

If you take an honest and serious look at our world, both nationally and personally, it does not appear as if those who love God are winning. Truth is those who oft times seem to be the most godless also seem to be the most prosperous. This phenomenon is certainly not new to our day, but it was the same kind of thing David saw in his day.

Psalm 37 is a Psalm of David. When David wrote Psalm 37, he was an old man. In fact, he specifically says in **Psalm 37:25** that he was now old. David had lived a lot of life and he had lived a long life. He had faced many things that would probably have crushed most people. In his life, he certainly knew what it was like to look at people who did not care about God, who were wicked, who were seemingly on top of the world. He knew what it was like to be one who did love God and be one at times who just was trying to survive.

Well, David did survive and he was now old and out of his old age came some wonderful Psalms and Psalm 37 is one of them. The point he communicates in this Psalm is this:

IN VIEW OF HOW GOD VIEWS THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED AND IN VIEW OF WHAT GOD WILL EVENTUALLY DO TO THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED, THE RIGHTEOUS PERSON SHOULD NEVER WORRY ABOUT OR BE ENVIOUS OF THE TEMPORAL SUCCESSES AND PROSPERITY OF THE WICKED.

As we read the Psalms, we are seeing that when David was hurt by those who were proud and arrogant, time and time again he cried out to God. As he lived his life throughout the years, he had learned a lot of lessons and this Psalm is a Psalm written by a fatherly and elderly man.

This Psalm is very prophetic and it presents two repeated themes:

(Prophetic Theme #1) - Dwelling in or inheriting the Promised Land (37:3, 9, 11, 22, 29, 34)

(Prophetic Theme #2) - Removal of those wicked (37:9-10, 13, 20, 22, 28, 34, 36)

This Psalm has very specific application for Israel during the Tribulation.

There are four main observations David made about God and life in his old age:

OLD AGE OBSERVATION #1 – God’s people do not need to worry or be envious of wicked people but should trust in the Lord. **37:1-8**

God does let His people live in an environment in which they do see the wicked prospering. In this type of environment, God proves his people, tries His people and develops His people. There are two main thoughts presented here about this:

Thought #1 - Why God’s people should not worry or be envious of wicked people. **37:2, 8**

There are three reasons why God’s people should not waste their time fretting over wicked people:

(Reason #1) - Because the wicked will soon vanish. **37:2**

Success is always temporal, but eternity is forever. No matter what one has, he will leave it here.

(Reason #2) - Because worrying about the wicked causes one to be angry. **37:7b-8a**

(Reason #3) - Because worrying about the wicked leads to doing evil. **37:8b**

Thought #2 - Why God's people should invest their time trusting God. **37:3-7**

If it is true that wicked people prosper, why then pursue holiness and godliness? Notice the challenges that David makes to the believer who specifically sees the wicked prospering. He specifically challenges the believer to focus on God and His Word:

- 1) Trust in the LORD. **37:3a, 5b**—Don't trust in anyone's prosperity
- 2) Continue to do what is good. **37:3b**—Persist in doing what is right before God
- 3) Continue to develop faithfulness where you are. **37:3c**—Focus on being faithful to God
- 4) Delight in the LORD. **37:4a**—Find great joy in God and His Word
- 5) Commit your ways to the LORD. **37:5a**—Every day of life should be submitted to God's will
- 6) Rest in the LORD. **37:7a**—Quietly have our confidence in God
- 7) Patiently wait on the LORD. **37:7b**—Patient, quiet waiting and resting on God is very rare

Now there are four reasons why God's people should use their time to not focus on the wicked, but focus on God:

(Reason #1) - Because God will give you the desires of your heart. **37:4b**

(Reason #2) - Because God will do what you desire Him to do. **37:5b**

(Reason #3) - Because God will cause your righteousness to shine. **37:6a**

(Reason #4) - Because God will cause you to shine through judgment. **37:6b**

So the challenge here is that instead of wasting time worrying about the wicked, invest our time focused on God and His Word.

When we see the wicked prospering, we can do one of two things:

- 1) We can worry about them and envy them;
- 2) We can develop our own personal relationship with God.

If we opt to go to work on our relationship with God, the wicked ultimately will envy us because God will do much with us and for us.

OLD AGE OBSERVATION #2 – God’s people need to know what will happen to the wicked.
37:9-22

What will ultimately happen to the wicked is certainly not enviable. The picture is not pretty. In David’s own lifetime, he had actually seen God do these kinds of things to successful, wicked people. The things mentioned here are in the future, not the immediate:

Negative Reality #1 - God will cut off the wicked to the point there will be no evidence of their existence. **37:9-10**

Negative Reality #2 - God will laugh at the wicked because while he is planning his attack against the righteous, God is planning His judgment against the wicked. **37:12-13**

Negative Reality #3 - God will destroy the wicked with their own weaponry. **37:14-15**

Negative Reality #4 - God will break the arms of the wicked and will sustain the righteous.
37:16-19

Fact #1 - The Lord knows the days of the blameless and will reward them with an eternal inheritance. **37:18**

Fact #2 - The Lord will never allow the blameless to be ashamed during times of judgment.
37:19a

Fact #3 - The Lord will always abundantly provide for the blameless when giving famine to others. **37:19b**

Negative Reality #5 - God will rid the world of the wicked. **37:20-22**

The wicked are takers and the righteous are gracious givers and God will remove the wicked from the world. They are of no value. He will bless the righteous, but He will cut off the wicked. They will vanish. Any light or bright spot in the life of one wicked is only a phantom light. He will vanish forever.

When we consider these things, there is certainly no point in worrying about or envying the wicked. Truth is we should pity them because no matter how much they have in this life, they are on an eternal course of eternal destruction.

OLD AGE OBSERVATION #3 – God’s people need to remember God’s attitude toward and blessings to the righteous. **37:23-31**

The fact is God’s people are the ones who should be envied. When one considers all God does for the righteous and how God views the righteous, this point is certainly true:

Reality #1 - God establishes the steps of one righteous. **37:23a** - God blesses daily steps

Reality #2 - God delights in one righteous. **37:23b**

Reality #3 - God holds up the righteous even when he fails. **37:24**

Reality #4 - God will not forsake the righteous when he falls. **37:25a**

Righteous people may fall, but they will never be forsaken by God. David had never seen the righteous forsaken.

Reality #5 - God will provide for the righteous and his family. **37:25-26**

David had never seen any of God's righteous people begging for food. He saw that God always provided.

Reality #6 - God will cause the righteous to abide forever. **37:27**

Reality #7 - God will never forsake the righteous. **37:28a**

Reality #8 - God will always preserves the righteous and his family. **37:28b**

Reality #9 - God will give the righteous an eternal inheritance. **37:29**

Reality #10 - God will use the righteous to speak up for Him. **37:30**

Reality #11 - God will develop the heart of the righteous so that he does not slip. **37:31**

Now, who exactly should be envied? Should we envy the wicked or the righteous?

OLD AGE OBSERVATION #4 – God's people need to know the contrast between the destinies of those righteous and those wicked. **37:32-40**

There are four major differences between the future destiny of one righteous and one wicked:

Difference #1 - The wicked who try to trap the righteous will themselves be trapped and destroyed. **37:32-34**

All God's people really need to do is wait on God for His delivering power.

Difference #2 - The wicked who live in violence and luxury will pass away forever, never to be heard from again. **37:35-36**

Difference #3 - The wicked will have his posterity cut off and the righteous will have his posterity blessed. **37:37-38**

Evil people will leave this world and leave it nothing. There will come a time when their memory will be gone.

Difference #4 - The righteous will find strength and deliverance from God in times of trouble. **27:39-40**

No matter what our trouble or problem, we may always take refuge in our God because He is our help in times of trouble.

Lessons to learn:

- 1) The people who should be envied are those who are right with God.**
- 2) The people who should be pitied are those proud and successful without God.**
- 3) The people who love God should think about all God does for them.**
- 4) The people who don't love God need to think about what God will do to them.**