
Question: Psalms 37, an analysis with the significance, meaning, and expounded explanation

This kind of "asking, seeking, and knocking" after more Bible demands an answer as adequate as the question; but it just so happens that with the ASPI and the "Magic Outline of the Bible" we at SunGrist are ready; and so can you be ready if you will utilize these Bible study tools.

Psalm 37 will be in two Parts, Part 1 now is more of an analytical analysis {it is really called "exegesis" in the science of Biblical interpretation}, and Part 2 expands further either side of Psalms 37, in the Magic Outline {see www.biblecombibleman/MagicPage.html} all the surrounding quotes that are part of "Wisdom of God" One can make it through the first half with good exegesis {the reading out of Bible meaning as contrasted to the reading in of meaning, but as you get into 37:23-24 and encounter such words as "salvation" and "righteousness", there is often criticism of reading too much New Testament into the Old Testament}, not so with the second half, for it like many other surprises in the Bible has much fuller meaning than a quick reading without consideration of the quotes around the chapter. {If this is hard to understand then look at all the NT quotes, with proper explanation, in the sub-topic of 'Wisdom of God'."}

Psalm 37 Part I

WARNING of what to expect: in 37:39, "...the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD"; and further the wisdom of God shows up in the marvelous plan of salvation He provided through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ, also His wisdom shows, after years of failures and giant shortcomings on the part of His original people, to create a citizenship of new people {Gentiles and Jews} with righteousness by faith and righteousness by way of a new heart and mind from Him through the Holy Spirit. {Sorry, there is no shorter way to say it and be faithful to both God and the Bible. And never forget these things are in the Bible as reflections of the very nature and character of God the Father.}

11-1: First, what place does Psalm 37 have in the total structure and layout of the Bible.

NOTE: As you look at volume 1 of the LCC commentaries or the web page on the Magic Outline, you will be pleasantly surprised to know that even as Psalms is considered to be half way in the Bible, so Psalms and Psalm 37 are located in the sixth of the 12 major subjects of the Bible. {This would be a good time to briefly review those 12 major subjects matters of the Bible; because since Topic #6 is on the "Wisdom of God", you will want to go both ways from Psalms to see more generally what the wisdom of God is all about: (1) The Living God of the Living, (2) Righteousness of God and Man, (3) Consistency of the Bible {composite witness of the Bible}, (4) God, Man, and the Son of Man, (5) The Resurrection of the Messiah, (6) Wisdom from God, (7) The Gospel, (8) Listening More Important than Sacrifice, (9) What Happened to the Jews as the Chosen People, (10) The Salvation of God, (11) The New King of the New Israel, and (12) The Living God wants Others to Live. You see you an start at six, "The Wisdom of God" and go both ways from there to see examples of the wisdom of God like in salvation, in the resurrection, and like living.

1. You see this is just a good start on keeping the 37th chapter of Psalms, like with any chapter or verse in the Bible, in the total context; and that is at the very heart of the ASPI, for Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation of the Bible--

Psalm 37 Part I

“...knowing this first, that no scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophesy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” (II Peter 1:20,21)

Quick exegesis of II Peter 1:20,21 to see the Biblical basis of the ASPI before using it in the interpretation of Psalm 37. After all, INTERPRETATION is what we are after as embodied in the search question on Psalm 37 that we are seeking to answer. (1) While Satan and sceptics try the trick when Bible gets too close to them of claiming what they heard is just one interpretation of many possible interpretations, the truth of the Bible about the Bible is there is one interpretation, or meaning, there that was put there by the Holy Spirit of God through “holy men”, the Prophets and Apostles”, and it is our job to do every thing possible to find that one meaning and message. {We do best when we try hard, meet the conditions of the Bible for understanding, and comprehend in a practical way that the Bible is self-interpretative based on the ASPI and Old Testament quotes explained in the New Testament,} (2) A non-private interpretation is a public interpretation, common to all Christians {it takes a real Christian to understand the one interpretation}--that is the “P” of ASPI; however it is “SP”, or semi-public in that a person must be born again to fully begin to fully comprehend Bible Scripture, and furthermore even a real Christian must have “illumination” from the original author of the Bible, God the Holy Spirit, in order to get very far in Bible understanding of the one meaning.¹ (3) As “holy” through Christ and the Spirit of Christ as a certain number of approximately 16 Writing Prophets and 12 Apostles were, their “prophesy” did not come by their own will, by the will of the Jewish people even though they made their real contribution as custodians of the Word of God, or by the will of the community around them--most often the real holy men were counter-cultural. (4) God the Holy Spirit is the source of original “inspiration”--the reading into the Scripture the real meaning-- and “illumination”--providing help to Christians in the reading out of the original meaning.

2. We must get closer to, and into Psalm 37, but before that and briefly what part does Psalm 37 and the book of Psalms play in the “Wisdom of God”. {Perhaps if you have any Bible training, you already know that books like

1. These are also principles of good Bible hermeneutics, the science of biblical interpretation, like in the standard preacher textbook by Bernard Ramm, THE SCIENCE OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION.

Psalm 37 Part I

Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes are called the wisdom literature by Bible scholars.}

a. Look back at the Magic Outline {the magic of God through the Holy Spirit, and may God pardon an allusion to holy magic which is done to get across to you this marvelous internal structure of the Scriptures God has provided in order to maximize human understanding}, and you will see that the sub-topic {**Wisdom of God is the sixth major topic**} is:

"Ecclesiastes

III. Making life's decision in terms of the terminal One Day of the LORD.

1. After tribulation the sun and moon will be darkened, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. **{Ecclesiastes 12:1-3 and Mark 13:24}**¹

Psalms 37-140

2. After the terminal one Day of the LORD and Lord, the "meek will inherit the earth", according to Jesus on the new earth. **{Psalm 37:11 and Matthew 5:5}**

3. For the new earth, God is creating new citizens of one body, the body of Christ, {which by the way members of which are written in heaven and in "the church of the firstborn}; and at the same time, at the crucifixion of Christ all the rules, regulations, and burnt offerings, etc of the Old Testament were done away with. {Psalm 40:6-8 and Hebrews 10:5}

4. The unwise eat bread at the table of Christ while they lift up their heel against Him. (Psalm 41:9 and John 13:18)"

b. Now, here is our foothold of proper interpretation in the total context of the Bible with a quote by Jesus Himself as recorded in Matthew 5:5 and quoted from Psalm 37:11 in the Old Testament.

1. You will notice that each statement number has a quote reference, where it is quoted in the New Testament and where the quote comes from in the Old Testament.

Psalm 37 Part I

11-2: What a source for understanding of the meek on the new earth, from Jesus and from Psalm 37:11; and WHAT a foothold for understanding.

1. You know, hopefully about the "beatitudes"--the 9 "blesseds" (or eternally happy) from Jesus Himself and enumerated in the Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Matthew 5. You should realize, if you don't already, that each one of those has an equivalent in the Psalm 37 chapter. In fact much of that chapter is quoted directly by Jesus, more in paraphrase format, in His teachings of the Sermon on the Mount. Even as Charles Allen in his book on the "Patterns of Thinking of God" would say about the 9 Beatitudes from Jesus, that it is characteristics of kingdom members {the new citizens being prepared for the full kingdom on the new earth}, even so the meek here on earth find their fulfillment of happiness only in the new earth after the Second Coming of Christ.

2. The beginning now but eternal characteristics of life after death, for both the wicked and the good figs {we can borrow good figs and bad figs to separate the real people of God from the pretenders as in Jeremiah} can be visualized in verses immediately around 37:11.

a. Verses in front of Psalm 37:11.

"But evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more {"a little while because of the thinking of God that "one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day"}¹. Indeed you shall look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more . {One of the many clues that this bespeaks of eternity is that we know the wicked, and many wicked, are still with us after thousands of years.} But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." (Psalm 37:9-11)

1. Yes, it is one of those paradoxes of the mind of God that is beyond our human understanding that "a little while" could be both one day and one thousand years.

Psalm 37 Part I

NOTE: For the eternal perspective of the “forever kingdom” from both Jesus and Psalms, this passage above should be compared with what the Ascended Christ made clear to the Apostle John on the isle of Patmos.

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.¹ Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying,²Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them, and be their God.” (Revelation 21:1-3)

NOTE: Right now real Christians should consider shouting “hallelujah”! The New Jerusalem comes down fully equipped with God the Father, God the Son, the Father’s house of many mansions to house the Apostles that will run the new earth and the few Jews that believed. The rest of us spread out in all the nations of new citizens of the new earth will come at least once a year to worship at the New Jerusalem.

b. Verses behind Psalm 37:11, what is happening now to new citizens of the new kingdom as contrasted to on the new earth.³

“But the meek shall inherit the earth {the new earth}, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace {an outstanding characteristic of

-
1. One could easily imagine that since the old earth, according to Peter, gets burned off and clear, the new earth will be renewed by God on what was once under water. Of course, this would not include Mount Zion in Jerusalem, because this is where God intends to lower down to earth New Jerusalem where He can dwell eternally among the new citizens of His eternal kingdom. {The kingdom of Christ started here with Jesus on earth calling disciples, but it finds fulfillment on the new earth.} We, as the END nears, are getting beyond the point where those that die pass on to the Hades of a temporary location, that time in history called the end of the last days, when the thoughts of Christians should turn more to the new earth.
 2. Now this is real PRAISE with some spiritual and factual foundation.
 3. Granted Psalm 37 does not specifically say “new earth”, but you can tell that is the subject matter; alias the eternal fate of all on earth, based on whether they are meek {really meaning humbled under the hand of God} or whether they are proud and wicked. Most often wicked because they are also proud, and enamored with “the pride of life”. Unfortunately like so many predictive passage about eternal life on the new earth, false interpreters get confused between a millineum on this old earth against the forever on the new earth. One such example is passages that talk about the lion lying down with the lamb, obvious on in the forever kingdom and not on this earth. There is, of course, a famous divorced lawyer and then congregationalist minister, Scofield who in lawyer like fashion confused the old earth and the new earth with a postulated, false one thousand years on earth, and still influences many through the Scofield Reference Bible association, a way to make profit out of the Bible.

Psalm 37 Part I

this new earth under the new heaven of Revelation above, is peace and security}. The wicked plots against the just {in this life}, and gnashes at him with his teeth.¹ The LORD laughs at him {the proud and well to do wicked have their day coming, and the Bible consistently, Old and New Testaments refers to this as the Day of the LORD and Lord}, for He sees that his DAY is coming.” (Psalm 37:11-13}

c. More of what the wicked² have done throughout history and are doing right now to the poor and humble. {Actually the wicked trouble their opposites, the (1) poor, (2) needy, and (3) those of upright conduct.}

“The wicked have drawn the sword and have bent their bow, cast down the poor and needy, to slay those that are of upright conduct.”

NOTE: Look at the famous beatitudes here in Psalm 37 and from Jesus with a fuller explanation. They indicate happiness as just the opposite of what the world and worldly, even victims of the false gospel of prosperity, think. Well look at the happy in Matthew 5, just the opposite of what the religious thought in that day of most of today also. The happy or blessed, according to Jesus, are: the poor, the mourners, the meek, those that hunger, the merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, the persecuted for the sake of righteousness, and those that are reviled and have all manner of evil spoken against for the name of Christ.

Now, there is another aspect to the beatitudes from Matthew 5 and Psalm 37 which we will come to shortly, but should be mentioned now. Jesus is turning around the whole normal thought patterns of the world, then and now, in that hunger for example relates primarily to a hungering after righteousness, and another example is while the world thinks of the “pure in heart” as more an

-
1. Enter another beatitude of kingdom happiness found in Matthew 5:11,12: “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you.” It is jumping ahead, but you have studied the sermon on the mount, especially the beatitudes, you know this is diametrically the opposite of what men think today. It is counter-cultural, those that like to be nice like to say; but it is much deeper than that in that future citizens of the new kingdom are more humble than proud and more persecuted than blessed by the rest of the world. In fact, the Bible says that “all that will godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” Yet, then is when real Christians can be the happiest, for great then is their rewards in the heaven lowered down to the new earth.
 2. Never forget that according to the Bible, which is the perspective of God Himself in the ASPI, the “unbelievers” are wicked and the proud.

Psalm 37 Part I

ice burg to be avoided, Jesus and God look at it through the Spirit and the inner new birth, as a criterion for eternal happiness is that it is one of the keys to entrance into the forever kingdom of the new earth!

d. What is the eternal fate of the proud and wicked. You might think of them easily, from Jesus in the sermon on the mount as the opposites of the characteristics of kingdom members, those that will be eternally happy. What is the opposite of poor, mourning, meek, hungry, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, the persecuted and reviled for the name of Christ. Most of it is obvious because we live with them and surrounded by them. The opposites of forever kingdom members are: the well-to-do and comfortable, the revilers, the comfortable in this world, the unmerciful that see only justice for their own, the corrupt of heart not born again by God's mercy and inward power, the warmongers, and those that despise the good.

e. Above is what the proud and wicked do in this life, but what about their fate during the forever kingdom on the new earth.

"Their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken." (Psalm 37:15)

NOTE: Another way to say that since their ultimate accountability is to the God of the eternal, they are both going "to reap what they sow" and they are going to have eternally their part in the lake of fire and brimstone. Some people like to talk about how terrible hell is, a place of a soul without God, but what comes next for the proud and wicked is far worse as they are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone that burns forever. {This is another prediction from Jesus the Ascended Christ passed on in the book of Revelation.}

Psalm 37 Part I

"Now when the thousand years have expired¹, Satan will be released from his prison² and go out to deceive³ the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breath of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down out of heaven from God and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." (Revelation 20:7-10)

11-3: Let us simplify in conclusion, the ASPI version of Psalm 37 as the parallel to Matthew 5 Beatitudes of the Old Testament, and as the "God Determined Fate of the Wicked versus the Upright." Oh, and have faith in God; that is, "Trust in the LORD and do good." (Psalm 37:3)

NOTE: It may look like "gloom and doom" where you are in that the good suffer and the wicked are temporarily rewarded; but "if in this world only we have hope, we are of all men most miserable."

-
1. Notice number one, that it is not "one" thousand years, but the times it is mentioned in Revelation, it is either "a" or "the thousand years"; and secondly note, consistent with all predictions in the Bible, "the thousand years have EXPIRED". There is no more time for this old earth when the long period of time from the beginning of the last days to the end of the last days expires. And woe to those so-called Bible interpreters and predictors, you try to insert a non-expiring time between a rapture and the Second Coming of Christ with the END of this old earth.
 2. This is the release of Satan's bondage caused by the coming of the Holy Spirit to earth, and who will naturally be released to do his worst a little time at the end of the Falling Away and just before the END, which according to II Thessalonians is when Satan is no longer restrained by the presence of the Holy Spirit on earth. You should mark the beginning of the "last days" of the Bible as when the Holy Spirit came in great power and glory immediately after the Ascension of Christ, and in order to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment--which also has restrained or imprisoned the work of Satan; and the last days end after the short time when Satan is released and immediately before the Second Coming and the End.
 3. Even as Jesus warned that the "beware" sign of the end times would be deception of many Christian individuals by false prophets, so after the release of Satan, the deception of individuals grows into nations. The whole world comes against Jerusalem except the camp of the saints. And we know what countries are trying to protect Jerusalem right now, and what countries of the world are determined to destroy it.

Psalm 37 Part I

1. So up front and now, let us look at all the words of comfort and reality for the upright before we wrap up with the character and personalities of the wicked, and their eternal destiny from Psalm 37.

(1). "Do not fret {a habit of continuous worrying} because of evil doers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass {mowed under}, and wither as the green herb." (37:1)

(2) "Trust in the LORD and do good." (37:2) Then the next 3-8 verses elaborate on TRUST plus GOOD: while you dwell in your land, feed on {sort of like hunger and thirst after righteousness} on God's faithfulness and the faithfulness of His Word in the Bible; delight yourselves spiritually in God to the extent that what your heart desires has been put there by God, and "He will give you the desires of that heart"; make a commitment to God, trust Him and like in Proverbs 3:5,6, and out of the desire and prayer of a sanctified heart and life, God will bring it to pass; your justice and rightness will ultimately shine through if not in this life then in the next; relax in God and wait with patience for Him without fretting about those who are prospering, stop anger and wrath, it only harms self.

2. Now for those committed people of God that strive for good in these enumerated manners, here and in the beatitudes of Matthew 5, there is an opposing group of the wicked and evil doers, with behavior summarized such that you will recognize them: (1) evil doers and workers of iniquity (37:1); those that "prosper in their way" (37: (2) those that scheme wickedly then carry out their schemes (37:7); (3) those without eternal future on the new earth (37:10) as there is a time when you remember no more the former things and the place of status they once occupied; (4) they that plot against the just and say "all manner of evil against the righteous" falsely (37:12); (5) those that harm the poor, needy, and upright (14); (6) many riches; (7) those perishing (vs 20), the enemies of God: (8) those that borrow without repayment...

NOTE: We just must pause at 37:21 to compare it to "those that inherit the earth" in Matthew 5:3-12--

"But the righteous shows mercy and gives For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth¹..." (36:21)

Psalm 37 Part I

Wow, the "blessed" of God is the beatitudes, and it is about those who will inherit the new earth: (1) In Matthew 5:3 the poor blessed will have this kingdom of heaven; (2) In 5:5 the meek inherit the new earth; (3) In 5:8 only the pure in heart will see God, and we already know where God will dwell eternally among men; (4) Those persecuted in 5:10 will have the kingdom of heaven; and (5) And in 5:11,12, it is God through Christ's destiny for the persecuted, and reviled, and all those spoken evil of unjustly to have "great rewards in heaven".

1. The new earth of course.

Psalm 37 Part I

