

Psalms 37: Special Instructions to God's Elect

by Steve Barwick

This beautiful Psalm is written specifically to God's elect, as you will understand by the time you're finished with it. It demonstrates our heavenly Father's great love toward His faithful servants, and His utter faithfulness to them.

In a great sense, this Psalm represents our heavenly Father's special instructions to His election, as well as His special vows to His election, *particularly in regards to the coming time of Jacob's trouble.*

As anyone who has studied this beautiful Psalm with the Shepherd's Chapel knows, it is an Acrostic Psalm, having four lines assigned to each successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet, except for the fourth line (vs. 7), the eleventh line (vs. 20) and the nineteenth line (vs. 34). That sets verses 7, 20 and 34 apart from the other verses.

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.

We'll start by looking at these three verses together, in order to gain an understanding of the special message to God's elect behind the acrostic, as well as behind the entire Psalm. That message quite literally sets the tone for the entire Psalm.

I would only state here that the word "but" which begins the first sentence in verse 20 should be translated "for." And for the sake of the flow of the acrostic I have taken the liberty to make that change. You can check it out for yourself in your Strong's Concordance to make sure I have not taken an illegitimate liberty with the verse.

Psa 37:7 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.

Psa 37:20 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.

Psa 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.

That is the overall message our heavenly Father has imparted to His elect in this beautiful Psalm, particularly in regards to that soon-coming time of Jacob's trouble, which is why we are studying this Psalm now.

Note that the acrostic verses above follow a very specific alternating pattern of Instruction/Promise/Instruction/Promise. The remainder of the Psalm follows precisely that same pattern, which is to say, specific instructions to the elect from our heavenly Father, followed by specific promises or vows to the elect from our heavenly Father.

What's more, verse 28 of this Psalm is also set apart in the Hebrew manuscripts by the fact that in the second part of the verse, which starts a new quatrain (i.e., a new set of four lines), the corresponding Hebrew letter *Ayin* is hidden behind the preposition *Lamed*. For those with a Companion Bible, you can read Dr. Bullinger's sidenotes on this topic. Let's take a look at that special verse:

Psa 37:28 For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints;
they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

Suffice it to say that the verse itself contrasts the preservation of God's saints with the cutting off of the seed of the wicked. This is another striking pattern you will notice throughout the entire Psalm.

In the original Hebrew manuscripts, that letter *Ayin* (represented by the human eye in Hebrew pictography), hidden behind the preposition *Lamed* (represented by the Shepherd's staff in Hebrew pictography), tells those who have eyes to see that the seed of the wicked, while hidden from view within the Shepherd's own tribe of Judah, will nevertheless be cut off while his saints will be preserved. The hidden enemy is not hidden to our heavenly Father, Who is our great Shepherd. He knows exactly who the wicked ones are. That is the special message to His elect hidden in the 28th verse of this 37th Psalm.

We will now take a look at each verse of the Psalm, one at a time. As noted above, be sure to pay attention to the two specific types of patterns that have been written into this great Psalm, which is to say, the pattern of alternating instruction and promise to the elect, as well as the alternating pattern of preservation of the elect contrasted with the cutting off of the seed of the wicked. Those two patterns pervade and even define this very special Psalm.

With that in mind, let's proceed...

Psa 37:1 A Psalm of David. Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

We are told right from the start that this is a Psalm of David, whose name means "beloved," which is of course one of God's epithets for His own son, Jesus Christ (Mt. 3:17; Mt. 12:18).

So from the very start we see in this Psalm the royal bloodline from David to Christ. And we can take note as we study this Psalm that it is directed to the body of Christ, and in particular, to those who understand the Key of David.

The very first verse in this Psalm constitutes direct instruction from our heavenly Father, which as I mentioned earlier, will be followed in the next verse by a promise. We are not to "fret" over the work of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.

The word "fret" means to burn with anger or displeasure. And the word "envious" in this context refers to a sinister form of zeal in which, essentially, the flesh takes over your common sense as well as your faith in God, causing you to act zealously, but misguidedly, against evildoers.

The evildoers we are referring to here, of course, are the Kenites and their little helpers, as well as the ultimate evildoer of them all, our old adversary the devil.

We are not to allow anger at the success of evildoers to consume us. We are not to get all worked up over their apparent progress in evildoing, because our heavenly Father is *in* control, and he has the situation well *under* control.

You might think about the Obama-messiah -- our present "type" of the antichrist -- as an example. Many people are getting all hot under the collar over his actions, and his apparent success in getting his socialistic programs implemented. Some people are actually in deep emotional anguish over it. Our heavenly Father is very clear on the matter: "Fret not," and don't let it lead you into a misguided sense of zeal that could get you into trouble.

Speak your mind, of course. After all, this is still America. And be sure to act at the voting booth, and let your voice be heard to your elected representatives. Utilize your rights under civil law to exercise your viewpoint.

But don't let the rabble-rousers get you all carried away. Maintain control of your emotions. Maintain control of your faith in your heavenly Father, and in His ability to rule. He knows exactly what He is doing. No man rules over His People without His permission. Never forget that.

The bottom line is that "fretting" (i.e., being consumed in anger) over the success of the enemy is an act of unfaith. It says to God, "I'm concerned you're not handling this as effectively as you should be." And that, my friend, is a great big "No, no."

So stay cool. Lay your cares on your heavenly Father, rather than getting all lathered up about them. And use prayer and study to stay in touch with Him every day. His Word leads, guides and directs us. Trust it. And be sure to follow it.

Psa 37:2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

There's that PROMISE. Praise our heavenly Father! The evildoers won't last forever. Though they may seem to be in control, they are merely puppets of our heavenly Father's will. And though their apparent rapid victories may seem shocking and unbelievable, it is only because our heavenly Father is trying to get the attention of His wayward children. He is teaching lessons by allowing the heathen adversary to rise up against us. Don't get in His way. Ultimately, He is working to correct His wayward children.

Psa 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

That's pretty darn simple, isn't it? "Trust in the Lord, and do good." You can't ask for better advice.

The word "trust" is the Hebrew word *batach*. You might remember it from Psalms 91:2. It means "to flee to for refuge." Isn't that beautiful? When the going gets tough, the tough take refuge in the Lord. Why? Because they know *He* is able. And in Him, *we* too are able.

The word *batach* also implies bold confidence and total security. You can be completely confident in His Word, and secure in the fact that He loves you.

This verse also has a PROMISE attached to it, doesn't it? If you trust in the Lord, and do good by Him, you will dwell in the land and you will be well fed.

In the Hebrew, this says you will *continue* in the land (as opposed to being uprooted). What's more, you can rest assured that you will be well-pastured, to boot.

Think of that as a spiritual as well as physical dwelling and feeding. He is well able to take care of His own. He houses us in His Son, Jesus Christ, and makes sure there is plenty of good pasture available to us, even 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We are the sheep of His field. He is our Shepherd. We are well tended, as long as we "Trust in the Lord, and do good."

Just make sure your *actions* demonstrate that you are one who trusts in Him.

Psa 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Here's another great piece of instruction, with another PROMISE attached to it.

In the Hebrew, the word "delight" in this instance means "to be soft or pliable." God has to be able to work with you. You need to be mould-able, so to speak, like soft clay. He can't work with the stiff-necked...the know-it-alls...or the self-righteous. He works with those who bend toward His Word and His Will, when properly instructed.

The word "delight" also implies delicacies, or even luxuries. In other words, Father is stating that you need to find Him and His Word just as delightful and appealing as your favorite delicacies or luxuries -- even moreso. His Word is that "pearl of great price" (Mt. 13:46) that we value above all other things.

When you delight yourself in Him, you've got it made. He hears your petitions, and grants you the goodness you desire. That's His PROMISE, and you can count on it.

Psa 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Here is yet another verse with a PROMISE attached to it.

The word "commit" here is the Hebrew word *galal*, meaning basically, "to roll."

The word "way" here is the Hebrew word *derek*, meaning a well-trodden road, or even a course of life or mode of action.

The word "trust" is the same word as used in verse 3 above, i.e., *batach*. Make your heavenly Father your place of refuge, by making His Word your place of refuge. "I and my Father are One" (John 10:30).

God is saying to include Him in everything you do. Consult with Him. Place your thoughts, decisions and deeds in His hands, and accept His will. And He will be faithful to make good things happen for you.

Remember, these are good instructions for life. But they are particularly important instructions for that soon-coming time of Jacob's trouble, when everything is going to be topsy-turvy. If you think the Obama-messiah has turned things upside down, you haven't seen anything yet. He is just a "practice run," so to speak. Be sure to take lesson from it. And be sure to apply what you are learning from this great Psalm to your everyday life, particularly if this mere man has disrupted your spirit.

Psa 37:6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

This is another PROMISE, attached to the previous verse. Those who commit their way unto the Lord, and take refuge in Him, shall shine forth with the righteousness of Christ.

In the Hebrew, the word "righteousness" here is *tsedeq*, meaning one's natural, moral or legal right. It has to do with the bringing forth of justice.

In other words, when you are delivered up to those trials described in Mark 13:9-11, the enemy is attempting to convict you of ungodliness for failing to bow a knee to the antichrist. But our heavenly Father promises to vindicate us. Our righteousness in Christ will be brought forth as the light.

The word "judgment" in this verse is the Hebrew word *mishpat*, meaning a verdict, either favorable or unfavorable. In this context, it is your verdict of divine acquittal, direct from your heavenly Father.

When you are truly operating in the Lord, your sins are forgiven. Your righteousness is of Him, and He is that Light that shines forth. That's why His righteousness shines forth through you. After all, you're working for Him.

Your judgment is of Him, too. And in Him that verdict is as clear as the noonday sun. As it is written, "*Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 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.*" (Romans 8:33-34).

Stick with Him, and do right. In spite of the enemy's desire to convict you, the verdict is promised to be "not guilty."

Psa 37:7 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.

This is again a direct order from our heavenly Father.

Keep in mind the overall context of this Psalm, which is the time when antichrist and his minions reign upon the earth, and even the time-period leading up to it, when you can see the evil ones rising in power and spreading their nets.

The word "rest" is the Hebrew word *damam*, meaning to be quiet, or to hold your peace. It is, in essence, the opposite of "fretting" or being consumed with passion over the things you see taking place in the world. You are to take your mental, emotional and spiritual rest in the Lord. Lean on Him for comfort in these discomfoting and disquieting times.

It is completely up to you whether or not you have peace, or you allow yourself to get all worked up about things. If you hold your peace in the Lord, you will always do well. If you fret (i.e., allow yourself to be consumed with anger or misguided passion), you risk acting out of unbridled emotion, and getting yourself in trouble in the process.

Again, you are allowed to speak your peace. No one is telling you to shut up. You are allowed to state your opinion. This is still America, and no one can tell you to cease from telling the truth. You are not spineless. The sting of the scorpion of Revelation chapter 9 has no power over you.

But as St. James has said, *"Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."* (James 3:5-6).

Staying in context with the message of the Psalm, don't let the actions of the adversary get you so worked up that you lose your self-control. When you "rest in the Lord" you are letting Him know you have the physical, mental and spiritual stability to deal with the situation at hand, as well as the trust in Him to know that He is in full control regardless of how bad things may look.

In the original Hebrew, the phrase "wait patiently" means to bear the situation as a person bears pain. In other words, if you break your wrist, you don't lose control and take a meat cleaver and whack your arm off. You bear the pain, until the break can be properly treated and healed. This can take some time. But if you handle it in the Lord, He will give you strength for the time between the break and the healing.

Similarly, when you see the evil ones rising to power, and breaking asunder that which is right, you bear up under it, knowing that God has the healing balm in His hand, and it will be applied in due time.

Grin and bear it, my friend. Because the time is soon coming when the Lord is going to clean house on the enemy. And you can take that to the bank. The pain of their presence will no longer be a problem.

Note also in this verse that for the sake of emphasis, our heavenly Father here basically repeats and clarifies what He said in verse one, "*Fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.*"

Don't allow yourself to become consumed with negative emotion as the adversary makes headway in bringing wicked plans to pass. That old man of sin is doomed. Our heavenly Father holds his fate in His hands. That is quite sufficient, don't you think?

Psa 37:8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

This is another direct order and wise instruction from our heavenly Father.

When you see the evil ones prospering in their way, you are watching the negative part of your heavenly Father's plan come to pass. Don't allow your anger to put you on the wrong side of your heavenly Father's plan. Trust in Him. Remember that He's is in complete control. He can handle it.

There are many *agent provocateurs* out there who would love to get you all worked up and suck you into a web of trouble, under the pretence of "fighting evil." Be careful. At times like this, you need to have your discernment fully tuned in. And you have to remember that your heavenly Father is still on the Throne, and still in complete control. Trust Him.

Psa 37:9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

Once again, note that each of Father's admonitions or instruction have a beautiful PROMISE attached to them. Those promises are there for you to *learn* and *claim*. They are there to teach you about your heavenly Father's nature, which is the nature of a protector and a provider, much like your earthly Father, only better. These promises bring great peace of mind for those who have the faith to believe them and act upon them with confidence.

The spoilers will not win, in the end. They will be destroyed. But those who roll with the Lord, so to speak, will gain eternal life.

By the way, the phrase "wait upon" in this verse is the Hebrew word *qavah*. It means to "bind together," as one might bind two strands of thread together by twisting them around each other in order to make a single stronger strand. Isn't that beautiful?

We are to bind ourselves together with the Lord, to the point that our spirit and His Holy Spirit become one through that spiritual marriage we have been promised. We do so by partaking of His Word, meditating on it, and then applying it to our lives. As we gain experience doing so,

that binding of the threads comes together to make a fabric. It is called the Gospel Armor. It is also your wedding garment.

Psa 37:10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

This verse really puts the lie to those who claim that our heavenly Father tortures the enemy for eternity, doesn't it?

What it tells us is that they simply won't exist any longer. You can diligently search them out, and you won't find them. They are "Gone, baby(lon), gone," as the old saying goes.

Psa 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

There's another PROMISE: eternal life, along with abundant peace and prosperity. After all, as it is written, *He* is our inheritance (Ez. 44:28). And He owns everything.

Psa 37:12 The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

Do you realize that? The wicked ones plot against the coming rule of our Lord and Savior, and against His faithful servants, continually.

And yes, they shoot their mouths off pretty regularly. As the Scripture says, "*All the day long my name is blasphemed.*" (Is. 52:5).

But what does the Lord think about this? Let's see...

Psa 37:13 The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

This should remind you of the second Psalm, in which our heavenly Father states of the scoffers, "*Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.*"

Psa 37:14 The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.

The wicked ones have drawn out their sword of deception, and have aimed the poisoned arrows of deception (via the news media, the pulpit, the music and entertainment industry, etc.) at God's elect. But it shall not prosper.

Psa 37:15 Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

The spiritual slaying that God's adversaries have thought to bring about against His servants will be carried out against them, instead. In other words, in plotting the spiritual deaths of God's elect, they pronounce their own sentences.

Psa 37:16 A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

Never forget that. It is so easy to become envious in the final days of this flesh age, when everyone is boasting about their "easy riches." But ill-gotten gain is not of the Lord. It is a very temporary thing.

Learn to appreciate what your heavenly Father has given you. If you want something more, commit that to the Lord, and then work for it. If you are to have more, He will no doubt bless your efforts.

Psa 37:17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.

That's another PROMISE, isn't it?

The word "broken" means "burst asunder" (H-7665) or even "crushed." All of that ill-gotten wealth and power and prestige, gone in an instant. You can read about it in Revelation chapter 18, which gives an in-depth account of the losses suffered by the wicked ones at Christ's arrival.

Psa 37:18 The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.

And yet another wonderful PROMISE from our heavenly Father! Isn't this Psalm beautiful? I hope you are meditating on these promises, and claiming them. They are written in His book, which is His *will*, which means *they are part and parcel of your inheritance*. But just as you have to formally claim things left to you in an earthly inheritance, so too you have to formally claim your spiritual inheritance from your heavenly Father. He wants to see that you believe Him. And that requires formal *action* on your part. Have you ever formally claimed one of your heavenly Father's promises? If not, shame on you. They are there for your benefit, to learn, believe and claim.

Psa 37:19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

The PROMISES keep on coming, don't they?

You can translate the word "ashamed" as *disappointed*. Which is to say, God is not going to leave you hanging, after you've demonstrated your faith in Him. You will not be disappointed. He will fulfill His Word. At His second advent, He brings your reward with Him (Rev. 22:12), though even now you can partake of it, if you have entwined yourself to Him, through His Word.

Even in these days of the spiritual famine (Amos 8:11) you will be satiated, which is to say, filled to satisfaction. Your needs are well-covered. His Word pours forth like waters from under the throne, straight to you, if you will but partake of it.

As it is written, "*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*" (Psa 23:5).

That spiritual table is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. But it is up to you to take a seat there, and eat thereof.

Just as a family tends to talk together at the dinner table, so your heavenly Father talks to you through the unction of His Holy Spirit at that spiritual table He has provided for you in the final days of this flesh earth age. His Word – your spiritual sustenance -- is even broadcast 24/7. Be sure you take part of it.

Psa 37:20 But 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.

Another wonderful PROMISE, with some hidden wisdom, to boot!

When you drip fat onto a hot fire, what happens? It is instantly vaporized. All that's left is the smoke, which is the sign that something once existed, but exists no more. Ultimately, that smoke rises and dissipates into nothingness.

That's what happens to the wicked enemies of our Lord and Savior. They are *not* tortured forever in some fiery pit. Once they hit the fire, they are gone forever. The smoke of their burning rises, and then dissipates. And they can never exist again. For them, it is *finis*.

Psa 37:21 The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.

The evil ones of this world control the monetary system. They love to indebt others for their own benefit. They “borrow” the money, and the poor taxpayers have to pay it back over many generations.

But the righteous -- which is to say, the just or lawful ones -- don't heap debt on anyone, neither physically or spiritually. They bestow mercy, and are happy to give to others.

Think of that spiritually. The evil ones of this world are all about keeping everyone tied up with religious rules and regulations and traditions which they themselves ignore. As the Lord said in Luke 11:46, "*Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.*"

But the righteous work to free the people from spiritual bondage by making sure God's Word of truth is easily accessible to them. The enemy seeks to take the people captive, spiritually

speaking. The righteous help free them from that spiritual bondage by making the Word of God available to "whosoever will" (Rev. 22:17). Are you doing your part?

Psa 37:22 For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off.

It's truly as simple as that. And that is a PROMISE. Just make sure you are on the *right side* of it.

Psa 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

This is an irrefutable fact. Follow God's Word, and your steps will be ordered (i.e., established, made sure) by the Lord.

I guarantee you, when your heavenly Father establishes your steps you will be well-pleased with the results.

Psa 37:24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

Like sportsmen on a playing field, we all take a fall now and then. Sometimes we even take a hard fall. After all, we are engaged in a spiritual warfare with a very nasty enemy who doesn't play by the rules.

But our heavenly Father PROMISES we will not stay down for long. He props us up with His hand, which is His *right* hand, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psa 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Have you noticed how many times the words *righteous* and *righteousness* are used in this Psalm? In every case, in the Hebrew, it is a word related to the Hebrew word for the Zadok, which is to say, the very elect. In other words, He is talking to those who have not and will not bow a knee to the antichrist. He does not forsake his faithful ones, nor their children. The daily bread is freely available to them. They have but only to partake of it.

Psa 37:26 He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.

God's elect are, shall we say, a chip off the old block. Our heavenly Father is merciful and always willing to lend a hand, and so are his faithful servants. They are always eager to do their part to help feed the sheep. That is one of their chief characteristics.

Psa 37:27 Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.

Again, you can't ask for better advice. And you can't ask for a better PROMISE, either. After all, we are talking about eternal life here.

Psa 37:28 For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

Another wonderful PROMISE. Our heavenly Father loves judgment, and will make sure that everybody gets exactly what they deserve. It is soon coming, and you can count on it. He will not forsake us. We are preserved forever. But the wicked one and his seed (i.e., the Kenites) don't have long for this world. Very soon, and every one of these promises will come to pass. You can count on it.

Psa 37:29 The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.

And there's another PROMISE.

Christ is the Righteous One, and He and His faithful servants will inherit the land, and dwell therein forever. That means, in *perpetuity*. You can count on it, for our heavenly Father has said so.

Psa 37:30 The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.

How can you tell who is one of God's faithful servants? Does he speak wisdom? Does He make God's judgment abundantly clear? Or does he teach traditions of man, and obfuscate when it comes to teaching the deeper truths of God's Word? It is not hard to tell the righteous from the unrighteous.

Psa 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

You know the difference between right and wrong, both physically and spiritually. It is part of your internal makeup, your moral compass. And because you follow that compass, which is the Word of God, your steps will never slide, meaning you won't be lost along the way. Just stick with His Word. Never lose sight of it.

Psa 37:32 The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.

They watched our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ like a hawk, waiting for the chance to slay him. And 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 admonished that we are to be "...wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Mt. 10:16). That means 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. Your Father's Word teaches you how.

Psa 37:33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.

The time is coming when God's elect will be delivered up to those trials described in Mark 13:9-11. The enemy seeks to condemn us, but as we know from those verses, we will in reality be delivered up "for a testimony against them" (i.e., against the rulers and nations of this earth, who will have fallen under Satan's spell).

Our heavenly Father will speak through us, and the world will hear our testimony. And as we know from Luke 21:15, our adversaries "shall not be able to gainsay (i.e., refute) nor resist" that wondrous testimony.

Since those trials are just about the only time the unforgiveable sin can be committed, it is important to lay claim to the very special PROMISE inherent in the above verse. Meditate on it. 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 enemy shake you two minutes before the miracle.

Psa 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.

Again, the word "wait" in this verse is the Hebrew word *qavah*, meaning to bind together, as if by twisting two threads together as one. It is one of the most beautiful thoughts in the Scriptures. We are to bind ourselves together with Him, in that special marriage between our spirit and His Holy Spirit, which comes from partaking of His Word and implementing it into our daily lives.

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." 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 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.

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. 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.

Psa 37:35 I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.

Lately it seems the wicked ones have indeed risen to great power, and are spreading their reach over the entire world. Their power is now so great, they can bring the world to the brink of financial collapse with their greed and avarice, and rather than be punished, they are rewarded instead.

What's more, that "type" of the antichrist we now have in office over our great nation is spreading his branches widely, too.

But this is nothing compared to what is soon coming. So take careful lesson from the events you see taking place today. If you think Obama-messiah's first 75 days in office have been stunning in terms of the scope and depth of what he has been able to seize and accomplish, wait until you see what the real deal – i.e., the antichrist -- manages to accomplish when he arrives. But what sayeth the Lord about all of this? Are we to worry when we see the wicked spreading his reach over the world?

Psa 37:36 Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

In the Hebrew, it says, "He crossed, and behold! Nothing! I searched diligently, but nothing was there."

Our heavenly Father tells us what happens to that old adversary in Ezekiel 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.*"

Burned to ashes, never to exist again. All that great power and authority, gone forever, in the twinkling of an eye. So what is there to fret about?

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

There is only one perfect (i.e., undefiled) man. And He is indeed the Prince of Peace. There is no peace without Him. So keep Him in your sights, for He is your salvation. He is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psa 37:38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.

How many times does our heavenly Father need to PROMISE us that the enemy will not prevail?

Well, sometimes we get a little bit downhearted when we see the wicked making such incredible headway in such a short period of time. Perhaps it seems like it will never end. But it always does.

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. Then, as now, we must stand firmly in our heavenly Father's Word. But it's *easy*, particularly when we have so many precious PROMISES from Him assuring us of the victory in Christ.

Psa 37:39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.

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 word *batach*, which means "to flee to for refuge."

The Lord is our salvation, our strength and our refuge in the time of trouble. Stay in His Word, and you cannot go wrong.

Are you ready for one more set of PROMISES from your heavenly Father?

Psa 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.

The word "help" is the Hebrew word *azar*, meaning "to surround, protect or aid."

The word "deliver" is the Hebrew word *palat*, meaning to help escape, or to carry away safely.

The word "save" is the Hebrew word *yasha*, from which we derive our Lord's name, *Yeshuah*. It means to avenge, defend, deliver, preserve, rescue, bring salvation, and get the victory.

And that word "trust" is the Hebrew word *chasah*, which is the primitive root of *batach*, meaning to flee to for protection.

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 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.

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 Lord, and His Word is true. Follow His Word and you can’t go wrong.

-- End --

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