

Treasure Hunt

- What features do we see in Psalms 38-41 that were missing in 34-37?
- How do these features explain the “failure” of some of the promises of Psalm 37 in Psalms 38-39?
- How does David draw closer to the Lord over the course of Psalm 38?
- What NT truth does David’s silence in defending himself and the Lord’s intervention on his behalf (vv. 12-15) anticipate?
- How would Jeduthun have enhanced this Psalm in public worship?
- Contrast David’s answer to the problem of the wicked in Psalms 36, 37, and 39.
- What weakness does David show in 39:1-3, and how does he minimize the damage?
- With what OT book does Psalm 39 have multiple parallels?
- What lesson does David learn about himself in Psalms 38-39?

Summary of Psalms 34-37

Psalm	Type	Summary
34	Thanks-giving	David thanks the Lord for delivering him personally from wicked Saul and Abimelech, and for delivering the righteous generally, and urges the humble to trust in him.
35	Lament	David as king asks for God's judgment on the wicked who have unjustly opposed him, while personally he prays for them
36	Lament	David is burdened over the devotion of the wicked to Transgression instead of God, but focuses his attention on the Lord's righteousness
37	Wisdom (Advice)	David exhorts the humble to trust in the Lord and do good in the face of wicked opposition, because the Lord will cut off the wicked but promote, protect, and provide for the righteous

Key features:

- Clear contrast between wicked enemy and righteous David
- God's opposition to the wicked
- Prosperity for the righteous

David's Sin in Psalms 38-41

38:3 *There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of **my sin**.*

38:4 For **mine iniquities** are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me.

38:5 My wounds stink *and* are corrupt because of **my foolishness**.

38:18 For I will declare **mine iniquity**; I will be sorry for **my sin**.

39:8 Deliver me from all **my transgressions**: make me not the reproach of the foolish.

40:12 For innumerable evils have compassed me about: **mine iniquities** have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.

41:4 I said, LORD, be merciful וְחַן unto me: heal my soul; for **I have sinned against thee**.

Structure of Psalm 38

Psalm 38: Plea of the Penitent

1, **Plea** for God's Help (LORD)

2-10, **Complaint**: physical sickness

- 3-5, **Confession** of sin
- 9, **Confidence** (Lord)

11-20, **Complaint**: rejection by friend and foe

- 15, **Confidence** (LORD, Lord, my God)
- 18, **Confession** of sin

21-22, **Plea** for God's Help (LORD, Lord, my God)

Possible parts of a Lament:

- Invocation
- **Plea** to God for help
- **Complaint** (description of the problem)
- **Confession** of sin
- Assertion of innocence
- Curse on enemies (imprecation),
- **Confidence** in God's response
- Hymn or blessing

References

38:1 to bring to remembrance.

1Ch 16:4 And he appointed *certain* of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and **to record**, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel:

38:21, Jeduthun:

1Ch 16:41 And with them Heman and **Jeduthun**, and the rest that were chosen, who were expressed by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because his mercy *endureth* for ever; 42 And with them, Heman and **Jeduthun**, with trumpets and cymbals for those that should make a sound, and with musical instruments of God. And the sons of **Jeduthun** were porters.

38:15, God defends a penitent sinner from truthful accusers

Zec 3:1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. 2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: *is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?* 3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. 4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

1Jo 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to **make intercession for them**.

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser of our brethren** is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Structure of Psalm 39

Psalm 39: The Vanity of Life

1-3, The Failure of Silence

4-13, The Frankness of Prayer

- 4, **Plea**: Teach me my transience
- 5-6, **Complaint**: man is vanity
- 7-10, **Plea**, **Confidence**, **Confession**, deliver me from my sin
- 11, **Complaint**: man is vanity
- 12-13, **Plea**: Hear me, depart from me

Possible parts of a Lament:

- Invocation
- **Plea** to God for help
- **Complaint** (description of the problem)
- **Confession** of sin
- Assertion of innocence
- Curse on enemies (imprecation),
- **Confidence** in God's response
- Hymn or blessing

Parallels between Job and Psalm 39

Job	Psalm 39
<p>14:1 Man <i>that is</i> born of a woman <i>is</i> of few days, and full of trouble. 2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.</p>	<p>5 Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age <i>is</i> as nothing before thee:</p>
<p>Job 7:16 let me alone; for my days <i>are</i> vanity.</p>	<p>5 verily every man at his best state <i>is</i> altogether vanity. Selah. 6 Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain</p>
<p>7:19 How long wilt thou not depart [שעה G] from me, nor let me alone till I swallow down my spittle? 14:6 Turn [שעה G] from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish, as an hireling, his day.</p>	<p>13a O spare me [שעע C],</p>
<p>10:20 <i>Are</i> not my days few? cease <i>then</i>, and let me alone, that I may take comfort [בלג C] a little, 21 Before I go <i>whence</i> I shall not return, <i>even</i> to the land of darkness and the shadow of death;</p>	<p>13b that I may recover strength [בלג C], before I go hence, and be no more.</p>

References for Psalm 39

39:5, 6a, 11 **vain, vanity**

Ecc 1:2 **Vanity of vanities**, saith the Preacher, **vanity of vanities**; all *is* **vanity**.

Psa 62:9 Surely men of low degree *are* **vanity**, *and* men of high degree *are* a lie: to be laid in the balance, they *are* altogether *lighter* than vanity.

Jam 4:14 For what *is* your life? It is even a **vapour**, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

39:6b he heapeth up *riches*, and knoweth not who shall gather them

Psa 37:16 A little that a righteous man hath *is* better than the riches of many wicked. ... 21 The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.

39:13 O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.

Job 5:17 Behold, happy *is* the man whom God correcteth: therefore **despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty**: 18 For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.

Pro 3:11 My son, **despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction**: 12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.

1Co 10:13 There hath no temptation [trial] 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 [outcome], that ye may be able to bear *it*.