

Psalm 5, 37

“Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness...” Ps 5:8

Day 1

Read Psalm 5

David's plea

1. What three pleas did David make at the beginning of this Psalm? 5:1,2 (Note the different titles he used to address God.)

2. What attitude and expectation did David have when he prayed? 5:3

- What does Psalm 130:5-6 add to the idea of waiting? (See also Micah 7:7; Habakkuk 2:1)

Digging Deeper

For more verses about praying *in the morning* see: Ps 88:13; 119:147-148; Mark 1:35

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: "*wait in expectation (NIV); will look up (NKJV); eagerly watch (NASB); will keep watch (ASV)*"; Strong's OT:6822 *tsaphah*, to lean forward, i.e. to peer into the distance; by implication, to observe, await"
- Strong's Concordance

"David refused to stumble about stoop-shouldered, carrying his burdens throughout the day. On the contrary, he took his needs to the Lord each morning...He prayed with confidence in the Lord's sovereignty and goodness."

- Charles Swindoll (17,18)

(Ps. 130:6) "The analogy of the watchmen waiting for the morning is repeated to make us stop and think about it. The main idea is, we should wait expectantly and with certainty. If you've ever stood night watch duty in the military, you look forward to morning when you are relieved of your duty. The night often drags on slowly and you're tired because you aren't allowed to sleep on the watch. But you know one thing for certain: morning will come! It's never failed."

- Steven Cole

God's view of sin

3. List below or number in your scripture the ways that David described the Lord in 5:4-6.

FYI: "We can be completely sure that God, who is holy and righteous, has no pleasure in evil (5:4)...In particular, God hates all human pride and boasting (5:5), all that is untrue and deceitful, and all that harms other people (5:6)."

- The Africa Bible Commentary (612)

Psalm 5,37

4. Why could David approach God in spite of this? 5:7a (See also Psalm 130:3-4; Paul's statement in Romans 7:21-25)

- How did David contrast his position (5:7) as opposed to the "boastful" (5:5a)

Digging Deeper

In spite of God's hatred of sin, what did He do?

- Luke 19:10

- Romans 5:6-8

What testimony could Paul give?

1 Timothy 1:13-16

FYI: "Your holy temple" : "a poetic reference to intimate fellowship with the Lord." - Charles Swindoll (21)

"For Christian people, no place on earth is in itself more holy than any other. Jesus has 'tabernacled' among us (John 1:14, literal translation) and fulfilled the deepest meaning of the temple of OT days. Since the Holy Spirit has come and made our lives and the fellowship of God's people his temple (see 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 6:16) we can no longer think of a building in the way that OT people thought of the temple. A building can be set aside as a place of worship and prayer, but we worship 'in spirit and in truth' (John 4:19-24) and our lives are to be God's living temple (Eph. 2:19-22)."

- The Africa Bible Commentary (613)

5. How do you think focusing on God's view of sin helped David with his struggle?

David's desire

6. What requests did David make first? 5:8 (Consider: Why do you think he didn't pray first for immediate relief or removal of the problem?)

FYI: "Discouragement can easily escalate into resentment, bitterness, hatred, and finally retaliation. He feared becoming like his oppressors. So, David reflected on the Lord's character and asked Him to the ability to do things His way. [v. 8]"

- Charles Swindoll (22)

"The answer to '*my*' peril is the twofold '*Thy*' (*your*)... with its frank acceptance of a higher standard and a surer aim that one's own." Cf. Proverbs 3:5,6."

- Derek Kidner (76)

David's enemies

7. What characterized David's enemies? 5:9 (Compare John 8:44) (How destructive do you see these attitudes and behaviors having on another person and on society?)

FYI: "With such people all the resources of speech - mouth, throat and tongue - combine to achieve (and to conceal) the designs of the hearts. The methods are those of the serpent in Eden."

- Derek Kidner (76)

8. What did David ask God to do to his enemies and why? 5:10 (See 2 Samuel 15:31)

FYI: "Sometimes we think of God's judgment as opposed to His love. Yet it is because of His love for all people that He cannot allow those who oppose His ways and oppress others to go on as they like forever...5:10 should teach us to be concerned for the victory of righteousness, and we certainly should pray that people may not continue to rebel against God and despise His people."
- The Africa Bible Commentary (613)

"When dealing with those who oppose righteousness, it's helpful to remember that they are fighting against the Lord, not you. Consequently, you can be sure He will not allow evil deeds to continue forever. He will limit sin and hold the sinners accountable. If left alone in their own counsel, they will fall by themselves!

Paul the apostle says it straight in Romans 12:17-19.

Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

The daily grind of discouragement is lessened when we trust that the Lord will fight our battles for us."

- Charles Swindoll (23)

God's protection

9. What attitudes does trust in the Lord produce and why? 5:11

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: **take refuge/put their trust** "OT:2620 *chakah*; to flee for protection; figuratively, to confide in"

Spread your protection/defend/shelter "OT:5526 *cakak* or *sakak*; to entwine as a screen; by implication, to fence in, cover over, (figuratively) protect"

Surround/compass "OT:5849 *atar*; to encircle (for attack or protection); especially to crown"

- Strong's Concordance

10. What blessings was David assured of by the end of the Psalm? 5:11b, 5:12 How does that compare to what he had requested in 5:1?

Applying the Word: "In the midst of discouragement, it's difficult to count your blessings." Swindoll (20) What helps direct your heart and hope toward God during a difficult time? What effect does that have on your prayers?

Day 3

Read Psalm 37

This Psalm was originally written as an easily remembered acrostic using the Hebrew alphabet, creating a hymn to express David's deep faith and encourage his people. It was written after a long life of dealing with personal injustices and failings, betrayals and tragedies, and summarizes what he learned about trusting God in spite of his difficult circumstances.

The ungodly and the righteous

11. Psalm 37 gives us insights into the *godly* and blessed who follow God's ways, and the *ungodly* who rebel against Him. Read through the Psalm and fill in the chart below.

WORDS/PHRASES used to describe the ungodly:	ACTIONS they engage in:

12. What commands are given in 37:1-8?

Digging Deeper

What do the following say about doing good?

- Romans 12:20,21

- Colossians 3:17

- Matthew 5:43-47

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: "**Trust**" OT:982 *batach*, to hie for refuge; figuratively, to trust, be confident or sure:

"The Hebrew for **commit** is literally 'roll', as though getting rid of a burden." - Derek Kidner (168)

"The picture of the word seems to imply such a unity...that the committed one is bound up in the actions or activities of the person committed to - we 'roll on' or 'roll with' the Lord in our 'way.'" - Henry Morris (356)

13. How do you think you can “*delight*” (v. 4) in the Lord even when you are troubled, depressed or dealing with difficult circumstances, etc? (See Habakkuk 3:17,18)

Digging Deeper

What did Paul say in Philippians 4:4-7 in spite of what he went through (Phil. 4:11-13)?

14. What “desires” (v. 4) in your heart do you think will be produced by “delighting in the Lord?”

FYI: “*Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your hearts.* When you make the Lord your joy the desires that grow in your heart are usually the ones **He** plants. These are the things that bring lasting peace and satisfaction - not the things we think we want or strive to achieve apart from God.” - Charles Stanley (650)

15. Which of the commands in vv.1-8 do you struggle with, especially when the ungodly seem to flourish?

16. What view of time will help us not to fret? 37:2,9-11 (See also 1 John 2:17)

FYI: “***A little while:*** Shortness of time is here a figure for the certainty of event (Job 20:5-11; Haggai 2:6).”

- The NIV Study Bible (822)

(37:11) “The context gives the best possible definition of ***the meek:*** they are those who choose the way of patient faith instead of self-assertion.”

- Derek Kidner (168)

Applying the Word: What are some of the difficulties and challenges you have faced in your life? Did they drive you to trust God more or less? What helped or hindered you?

Day 4

Read Psalm 37:12-40

17. How does the fate of the wicked vv.2,9,10,20,36 (Cf. Psalm 1:4) compare to the fate of the godly? 37:18 (See also 37:37,38)

Psalm 5,37

18. What promise is repeatedly given in this Psalm? 37:9b,11b,22,29

- Why was this so important to David and the people of Israel? Genesis 17:3-8; Exodus 33:1

19. From this Psalm, what are other ways David says God would act on behalf of His people?

- v. 17
- v. 18
- v. 19
- v. 23-24
- v. 25
- v. 28
- v. 33

FYI: "For Israel in OT days this meant that God would uphold them as a nation and keep them in their land if they trust in Him and sought to obey His commandments. " - The Africa Bible Commentary (644)

"No matter what may happen in time and during the circumstances of this life, God has promised to bring such an ultimate righteous conclusion to the matter that we will be "stunned" by what He does. But there is also much more to the promise of this victory. We can be certain of His guidance, supply, and care during this life as well." - Henry Morris (358)

20. What picture does 37:12,14 give you of the hatred directed against believers? (See also Psalm 10:2-11)

- What will happen to the wicked and their power?
37:13,15,17a,20,28b

Digging Deeper

What did Paul say about his fight and his victory? 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

From Ephesians 6:12-18, what power do we struggle with and how do we fight?

FYI: "The picture of verses 13-15 is of a defeat which the Lord sees coming...The history of the church, from Stephen and Saul to the present day, is full of such reversals." - Derek Kidner (168,169)

"Much may happen during the time that the Lord is 'longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance' (2 Pet. 3:9). God's people 'shall suffer persecution' (2 Tim. 3:12) if they will live for Him, but they will never be abandoned (Heb 13:5)." - Henry Morris (357,358)

21. From 37:11-40, fill in the chart below.

WORDS/PHRASES used to describe the godly:	ACTIONS they engage in:

22. Compare Psalm 37:16 with Proverbs 15:16-17; 28:6. What does this say about true contentment? (See also I Timothy 6:6-11,17)

- Compare 37:31 with 37:4. (See also Psalm 40:8; John 15:10)

23. What additional command is given to the godly in 37:34a? What do you think this means?

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: **Wait** "OT:6960 *qavah*; to bind together (perhaps by twisting), i.e. collect; (figuratively) to expect"
- Strong's Concordance

"The picture of the term *qavah* is used to describe the 'binding together' of strings for a chord...It carries the idea of anticipation toward useful results...It does not imply useless boredom, waiting for something to happen. The essence of the term is to be alert, watching the events and activities of the Lord to react to His timing and His direction. Indeed, the word it translated 'look' as often as any other term."
- Henry Morris (359)

24. What final picture is given of the life of the wicked? 37:35,36 (Cf. Psalm 73:3-12; 17-19; Job 20:4-9)

25. With what final assurances does the Psalm end? 37:37-40 (See also Isaiah 46:4)

- This Psalm was probably written near the end of David's life. How do all the struggles he had endured and the enemies he had faced (See the chart: *Chronology of David's Life*), impact the words of this psalm?

FYI: "Certainly one of the more encouraging special blessings given in the psalmic literature is the promise that no matter how much the wicked seem to be succeeding over the efforts of the righteous, they will not win!...The continual message of these verses is that God will not forsake His beloved saints. They may *seem* to be forgotten for a season, but they are never out of the eye of Him who loves them (See...Psalm 33:19-8-18, 34:15;...1 Peter 3:12 for parallel references.) God *is* protecting His beloved. God *does* have a plan in His sovereign and eternal mind. God *will* work all things 'together for good, to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose' (Rom. 8:28)"
- Henry Morris (353,354)

"The psalm ends with calm objectivity, the answer to the fretful impatience encountered at the start. Note the *from* him (39) and the *in* him (40): his initiative in sending and our response in taking shelter; the help that He gives, and the refuge that He is."
- Derek Kidner (171)

Applying the Word: *What have you learned from this Psalm that will help you to make the Lord "your strength/stronghold in time of trouble?"*

Nothing expresses our delight in the Lord more than cultivating a heart of thanksgiving that recognized what He has done for us. Count your blessings and write some of them below.