

THE QUEENS MINISTRY BIBLE BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS:

DATE: SUNDAY – September 15, 2024

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“The Ways of the Righteous versus The Ungodly or the Wicked”

Oh, love the LORD all you, His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person. Ps. 31:23 He, the LORD, loves righteousness and justice. Ps. 33:5a

In our day and age – with so much going on around us that is seemingly “bad,” it is sometimes difficult to see GOD’s hand in the midst. We become overly discouraged and forlorn about what looks like the success of those scheming and plotting and acting wickedly.

King David, one such writer afflicted by this troubled view offers us a way to handle our passionate anger or indignation. He points out that though they, the wicked seem to have the upper hand, don’t worry, don’t fret – **GOD is watching!**

David writes of two types of people – the godly and the ungodly. He lays out for the readers the final say of their lives, based on how they are willing to live in the present. What does it look like for those living obedient and trusting in the LORD versus what it looks like for those that have no concern for GOD or His ways. David writes about both, the consequences of their choices, now and eternally.

Objective: Study the contrast of the paths, the actions and the outcome of these two differing styles of living.

PSALM 1 (NLT)

¹Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

²But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.

³They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season, their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.

⁴But not the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

⁵They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly.

⁶For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

List two items that identify the ways of the upright versus the wicked. What is the wicked end? v6

Part 2: Contrasting Lifestyles

Psalm 37

Fret not - Don’t worry about the wicked or envy those who do wrong. Ps 37:1 (NLT)

This psalm is a Hebrew acrostic poem; each stanza begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

This psalm written by King David, gives us a look at the contrasting ways of the righteous or upright versus the wicked or evil-doers. The writer has on other occasions, as we see in the first psalm, laid out the differences of those living for God and those that are not.

He declares in another writing that the wicked, “cannot see how wicked they really are, because of blind conceit, and that there is no fear of GOD before them. He goes on to say that everything they say is crooked and deceitful, and that they refuse to act wisely or to do good.” (Ps 36:1-3 NLT)

What an accusation or indictment!

In this section we will take a look at Psalm 37 and identify the contrasting lifestyles that the author points out.

A: Righteous / Upright

- 1) In verse 3 – the writer tells us to trust in the LORD and do good – what will be the outcome if they do this, according to the verse:

- 2) Verse 4 says if we delight in Him, what will He give?

- 3) Verse 5 tells us that if we commit our ways to Him and trust Him, He will?

- 4) He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun. What promise is this verse giving the believers? Look at verse 33, what is similar?

- 5) In reading verses 7 and 8, we see the writer identifying some traits or characteristics that we should embrace when it comes to our view of the wicked. List those traits below:

- 6) What is promised to the humble of the land in verse 11?

- 7) Verse 16 says - It is better to be godly and have little than to be

8) In verses 17 and 18 – we can rejoice with this great promise – that the LORD will?

9) What inheritance do you think the writer is referring to, that he states will last forever?

10) The writer gives a promise that the LORD will _____ in hard and difficult times.

11) Reading verses 23, 24, 28, 39 and 40, we see that the LORD will do what for the upright?

12) David points out that the upright are _____
(verses 21 and 26) and because of this, their?

13) What important messages does verses 30 and 31 offer to us?

14) David ends the psalm by giving the upright this promise – that the LORD will be?

B: Wicked / Evildoers

15) In verses 9 and 10, the writer begins to draw the contrast of the two lifestyles, what does he say will be the outcome of the wicked and why we should not fret about them?

16) In verses 12 and 13, the writer tells us that the wicked will plot and plan, but GOD knows what about them?

17) What humanistic term does the Bible say how GOD reacts to their actions?

18) As we read verses 14 and 15 what does the writer say will happen to the weapons of the wicked as they try to kill and destroy the upright?

19) This verse is similar to the reading of Isaiah 54:17 – No weapon that is formed against thee shall _____

20) Psalm 37:17 says that strength of the wicked will be?

21) In verse 20, David lists the wicked as what?

22) In verses 20, 22, 28, 28 and 38 what does he say is the outcome of the wicked?

23) In verses 35 and 36, David says that even though the wicked look as if they are flourishing, what happens?

24) In verse 38, what dire warning is given for the wicked?

Part 3: Think about it!

The following are very familiar verses that we quote frequently – how can they help us live as upright citizens of His kingdom?

The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way. v23

I have been young, and *now* am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread. v25

For the Lord loves justice...v28

But the salvation of the righteous *is* from the Lord; *He is* their strength in the time of trouble. v39

Final thought – what important items does the writer leave with the readers – v34

Conclusion:

In this psalm we see that “David is troubled by what seems to be the success of the wicked. He passes on to others what God has shown him. God tells him not to fret because that ‘only causes harm’. Rather, he must trust in the Lord, to dwell and feed on Him, to delight himself in God, to commit his way to God, to rest in and wait for Him, and to cease from anger and wrath. These responses enable a (person) of God to stand, regardless of the outward circumstances or inner pressures.” – The Bible Panorama Commentary

We hope you have been blessed by this lesson – that it will help you to grow in your spiritual walk. Take a moment and write down three items that have resonated with you after our study of Psalms 37.

1.

2.

3.