

Treasure Hunt

- What kind of a Psalm is Psalm 37?
- How does the repeated exhortation of Psalm 37, “fret not thyself,” relate to David’s problem in Psalm 36?
- Where does David get the command to “dwell in the land,” vv. 3, 27, and what does it mean?
- Contrast the techniques used by the righteous and the wicked to get things done.
- What does it mean to “inherit the land”?
- What three benefits does the righteous enjoy over the wicked, and where else in the Bible do we see them?
- What are the themes of the final two paragraphs?
- What two kinds of behavior characterize “the meek” who will “inherit the land”?

Psalm 37, Two Routes to Success

1-8, **Commands**:

- 1-2, Negative: fret not, the wicked
- 3-7a, Positive: Trust, wait, rest in the Lord
- 7b-8, Negative: fret not, the wicked

9-26, **Statements**: Cf. Deut 6:5

Contrast between the Wicked and the Righteous

- 9-11, Prestige (“**Inherit the land**” 2x), “Heart”
- 12-15, Physical protection, “Soul”
- 16-21, Material provision, “Abundance”
- Summary: 22 (Prestige, “**inherit the land**”), 23-24 (Protection), 25-26 (Provision)

27-33, Preservation of the Righteous

- 27, **Command**: Do good (v. 3b)
- 28-33, **Statements**:
 - Righteous live “for ever” 2x
 - “**inherit the land**”

34-40, Judgment of the Wicked

- 34a, **Command**: Wait on the Lord, obey (v. 3a)
- 28-33, **Statements**:
 - Wicked “cut off” 2x
 - “**inherit the land**”

Structure of Psalm 37

Repeated themes:

- Moral imperatives (fret not, trust, do good, commit)
- Expressions of trust in the Lord
- Length or shortness of life (“cut off,” “forever”)
- Wicked people
- Righteous people
- “Inherit the earth/land”

Helpful References

v. 1, Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

Pro 24:19 Fret not thyself because of evil *men*, neither be thou envious at the wicked; 20 For there shall be no reward to the evil *man*; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

v. 3b, so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed

Gen 26:1 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. 2 And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; **dwell שָׁכַן** in the land which I shall tell thee of: 3 **Sojourn גֹּר** in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; 4 **And I** will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and **will give unto thy seed all these countries**; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; 5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

Heb 6:15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

vv. 9, 11, 22, 29, 34, inherit the earth/land

Gen 15:7 I *am* the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this **land** to **inherit** it.

Who are “the meek,” v. 11?

Mat 5:5 Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

9 those that **wait** **קוה** **upon the LORD**, they shall **inherit the earth**.

11 But the **meek** shall **inherit the earth**;

22 For *such as be* **blessed of him** shall **inherit the earth**;

29 The **righteous** shall **inherit the land**

34 **Wait** **קוה** **on the LORD**, and keep **his way**, and he shall exalt thee to **inherit the land**: