

Part 10 – The End of the Wicked Verses the Righteous

In part 9 we learned that, when we bind our heart and mind (spirit) to God's Holy Spirit – through diligent, sincere and consistent study of His Word (and striving wholeheartedly to obey it) - then we'll learn to be truly zealous for the Lord, guarding and protecting the course of life ('*the way*') He has set forth for His children to walk upon. In other words, the Lord's faithful servants bind themselves to Him, and protect His way, by planting seeds of truth, and wisdom, whenever the opportunity arises. And for this, He will exalt us to inherit the land when Jesus Christ returns. And we'll also see the wicked be cut off. So, even though we now have to endure seeing the wicked ones rise, and spread their power over the whole earth (which will culminate when Satan is on earth, ruling over it all), *it won't last forever* because the Lord, Jesus Christ will put an end to the wicked one's rule over the earth, and set His faithful servants in charge, instead of the wicked. So, in the end, wickedness (serving Satan) does *not* pay, but righteousness (serving Jesus Christ) *does* (Rom 6). In other words, wickedness brings eternal *death* but righteousness brings eternal *life* (as Deut 30, Rom 6:23 both tell us). And that's the pervading thought of this beautiful Acrostic Psalm; yea truly, the it's the entire 'theme' of the Bible. But, we are still not yet done learning of God's 'instructions' and 'promises' in this ever so important Psalm...

Psalms 37

37 Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.

We're now given another 'instruction' and 'promise' in just one verse. The word '**mark**' here is one you should be familiar with by now. It was translated as 'keep' in verse 34 when we were told to 'keep' the Lord's 'way' if we want to inherit the earth. It's the Hebrew word *shamar* (#8104), a primitive root that means to **guard, protect** and **attend to** as if to hedge about with thorns (#8104). And the word '**perfect**' here means **complete, pious, gentle** or **dear** (#8535). It's also been translated as 'upright' in other places. And we know that the only way we can be 'complete' (or pious) is by having the Word of God (and Holy Spirit) within us; for truly, that's the only 'good thing' in us. As the Lord (YHVH) said in Isa 54:17, our righteousness is 'of' Him, which means our righteousness *comes from Him*. And that's because He teaches us (through His Word) what is right versus what is wrong. We only know how to do what's right by studying His Word and allowing the Holy Spirit to help us 'walk' in His 'way' (the way that His Word teaches us to walk, which is righteously) each and every day. And of course, the only 'man' that was ever totally 'complete' (without sin) is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus was *in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin* (Heb 4:15). That's why God *made him to be sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in him* (2 Cor 5:20-21). For, *though we have all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God, we are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus* ((Rom 3:23-24). For, *God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him* (Rom 5:8-9). And that's why this verse tells us to 'mark' the 'perfect' Man, who is Jesus Christ. Jesus is our example to follow because He never sinned, as Peter so succinctly explained...

21 For even hereunto were ye called: ***because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:***

22 ***Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:***

23 ***Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:***

24 ***Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.***

25 ***For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.***

1 Peter 2:21-25

Jesus took the payment of death so that we do not have to die spiritually *if* we accept the precious price He paid for us, on the cross. And His example of how to do what's right, even when having to suffer at the hands of the wicked, teaches us how to live righteously. And we should 'mark' this in our heart and mind by guarding the truth so tightly in our spirit that we don't let anyone take it away from us through lies and deceit.

Moreover, to 'behold' here in Ps 37:37 means ***to see*** (#7200) and the word '**upright**' means ***straight, just, straight*** and ***upright*** (#3477) and comes from a prime root that means ***to be straight*** or ***even*** as well as ***to be*** (or make) ***right, pleasant*** and even ***prosperous*** (#3474). Indeed, the perfect (without fault) example Jesus set forth for us in 'the way' He lived His life is what we should continue to look at and strive for if we want our '**end**' (meaning ***our future***, #319) to be prosperous and have '**peace**', which means ***safe***, i.e. (figuratively) ***well, happy, friendly***; also (abstractly) ***welfare***, i.e. ***health, prosperity, peace*** (#7965). Simply put, those who follow Jesus Christ try to do what's right, and learn from the examples in the Bible (1 Cor 10:11). In John 13:14-15, Jesus – after washing the feet of His disciples – said that: just as He washed their feet, so too are we to wash one another's feet. And in verse 15 He said: *I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.* What washing their feet symbolized is how Jesus Christ cleans our heart and mind (when we faithfully study His Word) so that our 'way' (the course of our life) can be made upright - so we can learn to do what's right like He did. And so, we should also 'wash' each other's feet *by teaching people come to God, through faith in Jesus Christ.* While we are not all teachers or pastors (1 Cor 12, we all have different gifts), we all can share God's Word with others simply by setting forth a good example to them in how we live our life: what we say, what we do and the very countenance (the Holy Spirit shining through us) is an example to others of why following God's Word (His way) is so beneficial to us. As Jesus also said...

14 ***Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.***

15 ***Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.***

16 ***Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.***

Matt 5:14-16

When we diligently, consistently and sincerely (wholeheartedly) study God's Word, the Holy Spirit helps us to truly understand it, and it changes us *from the inside out* so that our thoughts, desires, words and actions *reflect God's Word*. That truly 'shines a light' to others and, again, helps them see why following Jesus Christ is *so much better* than following their carnal mind (which is controlled by Satan). The peace that comes from being at peace with our Heavenly Father (Isa 26:3, Phil 4:7) is *far better* than all earthly riches (Prov 8:11). That's why we should 'mark' (protect and guard) the 'perfect man' (Jesus Christ) and learn from all the other examples of upright people in the Word of God (Heb 11). Because the future for those who sincerely love, and obey, God's Word is very 'bright', but the future for the wicked is incredibly dark and bleak, as we've learned throughout our studies in the Psalms. As Rom 6:23 so concisely says: *the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*. So, there is only one perfect (undefiled) man. He taught us how to live forever. And He is indeed the Prince of Peace. There is no peace without Him. So, keep Him 'in your sights', beloved; for He is your *only* salvation.

Psalms 37

38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.

And now we see the 'bleak end' of the wicked. The word '**transgressors**' here means *to break away* (from just authority), i.e. *trespass, apostatize, quarrel* (#6586). It's also been translated as rebel and revolt, so it's speaking of those who rebel against our Creator, the Most-High God, *Yehovah* (YHVH). And their 'end' shall be to be destroyed together. The word '**destroyed**' here means *desolated* (#8045) but it's also been translated as 'bring to nought', 'overthrow', 'perish', and 'pluck down'. And the word '**together**' means as *a unite, unitedly, alkie* or even *all at once* (#3162). So, while the 'end' (future) of the righteous is peace (everlasting life, peace and prosperity) the 'end' of all incorrigible rebels (the wicked) will be that they are 'cut off' (meaning to destroy or consume, #3772) and 'destroyed' (desolated or perish, #8045) together (all at once, #3162). Of course, this will be after the Millennium, as Rev 20:9-15 clearly explains, when all those who still refuse to obey God (and accept Jesus Christ as their King) will be totally blotted out of existence in the lake of fire. Just as the fat of lambs goes up into smoke and *dissipates into nothing* after it hits the fire (Ps 37:20), so too will the wicked (incorrigible rebels) *consume into nothing* after they are pitched into the 'lake of fire'. And, while the righteous will be gathered together and given eternal life at the return of Jesus Christ, the wicked (those ignorable rebels who refuse Jesus Christ) *will* be gathered when Jesus returns *and punished* – and if they don't repent sincerely by the end of the Millennium, they'll be totally done away with after the Millenium.

By this point in time studying this precious Acrostic Psalm, this fact (wickedness does not pay but doing what's right [following Jesus Christ] does pay *very* well) should be seared into your heart and mind. How many times has our Heavenly Father promised us that the enemy will not prevail? How many times does He need to keep promising us this before we believe Him and

remember His promises (and instructions)? Sometimes we get a little bit downhearted when we see the wicked making such incredible headway in such a short period of time. When we don't continue to study God's Word (to remind ourselves of His promises) it seems like it will never end. But it always does, and it will *all* come to an end – *totally* - one day soon. What you see taking place today is merely a practice run, so to speak, for that time when Satan himself finally sets foot on this earth, pretending to be God (Rev 12-13, 2 Thess 2). As Ps 110:1 and Heb 10:13 (among other places) tell us, Jesus Christ is waiting in heaven (at the right hand of God, making intercession on our behalf) until His enemies are made His 'footstool'. This simply means that, He's waiting (and helping the Body of Christ grow until that time) for Satan and his fallen angles to be cast to earth, so He can return. As Isa 66:1 says, the earth is God's 'footstool'.

So yes, Jesus is waiting to return until *after* Satan (and his fallen angels) are kicked out of heaven, to earth (Rev 12). Because, once they are kicked out of heaven, *they can't go back*. They are trapped on earth, like an animal in a cage. And Jesus Christ *will* return to gather all the wicked together to punish them (while gathering His faithful servants together and giving them eternal life and inheritance) and then begin a thousand years of teaching all those who are not incorrigible rebels (Satan and his fallen angels, who are already condemned to die) the truth so they have the chance to return to God, through faith in Jesus Christ. But after that, all those who do not want to live peacefully (accept Jesus Christ and His righteous laws) will be totally blotted out, *never to exist again*. We will be freed from the wicked ones, beloved. Never forget that. So, we must remember these precious 'instructions' and 'promises' so we remain faithful to the *true* Jesus Christ and don't get caught up in Satan's rebellion. Because only the righteous inherit the earth and live forever. The wicked will be destroyed together and cut off totally from life itself.

Psalms 37

39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.

In contrast to the wicked (who will be destroyed forever) we see that the Lord (YHVH) *will* save the righteous. He *will* be our strength in 'time of trouble' ... *whenever* that is. But, particularly during the '*great time of trouble*' – when Satan is on earth spreading his power over all the earth like a green bay tree (Ps 37:35). Never forget it. As David said in Psalm 56:3, *What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee*. That word '**trust**' (once again) is the Hebrew means '**to flee to for refuge**' as well as to **trust**, be **confident** and **sure** in the Lord (YHVH). As Peter also reminds us...

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

7 *That **the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth**, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

8 *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*

9 ***Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.***

1 Peter 1:3-9

The Lord is our salvation, our strength, and our refuge in all times of trouble. Stay in His Word, and you cannot go wrong. Now, are you ready for one more set of beautiful ‘promises’ from your Heavenly Father?

Psalms 37

40 *And the LORD shall help them and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.*

Again, we’re told that the Lord (YHVH) will ‘help’, ‘deliver’ and ‘save’ the righteous because they ‘trust’ in Him. The word ‘**help**’ here is a prime root that means *to surround, protect* or *aid* (#5826) and the word ‘**deliver**’ is another prime root, which means *to slip out, escape* and *to deliver* (#6403). And the word ‘save’ is the prime root **Yasha**’ which means *to be open, wide* or *free, to be safe* and *to free or succor* (#3467). It’s one of the prime roots that Jesus’ name comes from. In the Greek, Jesus is *Iesous* (#2424) but it comes from the Hebrew word *Yehowshuwa*’ or *Yehowshu’a* (#3091), which means **Jehovah-saved**. And this word is derived from #3068, which is God’s Sacred name **Yehovah** (which means self-Existent or Eternal) and **Yasha**’ which means (again) *to be open, wide* or *free, to be safe* and *to free or succor* (#3467). It’s also been translated as *avenge, defend, deliver, preserve, rescue, bring salvation, and get the victory*. And finally, the word ‘**trust**’ here means *to flee for protection* and, figuratively, *to confide in* (#2620). It’s comparable to the word ‘**trust**’ in Psalm 56:3 which said - *What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee* – which means ‘*to flee to for refuge*’ as well as to *trust*, be *confident* and *sure* in the Lord (YHVH).

As Paul stated in Gal 1:4, Jesus Christ *gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father*. And Peter reminds us, in 2 Peter 2:10 that *the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished*. And in Hebrews, Paul explains the victory Jesus Christ has already gotten over the wicked ‘one’ (through His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven where He remains today, making intercession for us, Rom 8) ...

14 *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; **that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;***

*15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.
17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, **that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.***

18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Heb 2:14-18

There is no temptation, or trial, that Jesus Christ doesn't know how to help you get through. As 1 Cor 10:13 reminds us, *there hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.* And because all temptations (and trials) are common to all people who walk on the earth, in a flesh body, Jesus Christ has faced it all (Mth 4, Lk 4) and overcome it with 'flying colors', because *He never sinned* (Heb 4:15, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5). And, He is in heaven, watching over us who love and revere Him, specifically to help us with our 'infirmities', which means our weaknesses (Rom 8:26-38). That's the blessing of His Holy Spirit. For, through His Holy Spirit, He teaches us, guides us, protects us and strengthens us even when we are weak and don't know what to do. Our heavenly Father has vowed over and over to protect us. *We simply need to stick with Him.* He is our refuge, now, and in that great time of 'Jacob's trouble' (the great tribulation) that is soon coming. Never forget it. We do not fret over the enemy, because we know the enemy's end. We know he has to rise to power first, before he can fall. *We know how to handle his great rise to power, because we have just read our heavenly Father's profoundly simple instructions for doing so.* [Point A To Point B <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/489>]. Let's briefly review what we have learned in this beautiful Acrostic Psalm...

*Fret not over evildoers
Don't be envious of those who work iniquity
Trust in the Lord and do good
Delight thyself in the Lord
Commit thy way to the Lord
Trust in the Lord
Rest in the Lord
Wait patiently
Fret not that the enemy prospers
Cease from anger, forsake wrath, don't do evil
Show mercy, give freely
Be merciful, lend a hand
Depart from evil and do good
Speak wisdom and justice
Keep the law of God in your heart
Wait on the Lord*

***Keep His way
Mark the Perfect Man and behold the Upright***

Could it really be that simple? Yes! And *every one* of those simple, yet *powerful*, instructions have a beautiful PROMISE attached to them – your heavenly Father’s vows to you. The bottom line: He is the Most-High God, and His Word is true (Deut 32, He’s the God of truth). ***Follow His Word and you can’t go wrong.*** As Prov 1:33 says: *But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.* Now, to fully close this Psalm 37, let’s ‘revisit’ the three ‘triplet’ verses, which are the ‘exclamation point’ (!) to God’s overall message to His faithful followers, the ‘elect’...

7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

20 For the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.

34 Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.

Ps 37:7,20,34

*That is the overall message our heavenly Father has imparted to His elect in this beautiful Psalm, particularly in regards to the soon-coming time of Jacob’s trouble (i.e. the ‘great tribulation’ of the antichrist, who is Satan). That’s why it’s befitting to be studying this great Acrostic Psalm now. Simply put, these three ‘triplet’ verses teach us that **wickedness (serving Satan) does not pay in the end, but righteousness (serving Jesus Christ) does.** Wickedness brings eternal death but righteousness brings eternal life. As Rom 8:6 says: *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* Or, as Rom 6:23 puts it: *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* So, we should not fret (be controlled with misguided anger or zeal) but learn to be patient and trust in the Lord while obeying Him faithfully, so we can inherit the land, instead of being ‘cut off’. So, whenever you look around at life (especially when viewing the news) and begin to think the wicked get ahead, *remember this Psalm!* It gives us the courage, and impetus, to do what’s right regardless of the hard times...*

*1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind:** for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;*

2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

7 But the end of all things is at hand: **be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer...**

...12 Beloved, **think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you**, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But **rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; **that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy are ye**; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; **but let him glorify God on this behalf.**

17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

19 Wherefore **let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.**

1 Peter 4:1-7, 12-19

AMEN.