



PSALM 37:7
Rest in the LORD,
 and wait *patiently* for Him;
 DO NOT FRET
 because of him who prospers in his way,
 because of the man who brings
 wicked schemes to pass.

Lesson 6:
 Psalm 37 & 73

Fall 2020

2

Psalm 37:

Author: David, later in life, vs. 25

Acrostic = successive letters on every other verse

Chiasmus = ideas develop to a pivot point and then are revisited in reverse order; an inverted parallelism.

3

Chiasmus analysis by Robert Alden

PSALM 37

1-8	A	Exhortation to righteous to ignore wicked and to trust God.
9	B	Wait and inherit the land.
10-15	C	Righteous inherit but LORD destroys the plotting wicked.
16	D	The poor are blessed though poor.
17	E	LORD upholds righteous.
18a	F	LORD guides righteous.
18b	G	Righteous inherit.
19	H	Righteous get.
20a	I	Wicked perish.
20b	J	Wicked like a sacrifice.
20c	J	Wicked like a sacrifice.
21a	I	Wicked give not.
21b	H	Righteous give.
22	G	Blessed inherit.
23	F	LORD guides righteous.
24	E	LORD upholds.
25-26	D	The blessed may be poor but not forsaken.
27-33	C	LORD loves the righteous who will live and inherit but the plotting wicked will die.
34	B	Wait and inherit the land.
35-40	A	God destroys the wicked but saves the righteous.

4

Chiasmus in Psalm 37:1-7

A Do not fret because of *evildoers*. Be not be envious toward *wrongdoers*.

B [a 'negative' result:] 2 For they will **with**er quickly like the grass, And **fade** like the green herb.

C 3 **Trust in the LORD**, and **do** good;

D **Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness**.

Pivot: E 4 **Delight yourself in the LORD** – And He will give you the desires of your heart!

D' 5 **Commit your way** to the LORD,

C' **Trust also in Him**, and He will **do** it.

B' [a 'positive' result:] 6 And He will **bring forth** your righteousness **as the light**, And your judgment **as the noonday**. 7 *Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him*;

A' Do not fret because of *him who prospers in his way*, Because of the man who carries out *wicked schemes*.

5

Psalm 37:1-8: twelve imperative verbs:

1. "Do not fret"
 - "because of evildoers" vs 1
 - "because of him who prospers" vs 7
 - "it leads only to evildoing" vs 8
- Fret = lit. "heat" or "burn"
- Don't fume; don't get heated because of evil.

6

Psalm 37:1-8: twelve imperative verbs:

Four negatives:

1. "Do not fret" vs 1, 7, 8
2. "Be not envious" vs 1
3. "Cease from anger" vs 8
4. "Forsake wrath" vs 8

7

Psalm 37:1-8: twelve imperative verbs:

Eight positives:

1. "Trust in the Lord" vs 3, 5
2. "Do good" vs 3
3. "Dwell in the land" vs 3
4. "Cultivate faithfulness" vs 3

8

Psalm 37:1-8: twelve imperative verbs:

Eight positives:

5. "Delight yourself in the Lord" vs 4
6. "Commit your way to the Lord" vs 5

9

**“Commit”
= to roll onto**

“...humble yourselves **under the mighty hand of God**...casting all your anxiety **on Him**, because He cares for you.” I Pet 5:6-7

The “under-over principle”

10

Psalm 37:1-8: twelve imperative verbs:

Eight positives:

5. “Delight yourself in the Lord” vs 4
6. “Commit your way to the Lord” vs 5
7. “Rest in the Lord” vs 7
8. “Wait patiently for the Lord” vs 7

11

Three principles in Psalm 37

1. Look ahead: take the long view; consider their end; vs 2, 9, 10
2. Look up: focus on the Lord and what He will do for you; vs 4-6
3. Be constructive: do good, dwell in the land, be faithful; vs 3

12

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit **the earth.**” Matthew 5:5

Meek = “those who choose the way of patient faith instead of self-assertion.”

Derek Kidner

13

"The **LORD knows the days** of the blameless..."

"**My times are in Your hand**" Ps 31:15

"...in Your book were all **written the days** that were ordained for me, **when as yet there was not one of them.**" Ps 139:16

"In the day of prosperity be happy, but in the day of adversity consider, **God has made the one as well as the other....**" Eccl 7:14

14

Psalm 73: Why did Asaph envy the wicked?

1. They don't seem to suffer. vs 3-5
2. They seem to get away with disregarding God and His law. vs 6-7
3. They influence others with their speech and prosperity. vs 8-10

15

Psalm 73: Asaph had come to the wrong conclusion:

Vs. 12: the wicked are always at ease "always?"

Vs. 13: it's been vain (useless) to live a godly life false!

Vs. 14: I've suffered "all day long...every morning" an exaggeration!

16

The turning point for Asaph (Ps 73:17):

"Until I came into the sanctuary of God..."

→ brought him to his spiritual senses

"...Then I perceived their end."

→ put their "prosperity" into perspective

17

“O God, You have taught me from my youth,
and *I still declare Your wondrous deeds*. And
even when I am old and gray, O God, do not
forsake me, *until I declare Your strength to this*
generation, Your power to all who are to come.”

Psalm 71:17-18

18

“We will not conceal them from their children, but ***tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD*** and His wondrous works that He has done....He commanded our fathers that they should ***teach them to their children, that the generation to come might know***, even the children yet to be born, ***that they may arise and tell them to their children***, that they should put their confidence in God and not forget the words of God, but keep His commandments.” Psalm 78:4-7

19

Memory Passage: Psalm 42:

Ps 42:1-3

As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God?

My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”

20

20

Memory Passage: Psalm 42:

Ps 42:4-6

These things I remember and I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go along with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God, with the voice of joy and thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence.

O my God, my soul is in despair within me; therefore I remember You from the land of the Jordan and the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

21

21