

Part 9 – Wait on the Lord and Keep His Way

In part 8 we learned some very good advice: we should depart from evil and do good. And in doing so, we will indeed ‘dwell forevermore’ – even eternally. What a wonderful ‘promise’ this is, *if* we simply obey the ‘instructions’ God gives us. Our Heavenly Father is eternal *and* self-existent. That’s what His Sacred Name, Yehovah, means (#3068). So, He doesn’t need anyone to live forever; He’s always ‘been’ and always will ‘be’. But, the truth is that we *need Him* in order to live forever. And so, the only way we can live forever, is by accepting His Son, Jesus Christ and learning to do what’s right from the instructions, and examples, His Word gives us. And when we do this, He’ll never forsake (abandon) us. But those who are wicked (and do not repent) will have a very different end, for they will be spiritually blotted out of existence at the end of the Millennium. We also learned that those who are righteous will speak of God’s wisdom and his righteous laws (His Word). That’s also why they will ‘write’ His Laws (Word) into their hearts and minds; so, they not only know *how* to obey His Word, but also *want* to do so, *wholeheartedly*. And doing so causes us to walk firmly in God’s ways, so that we don’t slip and fall totally back into habitual sinning (apostasy). But, we’re not done learning of God’s precious ‘instructions’ and ‘promises’ in this great Acrostic Psalm; there’s still more yet to come...

Psalms 37

32 The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.

David’s life is a perfect example of this verse; for, many times Saul (the king of Israel) watched (and searched) for David to try and kill him; even though David had *never* done him any harm and was not trying to take his throne or his glory. Yet, for years (nearly a decade) Saul wandered around in the wilderness trying to find David and kill him. The only relief David got from this was when the Saul (and the Israelite army) had to stop chasing him to go and fight Israel’s *true* enemy, the Philistines. David finally resorted to going to live in the land of the Philistines because he knew that was the only place Saul wouldn’t chase him. But, by far, David is not the only example. Looking further back in history, consider what Satan did to Job when trying to get him to turn on God, so he would literally curse the Almighty. Satan had all Job’s children, and cattle, killed and then attacked his health. Yet, in all his persecutions (which he was not deserving of) Job never sinned, nor did he curse God for his afflictions (Job 1:21-22); not even when his wife provoked him to do so (Job 2:9-10).

And (looking back to David’s life again) in his later years, we’re told *Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel* (1 Chron 21:1). The word ‘provoked’ here means *to prick*, i.e. (figuratively) *stimulate*; by implication, *to seduce* (#5496). Satan spiritually seduced David into sinning (by numbering the troops, out of pride) because he knows God punishes us when we sin against Him. Indeed, Israel was plagued greatly on account of David’s decision to number the troops. This was truly a grievous sin because Israel’s kings were not supposed to number the troops, short of the Lord telling them to. Which brings up another point: Satan also knows it hurts our Father *deeply* when we fall short and sin, as David did occasionally – and like we all do. Which takes us back to this verse 1. If you love and serve the Lord (YHVH) and Jesus

Christ, then you can (and should) know - *of a surety* - that Satan (and his followers) *are* watching you too. And not merely for amusement; they are watching to ‘seek to slay’ you too, by causing you to ‘fall away’ (totally) from your Heavenly Father. They want you to renounce your faith in Jesus Christ and apostatize to Satan. After all, Satan even tempted Jesus Christ Himself (Mth 4, Lk 4). And his children watched our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, like a hawk. Not only to try and trip Him up in His Words (and teachings) but also waiting for the chance to slay him. And, in John 15:20, Jesus warned us that *the servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you*. So, you had better believe they are watching you too; looking for weak points, or chinks, in your spiritual armor where they can worm their way in *and bring you down to their level*. This is why our Lord, Jesus Christ, admonished us that we are to be *wise as serpents, and harmless as doves* (Mt. 10:16). That means to use your spiritual discernment, spot the traps, and avoid them like the plague. You don’t have to go into full battle mode. You just have to know how to spot, and sidestep, the pitfalls. Our Father’s Word teaches us how, so we shouldn’t be ignorant of Satan’s evil devices. When we stay on guard, Satan won’t get an ‘advantage’ over us, as Paul pointed out in 2 Cor 2:10-11. And in 1 Peter 5:7-9, Peter warns us to *be sober and vigilant because our adversary, the devil, is like a roaring lion who walks about seeking whom he may devour*. He then advises us to ‘*resist steadfast in the faith*’. The word ‘**resist**’ here means *to stand against*, i.e. **oppose** (#436). And the word ‘**stedfast**’ means **solid** and/or **stable** (#4731). We can only have the strength to stand and oppose Satan by studying the Word of God *daily* and trusting in it *wholeheartedly*. When we do this, our Heavenly Father *will* help us, as the next verse indeed explains...

Psalm 37

33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.

Our Heavenly Father (YHVH) will not leave us in Satan’s hand (nor any other wicked people), which means He *will* help us out of all the traps they set for us, both physically and spiritually. As 1 Cor 10:13 says: *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.*** Remember this verse, beloved, for it’s another great promise from our Heavenly Father. The word ‘**temptation**’ here means *a putting to proof* (by experiment [of good], *experience* [of evil], *solicitation, discipline or provocation*); by implication, **adversity** (#3986). And it comes from a word that means *to test* (objectively), i.e. *endeavor, scrutinize, entice, discipline* (#3985). So, there’s no tests, adversity or enticement (temptation) that will come up in life that you won’t be able to handle when you keep your heart and mind firmly on God’s Word *and* trust in it. Our Heavenly Father will always give you the strength to get through the hard times as well as to resist the temptation to sin, no matter what comes up.

Now, the word ‘**condemn**’ here in this verse means *to be* (causatively, do or declare) **wrong**; by implication, *to disturb, violate* (#7561) and the word ‘**judged**’ means *to judge*, i.e. *pronounce sentence* (for or against); by implication, *to vindicate or punish*; by extension, *to govern*; passively, *to litigate* (#8199). So, this verse also looks forward to the time of the ‘great

tribulation'. The time when Satan and his fallen angels are cast out of heaven, to earth, specifically to test the world by trying to get everyone to worship Satan and his evil 'beast' governing system (Rev 12-13, 2 Thess 2). And, as Jesus Christ warned us, during that time God's elect (His faithful servants) will be delivered up to councils, and scourged, in their synagogues as well as being brought before governors and kings for Jesus' sake - for a testimony *against them, and* the Gentiles (Mth 10:18-22, Mk 13:9-13, Lk 21:12-19). So, indeed, the enemy will seek to condemn us (as they do even today); but, as we know from those verses, we will (in reality) be delivered up *for a testimony against them* (against the rulers and nations of this earth, who will have fallen under Satan's deception). But, our Heavenly Father won't leave us in their hand (forever) and He definitely won't condemn us when we're judged by them. After all, the reason He allows us to be delivered up to them is so He (through the Holy Spirit within us) can speak through us, so the world will hear our (God's) testimony. As the book of Romans says...

*31 What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?***

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Rom 8:31-34

And, as we know from Luke 21:15, our adversaries *shall not be able to gainsay (refute) nor resist* what the Holy Spirit says through us. No matter what the enemy tells you at those trials, remember that the Lord will not leave you in enemy hands, nor condemn you when you are judged. So, stand firm in His Word. ***Don't let the enemies' deceptive lies shake you.*** Always remember that your purpose in this flesh life is to serve our Heavenly Father. And He never forsakes His servants when they remain loyal to Him. As 2 Peter 2:9 says: *the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.*

Psalms 37

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.

Here again we see more 'instructions' and 'promises' from the Lord (YHVH). The word '**wait**' in this verse is one we've learned of before (in Ps 25 and 27). It's the Hebrew word *qavah* (#6960), a primitive root that means ***to bind together*** (perhaps by twisting), i.e. ***collect***; (figuratively) ***to expect*** (#6960). This is one of the most beautiful thoughts in the Scriptures because it teaches us that we are to *bind our spirit* (heart and mind) *together with our Heavenly Father's Holy Spirit*, by sincerely, diligently and consistently studying His Word *and* implementing it into our daily life. It's *uniting the way we think, and what we desire, to our Heavenly Father's Will*, in a special (*spiritual*) marriage between our spirit and His Holy Spirit. And, we are also to '*keep His way*', which means a lot more than merely obeying His laws. In the Hebrew, the word '**keep**' is

shamar, which means **to hedge about with thorns, to guard, to protect, to attend to** (#8104 – and we’ve learned of this word in our studies in the Psalms too). It is, in essence, what is meant by being zealous for the Lord. We are to **guard and protect the course of life He has set forth for His children to walk upon**. While others drift into spiritual error, and begin teaching (or listening to) the vain ‘traditions of man’ - in place of God's Word - ***His faithful servants bind themselves to Him, and protect His way, by planting seeds of truth, and wisdom, whenever the opportunity arises*** (Eph 5:15-16, Col 4:5-6).

And what is the ‘promise’ to those who do so? “*He shall exalt thee to inherit the land, when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it*”. There will be no more wicked ones in authority. And the land – which is to say, the very Kingdom of God - will be ours (Luke 12:32), because we are joint heirs with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Rom 8:17). And again, the word ‘**inherit**’ means to **occupy by driving out previous tenants and possessing their place** (#3423). This will happen when Jesus Christ returns, with His holy angels, to literally take over the world. At that time, all the wicked rulers (including Satan and his fallen angels, Rev 20:1-3) will be ‘cut off’ from their positions of authority and we *shall* see it. In Rev 15:1-4, we learn that God’s elect – those who don’t worship Satan or take the ‘mark of the beast’ - will participate in the ‘*victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name*’. They (we) will have the privilege of standing on the ‘*sea of glass*’, from whence a ‘*loud voice*’ comes, while holding the harps of God and singing ‘the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb’. In other words, those who do **not** bow a knee to Satan (the antichrist) or his ‘beast’ governing system (i.e. those who bind their spirit to the Holy Spirit of God through studying, and obeying, His Word – *and* who protect, and guard, His Word and the course of life He has set forth for His children to walk upon) will participate in the great ‘victory celebration’ with Jesus Christ in His awesome flying vehicle.

So, God’s elect (the *virgin* Body of Christ) will be gathered to Jesus Christ [*not* raptured away - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/457>] and allowed to celebrate His victory (and ours) over the Devil, his fallen angels and all others who are God’s enemies, including the ‘workers of iniquity’ (Mth 7:21-23). And, at that time also, we will indeed see the judgments of God poured out upon our enemies, as Rev 15:5-8 - and then on into chapter 16 - tells us. So, you *will* see when the wicked are cut off; you *will* see their downfall. But that’s only **if** we bind our soul to the Holy Spirit *and* protect His Word, so that it’s not perverted or twisted. Protect God’s ‘way’ (His Word) – and not the ‘ways of the world’ - and you’ll be exalted to inherit the earth, and even get to see the deposing of all the wicked ones once Jesus Christ returns. Paul also gives a beautifully summary of this in 2 Thess 1:6-10.

And lastly, but not least, this verse is the third of the ‘triplets’ in this Acrostic. Recall that, all others have four lines (a quatrain) assigned to each successive letter of the alphabet, *except* the fourth (vs 7), the eleventh (vs 20) and the nineteenth (vs 34); these have three lines (a triplet) assigned to them. These triplets occur in perfect order. The seventh verse is the seventh letter from the beginning; the thirty-fourth verse is the seventh letter from the end; while the middle verse (20) marks the end of the first half with the first of the two middle letters. Read together,

those three verses sum up the beautiful message of the Psalm, and form what you might think of as an ‘exclamation point’ to God’s overall message to His elect. Since we have now covered all three verses, let’s take a look at them together...

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 Acrostic 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 (or 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. As 1 Peter 4:19 also teaches us: *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*.

Psalms 37

35 I have seen the wicked in great power; and spreading himself like a green bay tree.

This verse vividly explains what many a righteous people feel like when they read (or watch) the news each day. It seems that the wicked ones keep growing in power, just like a tree grows up and spreads its branches out. The Hebrew in this verse is particularly interesting (enlightening). The words ‘**great power**’ mean *fearful*, i.e. *powerful* or even *tyrannical* (#6184) and come from a prime root that means to *dread* or *harass* (#6206). The word ‘**spreading**’ means *to be* (or *make*) *bare, to empty, pour out* or even *demolish* (#6168). And the word ‘**green**’ means (of course) to *be green* but also *verdant* (lush) or (by analogy) *new*, as well as (figuratively) *prosperous* (#7488). And lastly, the words ‘**bay tree**’ mean (in the sense of springing up) a *spontaneous growth*, i.e. *native* (tree or persons) (#249). It’s even been translated as ‘born in the land’ and ‘of one’s own country or nation. And it comes from a prime root that means to *irradiate* (or *shoot forth beams*), i.e. *to rise* (as the sun); specifically, *to appear* (as a symptom of leprosy) (#2224).

Have you ever noticed how ‘stars’ in the world seem to just ‘suddenly’ appear? Some little-known politician, singer, actor or even preacher suddenly becomes famous (worldwide) practically ‘overnight’? That’s no coincidence, beloved. The satanic system that governs the world is designed to do this. It makes ‘something’ out of ‘no one’ in just a short time because they are truly puppets for Satan. You can learn more about this in the special study on: **Builders of Cities and a Good Repentance** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/304>]. So, these ‘puppets’ (you could also call them ‘pawns’) rise ‘overnight’ because they are being used by Satan (and the wicked ones on earth who serve him) *to push their evil agenda*. Most famous people don’t get to be famous by their good works, or even by their abilities (obviously). They have to sell their soul to the Devil to get wealthy and famous; and in doing so, they sell out any godly morals they once had to Satan. And so, in order to *stay* rich and famous, they *have* to do what they are told. They *have* to sing what they are told, act in the movies they are told to and do whatever they are told in the political arena no matter what they claim to believe in. Even many people who have become ‘overnight stars’ on social media are, in fact, puppets for Satan. And yes, it’s also this way in many ‘pulpits’ around the world, too. *They are all being used* (knowingly or unknowingly) by Satan and his followers on earth, to push the world into a satanic ‘new word order’ designed to enslave humanity, both physically and spiritually. That’s why it seems like the wicked are getting ahead – because it’s all orchestrated – it’s all controlled from Satan himself.

As Paul says in Eph 6:12, *we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against **the rulers of the darkness of this world**, against **spiritual wickedness in high places***. But, it is also written that, *in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord*. Not death, life, **angels**, **principalities** (chief rulers), **powers**, things present, things to come, height, depth or any other creature (Rom 8:37-39). For Jesus Christ has *spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it* (Col 2:16). The word ‘spoiled’ here means *despoiled* (#554), which means to strip of belongings, possessions, or value. As Heb 2:14 tells us, Jesus Christ has destroyed the power of death, which is the Devil (Satan). And He did that when He shed His holy blood for our sins and rose from the dead, literally conquering death (Satan) himself.

So, even though it *seems* like the wicked are getting ahead, never forget that our Heavenly Father is allowing it... and He is *still* on the throne and He is *still* in full control of all things. And He also sees all that goes on in heaven and earth; even in the minds of His children, the good and bad alike (Ps 11). And He allows the wicked to spread themselves like a green bay tree because it fulfills the negative part of His plan of salvation - which is allowing His children to see what the consequences of following Satan really are: it leads to death. Death of the flesh for everyone but that is only a ‘shadow’ of the real – spiritual – death that will come after the Millennium. Simply put, He’s allowing people to see the difference between being ruled by the ‘darkness’ (Satan) versus the ‘Light’ (Jesus Christ). That’s why Jesus Christ will get a thousand years to rule over the earth (and all of God’s children) to show people the blessings, and prosperity, that come from obeying God. And, if they still want to follow Satan after those thousand years are completed –

after they've been taught the pure truth without any satanic interference and have seen the blessings that come from the reign of Jesus Christ - then they'll be blotted out of existence, just as smoke from the lamb dissipates *into nothing*.

And this vital lesson is important to remember for the soon to come 'great tribulation'. For, we'll soon see that great (as in horribly evil) 'green bay tree' (who is the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil, Gen 3) come to earth and 'spread out his branches' worldwide. If you think it seems like the wicked are getting ahead now, just wait until Satan and his fallen angels arrive. Dan 11:21 tells us he'll *come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries*. Dan 7:25 also tells us he (Satan) will *speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws*. And Rev 13:5-7 also warns us that *there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations*. But, this is all part of God's negative plan. Thus, the Lord (YHVH) also has plans to use His servants for the express purpose of exposing Satan for the fraud and liar he really is (John 8:44). That's what the two witnesses will be doing (Rev 11) and that's why God will allow His faithful servants (who do now bow a knee to Satan) be delivered up to the Jewish counsels and Synagogues – to allow the Holy Spirit to witness *against them* (Mth 10:18-22, Mk 13:9-13, Lk 21:12-19).

So, don't fret about the seemingly success of the wicked ones. It's all part of God's plan. However, that does not mean you should shrink back from your duties to God. We are still supposed to use our gifts to share the truth (God's Word) *till the very end*. Even when Satan is here on earth, we're *still* suppose to (with discernment) share the truth to warn others about the deception taking place [learn more in this special study: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/495>]. But, don't worry, don't fret and don't let the wicked ones provoke you into doing evil yourself. Keep your Light shining brightly for the Lord (Mth 5:16). After all...

Psalms 37

36 Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

This is the 'bottom line' we cannot forget. When we see the wicked ones (especially when Satan and his fallen angels are here) spreading their 'branches' over the world, remember these verses. They will pass away (be blotted out of existence), *never to be found again* in the lake of fire, after the Millenium. And, our Heavenly Father tells us what happens to our old adversary in Ezek 28:18: *"Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee."* That's also written of in Rev 20:10. Satan will be burned to ashes, *never to exist again*. All that great power and authority, the lies and deception... gone up in smoke, *forever*. So, what is there to fret about?

27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

Ps 73:27-28

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Prov 3:5-6

We'll pick this up in part 10...

AMEN.