowledge of God of your "upright life" and the ability to have God personally through the Holy Spirit number your days according to a tailor made plan for you, beyond these two benefits of this abundant Christian life on earth is the further benefit of an inheritance that "shall be forever". (Psalm 37:18b) You can read more about this in Ephesians, which by the way is also an answer to prayer, that all Christians might know among other things, "His riches of inheritance in the saints".

c. To not be ashamed is sort of another way in which the Bible states how God honors faith, like in Romans 10:xx, where "he that believeth in Him shall not be ashamed." You will recall that here in Romans 10 is a little mini-layout on how to be saved through faith.

(1). You do not see more Jews saved because "they being ignorant of God's righteousness and go about to establish their own righteousness", Paul writes in Romans 10:3, "have not submitted to the righteousness of God."

(2). Many today, wanting to find salvation by works or a work, do not get to the "righteousness by faith" of Bible Reports such as hear in Romans 10: (2) they seek to reach up into heaven by different means to bring Christ down to earth, or (2) to descend down into Hades to bring Christ back from the dead; (3) but the Reports of the Apostles, Jesus, and the Prophets, the Reports of the Bible are the "word of faith" (10:8). No doubt you can find that word somewhere lodged near you, "in your mouth and in your heart". The word of faith of true righteousness and true faith preached by Paul and others since!

(3). What you need to do, and can do right now, anytime unless you have passed the point of no return, or you are among the called but not chosen of God's people, the ones in the feasts of the churches without the wedding garment, as simply: "Confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus" (10:9); and "Believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead" (10:9b).

(4). No maybes, doubts, or IFs, "YOU WILL BE SAVED". (Romans 10:9c)

(5). Why is the mouth involved in salvation, and the heart involved in salvation?

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"For the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:10)

(6). And then with the universal invitation of "whoever" comes the guaranteed promise of Psalm 37 and Romans 10 that:

"For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame'" (Romans 10:11 and Isaiah 28:16)

(7). There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, between God's called people and Gentiles.

"For 'whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'" (Romans 10:13 and Joel 2:32)

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