

ספר תהילים לז | Tehillim / Psalms 37

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The way of the Righteous in the time of evil

This week's study is from *Tehillim / Psalms 37:1-40*, David opens the Psalm speaking of the unrighteous saying *A Psalm of David 37:1 Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers. 37:2 For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb. (NASB)* David continues regarding the wicked saying:

- *37:9 For evildoers will be cut off, But those who wait for the Lord, they will inherit the land. 37:10 Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more; And you will look carefully for his place and he will not be there. (NASB)*
- *37:12 The wicked plots against the righteous And gnashes at him with his teeth. 37:13 The Lord laughs at him, For He sees his day is coming. 37:14 The wicked have drawn the sword and bent their bow To cast down the afflicted and the needy, To slay those who are upright in conduct. 37:15 Their sword will enter their own heart, And their bows will be broken. (NASB)*
- *37:17 For the arms of the wicked will be broken, But the Lord sustains the righteous. (NASB)*
- *37:20 But the wicked will perish; And the enemies of the Lord will be like the glory of the pastures, They vanish like smoke they vanish away. 37:21 The wicked borrows and does not pay back, But the righteous is gracious and gives. (NASB)*
- *37:32 The wicked spies upon the righteous And seeks to kill him. (NASB)*
- *37:38 But transgressors will be altogether destroyed; The posterity of the wicked will be cut off. (NASB)*

According to David, the wicked do not inherit the land, they stick their own hearts with their swords, they will be broken and like the withering grass, they will be cut off. On the other hand, the righteous *Tehillim / Psalms 37:3 Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart. 37:5 Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. 37:6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday. (NASB)* The Aramaic Targum states *37:5 Reveal to the Lord your ways, and trust in his word, and he will act. (EMC)* Trusting in the Lord, His ways, and His word is the path He wants each of us to follow.

עברית Hebrew	ארמי Aramaic	ελληνικός Greek
ספר תהילים פרק לז	ספר טוביה פרק לז	ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 37
א לְדוֹד אֵל-תִּתְחַר בַּמַּרְעִים אֵל- תִּקְנֵא בְּעֵשִׂי עוֹלָה: ב פִּי כִחְצִיר מִהֲרָה יִמְלוּ וּכְיִרְק דְּשָׂא יִבּוֹלוּ: ג בְּטַח בִּיהִנֶּה וְעֲשֵׂה-טוֹב לְשֹׁכֵן-אֲרָץ וְרַעַה אֲמוֹנָה: ד וְהִתְעַנֵּג עַל-יְהוָה וְיִתֵּן-לָךְ מִשְׂאֵלַת לֶבְךָ: ה גּוֹל עַל- יְהוָה דְּרַכְךָ וּבְטַח עָלָיו וְהוּא יַעֲשֶׂה:	א לדוד לא תגרג תרגג במבאשין למהוי דכמהון ולא תטנין בעבדי טלומא למזד דווג עמהון: ב מטול ארום דסופיהון היך עסבא בסרהוביא יתמוללון והיך ירוק דיתאה ינתרון: ג רחיץ במימרא דיהוה ועביד טב שרי ארעא וחסין ועד סוק בהימנותא: ד ותתפניק על יהוה ויתן לך משיילי לבך:	37:1 τοῦ Δαυιδ μὴ παραζήλου ἐν πονηρευομένοις μηδὲ ζήλου τοὺς ποιούντας τὴν ἀνομίαν 37:2 ὅτι ὡσεὶ χόρτος ταχὺ ἀποξηρανθήσονται καὶ ὡσεὶ λάχανα χλόης ταχὺ ἀποπεσοῦνται 37:3 ἔλπισον ἐπὶ κύριον καὶ ποίει χρηστότητα καὶ κατασκήνου τὴν γῆν καὶ ποιμανθήσῃ ἐπὶ τῷ πλούτῳ αὐτῆς 37:4 κατατρύφῃσον τοῦ κυρίου καὶ δώσει σοὶ τὰ αἰτήματα τῆς καρδίας σου

<p>ו והוציא כאור צדקה ומשפטו כ־ צדקתו: ז דום ליהנה והתחולל לו אל-תתחר במצליח דרכו באיש עשה מזמות: ח הרף מאף ועזב חמה אל-תתחר אף-להרע: ט כ־מרעים יפרתון וקני יהנה המה ירשו-אָרץ: י ועוד מעט ואין רשע והתבוננת על-מקומו ואיננו: יא ועניים ירשו-אָרץ והתעב־גו על-רב שלום: יב זמם רשע לצדיק וחרק עליו שָׁנוּ: יג אֲדֹנָי יִשְׁחַק-לוֹ כ־רָאָה כ־יבא יומו: יד חרב פתחו רשעים ודרכו קשתם להפיל עני ואביון לטבות ישרי-דָרְךָ: טו חרפם תבוא מלבם וקשתותם תשברנה: טז טוב מעט לצדיק מהמון רשעים רבים: יז כ־זרעות רשעים תשברנה וסוף-מֶדְיָם צְדִיקִים יִהְיֶה: יח יודע יהנה ימי תמימם ונחלתם לעולם תהיה: יט לא-יבשו בעת רעה ובימי רעבון ישפֹּעוּ: כ כ־רשעים יאבדו ואבִי יהנה כ־יקר פרים פלו בעשן פלו: כא לזה רשע ולא ישלם וצדיק חונן ונותן: כב כ־מברכיו ירשו אָרץ ומקלליו יפרתו: כג מִיְהוָה מִצְדֵי-גִבּוֹר פּוֹנְנוּ וְדָרְכוֹ יִחַפֵּץ: כד כ־יפול לא-יוטל כ־יהנה סומך ידו: כה נער הִיִּיתִי גַם-זָקֵן וְלֹא-רְאִיתִי צְדִיק נֶעְזֵב וְזָרְעוֹ מִבְּקֶשׁ-לֶחֶם: כו כ־ל-הַיּוֹם חוֹנֵן וּמְלֹאָה וְזָרְעוֹ לְבָרָכָה: כז סור מרע ועשה-טוב ושכן לעולם: כח כ־יִהְיֶה אֶהֱבֶה מִשְׁפָּט וְלֹא-יַעֲזֹב אֶת-חֲסִידוֹ לְעוֹלָם נִשְׁמְרוּ וְזָרַע רִשְׁעִים נִכְרָת: כט צְדִיקִים יִרְשׁוּ-אָרֶץ וְיִשְׁפְּנוּ לְעַד עֲלֵיָהּ: ל כ־פִי-צְדִיק יִהְיֶה חֲכָמָה וּלְשׁוֹנוֹ תִּדְבַר מִשְׁפָּט: לא תורת אלהיו קבלו לא תמעד אֲשֶׁרֵינוּ: לב צופה רשע לצדיק ומבקש להמיתו: לג יהנה לא-יעזבנו כ־ידו ולא ירשיענו כ־משפטו:</p>	<p>ה גלי על יהוה אורחתך וסבור על מימ־ריה והוא יעבד: ו ויפוק היך נהורא צדקך צדקתך ודינך היך טיהרא: ז שתוק אמתין קדם יהוה ואוריך ליה לא תגרג תרגג בר־שיעא דמצלח אורחיה בגברא דעבד עיצת חטאיין: ח אוריך מרגיו ושבוך ריתחא לא תגרג תרגג ברם לאבאשא: ט מטול ארום דמבאשין ישתיצון ודסברין במימרא דיהוה הינון ירתון ארעא: י ותוב כזעיר ולית רשיעא ותתבין על אתריה וליתוי: יא ועינוותנין ירתון ארעא ויתפנקון על סגי־עות שלמא: יב חשיל חשיד רשיעא ביש על צדיקא ומעסי עלוי ככוי: יג יהוה יגחך עלוי ארום חמא ארום על יומא דתבריה: יד חרבא שליפו רשיעא ומתחו קשוותהון למקטול עניי וחשיכי למכוס תריצי אור־חא: טו סיפהון תיעול בלבהון וקשוותהון יתברון: טז טב קדם יהוה זעירות צדיקא מריכפת רשיעין סגיעין: יז ארום דרועי דרשיעא יתברון ותמיך וסעיד צדיקא מי־מרא דיהוה: יח ידיעין קדם יהוה יומיהון דשלמין ואחסנתהון לעלם תהי: יט לא יבהתון בעידן בישתא וביומי אולצנא סבעין: כ ארום רשיעא ייבדון ובעלי דבביא דיהוה היך יקר פלגיסין דמן אולא מתפטמין וסופיהון מתנכסין היכנא רשיעי יסופון ובתנן גהנם יגמרון יתגמרון: כא מוזיף רשיעא ולא פרע וצדיק מחייס ויהב: כב מטול ארום דמתברכין במימרא ירתון ארעא דמתלטטין במותא ישתיצון: כג מן קדם יהוה פסיעתוי דגברא מיתקנן ואורח־תיה יתרעי: כד ארום יפול מרע לא ימות מטול דיהוה סעיד בידיה: כה טאלי הוית ברם סיבית ולא חמית צדיקא שביקא ובנוי תבעין לחמא מחוסרנא: כו מן בגלל דכל יומא חייס ומוזיף וזרעיה לברכתא: כז סטי מביש ועביד טיבו ושרי לחיי עלמא: {ת"א} זור מלמעבד בישותא צדיקא וע־ביד טבתא בגין כן תשרי לעלם: כח ארום יהוה רחים דינא ולא ישבוך ית חסידוי לעלם מנטרין ובניהון דרשיעא ישתצון:</p>	<p>37:5 ἀποκάλυψον πρὸς κύριον τὴν ὁδὸν σου καὶ ἔλπισον ἐπ’ αὐτόν καὶ αὐτὸς ποιήσει 37:6 καὶ ἐξοίσει ὡς φῶς τὴν δικαιοσύνην σου καὶ τὸ κρίμα σου ὡς μεσημβρίαν 37:7 ὑποτάγηθι τῷ κυρίῳ καὶ ἰκέτευσον αὐτόν μὴ παραζήλου ἐν τῷ κατευοδουμένῳ ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ αὐτοῦ ἐν ἀνθρώπῳ ποιοῦντι παρανομίας 37:8 παῦσαι ἀπὸ ὀργῆς καὶ ἐγκατάλιπε θυμόν μὴ παραζήλου ὥστε πονηρεύεσθαι 37:9 ὅτι οἱ πονηρεύομενοι ἐξολοθρευθήσονται οἱ δὲ ὑπομένοντες τὸν κύριον αὐτοὶ κληρονομήσουσιν γῆν 37:10 καὶ ἔτι ὀλίγον καὶ οὐ μὴ ὑπάρξῃ ὁ ἁμαρτωλὸς καὶ ζητήσεις τὸν τόπον αὐτοῦ καὶ οὐ μὴ εὔρης 37:11 οἱ δὲ πρᾶεῖς κληρονομήσουσιν γῆν καὶ κατατρυφήσουσιν ἐπὶ πλῆθει εἰρήνης 37:12 παρατηρήσεται ὁ ἁμαρτωλὸς τὸν δίκαιον καὶ βρῦξει ἐπ’ αὐτὸν τοὺς ὀδόντας αὐτοῦ 37:13 ὁ δὲ κύριος ἐγγελάσεται αὐτόν ὅτι προβλέπει ὅτι ἦξει ἡ ἡμέρα αὐτοῦ 37:14 ῥομφαίαν ἐσπάσαντο οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ ἐνέτειναν τόξον αὐτῶν τοῦ καταβαλεῖν πτωχὸν καὶ πένητα τοῦ σφάζει τοὺς εὐθεῖς τῇ καρδίᾳ 37:15 ἡ ῥομφαία αὐτῶν εἰσέλθοι εἰς τὴν καρδίαν αὐτῶν καὶ τὰ τόξα αὐτῶν συντριβείησαν 37:16 κρείσσον ὀλίγον τῷ δικαίῳ ὑπὲρ πλοῦτον ἁμαρτωλῶν πολύν 37:17 ὅτι βραχίονες ἁμαρτωλῶν συντριβήσονται ὑποστηρίζει δὲ τοὺς δικαίους κύριος 37:18 γινώσκει κύριος τὰς ὁδοὺς τῶν ἀμώμων καὶ ἡ κληρονομία αὐτῶν εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα ἔσται 37:19 οὐ καταισχυνθήσονται ἐν καιρῷ πονηρῷ καὶ ἐν ἡμέραις λιμοῦ χορτασθήσονται 37:20 ὅτι οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ ἀπολοῦνται οἱ δὲ ἐχθροὶ τοῦ κυρίου ἅμα τῷ δοξασθῆναι αὐτοὺς καὶ ὑψωθῆναι ἐκλιπόντες ὡσεὶ καπνὸς ἐξέλιπον 37:21 δανείζεται ὁ ἁμαρτωλὸς καὶ οὐκ ἀποτεῖσει ὁ δὲ δίκαιος οἰκτίρει καὶ διδοῖ 37:22 ὅτι οἱ εὐλογοῦντες αὐτόν κληρονομήσουσι γῆν οἱ δὲ καταρώμενοι αὐτόν ἐξολοθρευθήσονται 37:23 παρὰ κυρίου τὰ διαβήματα ἀνθρώπου κατευθύνεται καὶ τὴν ὁδὸν αὐτοῦ θελήσει 37:24 ὅταν πέσῃ οὐ καταραχθήσεται ὅτι κύριος ἀντιστηρίζει χεῖρα αὐτοῦ 37:25 νεώτερος ἐγενόμην καὶ γὰρ ἐγήρῃσα καὶ οὐκ εἶδον δίκαιον ἐγκαταλελειμμένον οὐδὲ τὸ σπέρμα αὐτοῦ ζητοῦν ἄρτους 37:26 ὄλην τὴν ἡμέραν ἔλεᾶ καὶ δανείζει καὶ τὸ σπέρμα αὐτοῦ εἰς εὐλογίαν ἔσται</p>
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לד קנה אל-יהוה | ושמר דרכו
 וירוממוך לרשת ארץ בהפכת רש-
 עים תרצה: לה ראיתי רשע עריץ
 ומתערה כאזרח רענן: לו ויעבר
 והנה איננו ואבקשהו ולא נמצא: לו
 שמר-תם וראה ישר כן-אחרית לאיש
 שלום: לח ופשעים נשמדו יחדו אחר-
 רית רשעים נכרתה: לט ותשועת
 צדיקים מיהוה מעוזם בעת צרה: מ
 ויעזרם יהוה ויפלטם ויפלטם מרשעים
 ויושיעם כי חסו בו:

כט צדיקיא יחסנון ארעא וישרון לעל-
 מין עלה: ל פומא דצדיקא רנין חוכמ-
 תא ולישניה ממלא דינא: לא נימוסא
 דאלהיה בליביה בלבביה לא מזדעזעין
 אסתורוי: לב מסתכי רשיעא לצדיקא
 ובעי למקטליה: לג יהוה לא ישבקיניה
 בידיה ולא יחייביניה במדייניה: {ת"א}
 במקמיה בדינא: לד סבר במימריה
 דיהוה וטר אורחיה וירוממינך למחסן
 ארעא באשתציות רשיעיא תחמי: לה
 חמיתי רשיעא תקיפא וחסין היך אילן
 יציב ועבוף: לו ופסק מן עלמא והא
 ליתוי ובעית יתיה ולא אישתכח: לו
 נטר שלימתא שלימותא וחמי אורחא
 תריצתא ארום דסוף בר נשא שלמא:
 לח ומרודין ישתיצון כחדא סופיהון
 דרשיעיא שיציא: לט ופורקנא דצ-
 דיקא מן קדם יהוה עושניהון בעידן
 עקתא: מ וסייענון יהוה ושיזיב יתהון
 שיזיב יתהון מן חייביא ויפרקיננו מטול
 דאתרחיצו במימריה:

37:27 ἔκκλινον ἀπὸ κακοῦ καὶ ποιήσον
 ἀγαθὸν καὶ κατασκήνου εἰς αἰῶνα
 αἰῶνος 37:28 ὅτι κύριος ἀγαπᾷ κρίσιν
 καὶ οὐκ ἐγκαταλείψει τοὺς ὀσίους αὐτοῦ
 εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα φυλαχθήσονται ἄνομοι
 δὲ ἐκδιωχθήσονται καὶ σπέρμα ἀσεβῶν
 ἐξολεθρευθήσεται 37:29 δίκαιοι δὲ
 κληρονομήσουσι γῆν καὶ κατασκηνώσουσιν
 εἰς αἰῶνα αἰῶνος ἐπ' αὐτῆς 37:30 στόμα
 δικαίου μελετήσεται σοφίαν καὶ ἡ γλῶσσα
 αὐτοῦ λαλήσει κρίσιν 37:31 ὁ νόμος
 τοῦ θεοῦ αὐτοῦ ἐν καρδίᾳ αὐτοῦ καὶ οὐχ
 ὑποσκελισθήσεται τὰ διαβήματα αὐτοῦ
 37:32 κατανοεῖ ὁ ἁμαρτωλὸς τὸν δίκαιον
 καὶ ζητεῖ τοῦ θανατώσαι αὐτόν 37:33 ὁ
 δὲ κύριος οὐ μὴ ἐγκαταλίπη αὐτὸν εἰς
 τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῦ οὐδὲ μὴ καταδικάσεται
 αὐτόν ὅταν κρινῆται αὐτῷ 37:34 ὑπόμεινον
 τὸν κύριον καὶ φύλαξον τὴν ὁδὸν αὐτοῦ
 καὶ ὑψώσει σε τοῦ κατακληρονομήσαι γῆν
 ἐν τῷ ἐξολεθρευέσθαι ἁμαρτωλοὺς ὄψη
 37:35 εἶδον ἀσεβῆ ὑπερυψούμενον καὶ
 ἐπαιρόμενον ὡς τὰς κέδρους τοῦ Λιβάνου
 37:36 καὶ παρήλθον καὶ ἰδοὺ οὐκ ἦν καὶ
 ἐζήτησα αὐτόν καὶ οὐχ εὗρέθη ὁ τόπος αὐτοῦ
 37:37 φύλασσε ἀκακίαν καὶ ἰδὲ εὐθύτητα
 ὅτι ἔστιν ἐγκατάλειμμα ἀνθρώπῳ εἰρηνικῷ
 37:38 οἱ δὲ παράνομοι ἐξολεθρευθήσονται
 ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτὸ τὰ ἐγκαταλείμματα τῶν ἀσεβῶν
 ἐξολεθρευθήσονται 37:39 σωτηρία δὲ τῶν
 δικαίων παρὰ κυρίου καὶ ὑπερασπιστῆς
 αὐτῶν ἐστὶν ἐν καιρῷ θλίψεως 37:40
 καὶ βοηθήσει αὐτοῖς κύριος καὶ ῥύσεται
 αὐτούς καὶ ἐξελεῖται αὐτούς ἐξ ἁμαρτωλῶν
 καὶ σώσει αὐτούς ὅτι ἤλπισαν ἐπ' αὐτόν

Tehillim / Psalms 37

A Psalm of David 37:1 Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers. 37:2 For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb. 37:3 Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart. 37:5 Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. 37:6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday.

Toviyah / Psalms Chapter 37

37:1 Of David. Have no desire for malefactors, to be like them; and do not be jealous of those who commit oppression, to join with them. 37:2 Because their end will be like plants, quickly will they wither; and like the green grass they will fall away. 37:3 Trust in the word of the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and be strong in faith. 37:4 And you will delight in the Lord, and he will give you the requests of your heart. 37:5 Reveal to the Lord your ways, and trust in his word, and he will act. 37:6 And your righteousness will come out like light, and your judgment like noonday.

Psalmoi / Psalms 37

A Psalm of David. 37:1 Fret not thyself because of evil-doers, neither be envious of them that do iniquity. 37:2 For they shall soon be withered as the grass, and shall soon fall away as the green herbs. 37:3 Hope in the Lord, and do good; and dwell on the land, and thou shalt be fed with the wealth of it. 37:4 Delight thyself in the Lord; and he shall grant thee the requests of thine heart. 37:5 Disclose thy way to the Lord, and hope in him; and he shall bring it to pass. 37:6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noon-day.

<p>37:7 Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. 37:8 Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret; it leads only to evildoing. 37:9 For evildoers will be cut off, But those who wait for the Lord, they will inherit the land. 37:10 Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more; And you will look carefully for his place and he will not be there. 37:11 But the humble will inherit the land And will delight themselves in abundant prosperity. 37:12 The wicked plots against the righteous And gnashes at him with his teeth. 37:13 The Lord laughs at him, For He sees his day is coming. 37:14 The wicked have drawn the sword and bent their bow To cast down the afflicted and the needy, To slay those who are upright in conduct. 37:15 Their sword will enter their own heart, And their bows will be broken. 37:16 Better is the little of the righteous Than the abundance of many wicked. 37:17 For the arms of the wicked will be broken, But the Lord sustains the righteous. 37:18 The Lord knows the days of the blameless, And their inheritance will be forever. 37:19 They will not be ashamed in the time of evil, And in the days of famine they will have abundance. 37:20 But the wicked will perish; And the enemies of the Lord will be like the glory of the pastures, They vanish like smoke they vanish away. 37:21 The wicked borrows and does not pay back, But the righteous is gracious and gives. 37:22 For those blessed by Him will inherit the land, But those cursed by Him will be cut off. 37:23 The steps of a man are established by the Lord, And He delights in his way. 37:24 When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the Lord is the One who holds his hand. 37:25 I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging bread. 37:26 All day long he is gracious and lends, And his descendants are a blessing. 37:27 Depart from evil and do good, So you will abide forever. (NASB)</p>	<p>37:7 Be quiet in the presence of the Lord and wait for him; do not desire the wicked man who prospers his way, the man who follows the counsel of sinners. 37:8 Wait without anger and forsake wrath; do not long indeed to do evil. 37:9 For those who do evil will be destroyed; but those who hope in the word of the Lord – they will inherit the land. 37:10 And yet a little while, and there is no wicked man; you will look carefully at his place, and he is not. 37:11 But the humble will inherit the land; and they will delight in the plenitude of peace. 37:12 The wicked man plots harm against the righteous man, and grinds his teeth against him. 37:13 The Lord will laugh at him, for he has seen, for the day of his ruin has come. 37:14 The wicked have drawn the sword and bent their bows to kill the humble and lowly, to slaughter the upright of way. 37:15 Their blade will enter their [own] heart, and their bows will break. 37:16 Better in the presence of the Lord is the smallness of the righteous man than the multitude of many wicked men. 37:17 For the arms of the wicked will be broken, but the word of the Lord supports the righteous. 37:18 The days of the blameless are known in the Lord’s presence, and their inheritance will last forever. 37:19 They will not be ashamed in the time of evil, and in the days of famine they are satisfied. 37:20 For the wicked will perish, and the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of young sheep that at first are fattened but finally slaughtered – likewise the wicked will perish and be destroyed in the smoke of Gehenna. 37:21 The wicked borrows and does not repay; but the righteous is compassionate, and gives. 37:22 For those who are blessed by his word will inherit the land; but those who are cursed by death will be destroyed. 37:23 In the presence of the Lord the steps of a man are made firm, and he will favor his ways. (EMC)</p>	<p>37:7 Submit thyself to the Lord, and supplicate him: fret not thyself because of him that prospers in his way, at the man that does unlawful deeds. 37:8 cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself so as to do evil. 37:9 For evil-doers shall be destroyed: but they that wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the land. 37:10 And yet a little while, and the sinner shall not be, and thou shalt seek for his place, and shalt not find it. 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. 37:12 The sinner will watch for the righteous, and gnash his teeth upon him. 37:13 But the Lord shall laugh at him: for he foresees that his day will come. 37:14 Sinners have drawn their swords, they have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy one, and to slay the upright in heart. 37:15 Let their sword enter into their own heart, and their bows be broken. 37:16 A little is better to the righteous than abundant wealth of sinners. 37:17 For the arms of sinners shall be broken; but the Lord supports the righteous. 37:18 The Lord knows the ways of the perfect; and their inheritance shall be for ever. 37:19 They shall not be ashamed in an evil time; and in days of famine they shall be satisfied. 37:20 For the sinners shall perish; and the enemies of the Lord at the moment of their being honoured and exalted have utterly vanished like smoke. 37:21 The sinner borrows, and will not pay again: but the righteous has compassion, and gives. 37:22 For they that bless him shall inherit the earth; and they that curse him shall be utterly destroyed. 37:23 The steps of a man are rightly ordered by the Lord: and he will take pleasure in his way. 37:24 When he falls, he shall not be ruined: for the Lord supports his hand. 37:25 I was once young, indeed I am now old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed seeking bread. 37:26 He is merciful, and lends continually; and his seed shall be blessed. 37:27 Turn aside from evil, and do good; and dwell for ever. (LXX)</p>
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37:28 For the Lord loves justice And does not forsake His godly ones; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off. 37:29 The righteous will inherit the land And dwell in it forever. 37:30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, And his tongue speaks justice. 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip. 37:32 The wicked spies upon the righteous And seeks to kill him. 37:33 The Lord will not leave him in his hand Or let him be condemned when he is judged. 37:34 Wait for the Lord and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you will see it. 37:35 I have seen a wicked, violent man Spreading himself like a luxuriant tree in its native soil. 37:36 Then he passed away, and lo, he was no more; I sought for him, but he could not be found. 37:37 Mark the blameless man, and behold the upright; For the man of peace will have a posterity. 37:38 But transgressors will be altogether destroyed; The posterity of the wicked will be cut off. 37:39 But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength in time of trouble. 37:40 The Lord helps them and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, Because they take refuge in Him. (NASB)

37:24 For when he falls into sickness, he will not die, because the Lord is the helper at his hand. 37:25 I was a boy, but have grown old; and I have not seen the righteous man abandoned or his sons seeking bread because of want. 37:26 For all the day he is compassionate and lends; and his seed is for a blessing. 37:27 Turn from evil, and practice kindness, and abide for eternal life. Another targum: Turn from doing evil, O righteous man, and do good; because of this you will abide forever. 37:28 For the Lord loves justice and will not abandon his pious ones; they are protected forever; but the sons of the wicked will be destroyed. 37:29 The righteous will inherit the land, and will dwell on it forever. 37:30 The mouth of the righteous murmurs wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. 37:31 The law (nimus) of his God is in his heart; his feet do not stumble. 37:32 The wicked man observes the righteous man and seeks to kill him. 37:33 The Lord will not abandon him into his hand, and will not find him guilty when he is judged. another targum: When he stands in judgment. 37:34 Hope in the word of the Lord, and keep his way, and he will raise you up to inherit the land; you will see the destruction of the wicked. 37:35 I have seen the wicked man, strong and mighty, like a native and leafy tree. 37:36 And he ceased from the world, and, behold, he is no more; and I sought him but he was not found. 37:37 Preserve blamelessness, and behold honesty; for the end of [such] a son of man is peace. 37:38 But rebels will be destroyed together; the end of the wicked is destruction. 37:39 But the redemption of the righteous is from the presence of the Lord, their strength in the time of trouble. 37:40 And the Lord helped them and saved them, he saved them from sinners; and he will redeem them, for they trusted in his word. (EMC)

37:28 For the Lord loves judgment, and will not forsake his saints; they shall be preserved for ever: the blameless shall be avenged, but the seed of the ungodly shall be utterly destroyed. 37:29 But the righteous shall inherit the earth, and dwell upon it for ever. 37:30 The mouth of the righteous will meditate wisdom, and his tongue will speak of judgment. 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; and his steps shall not slide. 37:32 The sinner watches the righteous, and seeks to slay him. 37:33 But the Lord will not leave him in his hands, nor by any means condemn him when he is judged. 37:34 Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are destroyed, thou shalt see it. 37:35 I saw the ungodly very highly exalting himself, and lifting himself up like the cedars of Lebanon. 37:36 Yet I passed by, and lo! he was not: and I sought him, but his place was not found. 37:37 Maintain innocence, and behold uprightness: for there is a remnant to the peaceable man. 37:38 But the transgressors shall be utterly destroyed together: the remnants of the ungodly shall be utterly destroyed. 37:39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord; and he is their defender in the time of affliction. 37:40 And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them: and he shall rescue them from sinners, and save them, because they have hoped in him. (LXX)

This week's study is from *Tehillim / Psalms 37:1-40*, David opens the Psalm speaking of the unrighteous saying א לְדָוִד | אֶל-תִּתְחַר בְּמַרְעִים אֶל-תִּקְנֵא בְּעַשֵׂי עוֹלָה: ב כִּי כִחְצִיר מְהֵרָה יִמְלֹו וּכְיִרְק דָּשָׁא יִבּוֹלוּ: *A Psalm of David 37:1 Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers. 37:2 For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb. (NASB)* In the opening verses, David uses the immediate and specific negative particle אֶל, saying אֶל-תִּתְחַר and אֶל-תִּקְנֵא meaning “do not fret” and “do not be envious.” It is interesting while studying the Torah, the negative commands are written using the particle אֶל followed by the future-tense form. For example, אֶל תִּדַּאג (al tidag) means “don't worry” (masculine, singular). Notice here that David is speaking in a similar manner using the future tense saying “do not fret” and “do not be envious” implying at a future time, if we see the wicked prospering, do not be envious of them, or if the enemy comes do not be afraid. David says the reason to not be afraid, or envious is because they like the grass of the field will fade or wither. We also know that the foundation of a righteous life, according to the rabbis and the Scriptures is the study of Torah, and this is taken from David's words in *Tehillim / Psalms 1* speaking of the righteous man whose delight is in the Torah of God, such a righteous

man does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, stand in the path of sinners, or sit in the seat of the scornful. In the Apostolic Writings, the apostle Paul said that no man can lay a foundation other than what God has performed or laid. This is the foundation of Torah upon which the Messiah Yeshua has made atonement for our sins. According to Paul (see *1 Corinthians 3:11-17*) the work of each man will become apparent when it is revealed or tested by fire. The work that remains is the works that were done by faith in the Lord God Almighty and His Messiah Yeshua. The rabbis, such as the Apostle Paul, look at the Scripture from *Tehillim / Psalms 1:4* “*The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away*” and conclude that our works will be tested in fire. David recalls his words reiterating that the wicked are like chaff that burn in fire and will fade in the fields and be no more (*Tehillim / Psalms 37:2*). The Septuagint states 37:1 τοῦ Δαυὶδ μὴ παραζήλου ἐν πονηρευομένοις μηδὲ ζήλου τοὺς ποιοῦντας τὴν ἀνομίαν “*be not provoked to jealousy by those acting wickedly nor be jealous of the ones doing lawlessness (ἀνομίαν, anomian)*” Note that those who work injustice (עוול << עוֹלָה) are synonymous to those who work lawlessness (ἀνομίαν, anomian). The Septuagint continues translating *Tehillim / Psalms 37:2* saying “*For as the grass quickly, they shall be dried up, and as vegetation of tender shoots, they shall quickly fall away.*” (ὅτι ὡσεὶ χόρτος ταχὺ ἀποξηρανθήσονται καὶ ὡσεὶ λάχανα γλόης ταχὺ ἀποπεσοῦνται) These words of David (37:2 *For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb. NASB*) reminds us of *Isaiah 40:1-11* and specifically 40:5-8.

Isaiah 40:1-11

40:1 'Comfort, O comfort My people,' says your God. 40:2 'Speak kindly to Jerusalem; And call out to her; that her warfare has ended, That her iniquity has been removed, That she has received of the Lord's hand Double for all her sins.' 40:3 A voice is calling, 'Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. 40:4 'Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; 40:5 Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' 40:6 A voice says, 'Call out.' Then he answered, 'What shall I call out?' All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. 40:7 The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever. 40:9 Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news, Lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; Lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' 40:10 Behold, the Lord God will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him And His recompense before Him. 40:11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes. (NASB)

א נחמו נחמו עמי יאמר אלהיכם: ב דברו על-לב ירושלים וקראו אליה כי מלאה צבאה פי נרצה
 עונה כי לקחה מיד יהוה כפלים בכל-חטאתיה: ג קול קורא במדבר פנו דרו יהוה ישרו בערבה
 מסלה לאלהינו: ד כל-גיא ינשא וכל-הר וגבעה ישפלו ויהיה העקב למישור והרכסים לבקעה: ה
 נגלה כבוד יהוה וראו כל-בשר יחדו כי פי יהוה דבר: ו קול אמר קרא ואמר מה אקרא כל-הבשר
 חציר וכל-חסדו כציון השדה: ז יבש חציר נבל ציון כי רוח יהוה נשבה בו אכן חציר העם: ח יבש
 חציר נבל ציון ודבר-אלהינו יקום לעולם: ט על הר-גבה עלי-לה מבשרת ציון הרימי בפת קולה
 מבשרת ירושלים הרימי אל-תיראי אמרי לערי יהודה הנה אלהיכם: י הנה אדני יהוה בתוך יבוא
 וזרעו משלה לו הנה שכרו אתו ופעלתו לפניו: יא כרעה עדרו ירעה בזרעו יקבץ טלאים ובחיקו
 ישא עלות ונהל:

Isaiah states in *Isaiah 40:5* *Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together; For*

the mouth of the Lord has spoken. 40:6 *A voice says, 'Call out.'* Then he answered, *'What shall I call out?'* All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. 40:7 *The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass.* 40:8 *The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.* (NASB) Isaiah says *"the word of the Lord will raise up (be established) forever"* (וּדְבַר-אֱלֹהֵינוּ יָקוּם לְעוֹלָם). This is consistent with David's understanding regarding the righteous in *Tehillim / Psalms 37*, the Lord God Almighty will sustain the righteous and we are not to fret or fear the wicked who plot against the righteous.

In addition to this, Isaiah's words in *Isaiah 40:3* states *קוֹל קוֹרֵא בְּמִדְבָּר פְּנוּ דְרֹתַי יְהוָה יִשְׁרוּ בְּעֵרְבָה* 40:3 *A voice is calling, 'Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.* (NASB) which are used prophetically of John the immerser (*Matthew 11:9-11*) the one who was sent to prepare the way for the Messiah. The following is a short summary from the Apostolic writings that refer to *Isaiah 40:3*.

Summary NT References to Isaiah 40:3

1. 3:3 *"For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight!'"* (Matthew 3:3).
2. 1:1 *"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 1:2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way; 1:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight,'"* (Mark 1:1-3).
3. 11:10 *'This is the one about whom it is written, 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You,'* (Matthew 11:10).
4. 1:23 *"He [John the Baptist] said, 'I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said,'"* (John 1:23).

John the Baptizer (immerser) was sent by God to prepare the way for Yeshua and the scripture from *Isaiah 40:3* is used as a proof text to show John was spoken of prophetically. The references given above quote from two sources from the Tanach: Isaiah and Malachi.

1. *Isaiah 40:3, "A voice is calling, 'Clear the way for the Lord (YHVH) in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God."* (NASB)
2. *Malachi 3:1, "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord [adonai], whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the Lord (YHWH) of hosts.* (NASB)

Note that according to the Scriptures above, John was sent to prepare the way for YHVH. *Isaiah 40:3* states that John is to clear the way for YHVH. In *Malachi 3:1*, it is God who says that *"he will clear the way before Me."* The fulfillment of these verses is found in the arrival of Yeshua the Messiah.

ג בְּטַח בִּיהוָה וְעֵשֶׂה-טוֹב לְשֹׁכְנֵי-אֶרֶץ וְרַעֲיָה אֱמוּנָה: 37:3 *Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.* 37:4 ד וְהִתְעַנֵּג עַל-יְהוָה וְיִתֵּן-לָהּ מִשְׁאֲלֹת לְבָבָהּ: ה גּוֹל עַל-יְהוָה דְרָכָהּ וּבְטַח עָלָיו וְהוּא יַעֲשֶׂה: ו וְהוֹצִיא כְאוֹר צִדְקָהּ: ז וּמִשְׁפָּטָהּ כִּצְהָרִים:

Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart. 37:5 Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. 37:6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday. (NASB) The Aramaic Targum and the Septuagint state the following:

Aramaic Targum

Tehillim / Psalms 37:3-6

37:3 Trust in the word of the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and be strong in faith. 37:4 And you will delight in the Lord, and he will give you the requests of your heart. 37:5 Reveal to the Lord your ways, and trust in his word, and he will act. 37:6 And your righteousness will come out like light, and your judgment like noonday. (EMC)

ג רחיצ במימרא דיהוה ועביד טב שרי ארעא וחסין ועסוק בהימנותא: ד ותתפניק על יהוה ויתן לך משיילי לבך: ה גלי על יהוה אורחתך וסבור על מימריה והוא יעבד: ו ויפוק היך נהורא צדקך צדקתך ודינך היך טיהרא:

Septuagint

Tehillim / Psalms 37:3-6

37:3 Hope in the Lord, and do good; and dwell on the land, and thou shalt be fed with the wealth of it. 37:4 Delight thyself in the Lord; and he shall grant thee the requests of thine heart. 37:5 Disclose thy way to the Lord, and hope in him; and he shall bring it to pass. 37:6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noon-day. (LXX)

37:3 ἔλπισον ἐπὶ κύριον καὶ ποίει χρηστότητα καὶ κατασκήνου τὴν γῆν καὶ ποιμανθήσῃ ἐπὶ τῷ πλούτῳ αὐτῆς 37:4 κατατρύφῃσιν τοῦ κυρίου καὶ δώσει σοι τὰ αἰτήματα τῆς καρδίας σου 37:5 ἀποκάλυψον πρὸς κύριον τὴν ὁδὸν σου καὶ ἔλπισον ἐπ’ αὐτόν καὶ αὐτὸς ποιήσει 37:6 καὶ ἐξοίσει ὡς φῶς τὴν δικαιοσύνην σου καὶ τὸ κρίμα σου ὡς μεσημβρίαν

In the Masoretic text, David says to trust in the Lord. In the Aramaic Targum, the rabbis translate this to mean that we are to trust in the “word (*memra*) of the Lord” (רחיצ במימרא דיהוה) and to “work/do good,” meaning to do works of righteousness before the Lord and before men. Remember, studying the Aramaic Targums and comparing to the Tanach, the “word” (*memra*) of the Lord takes on a very significant part of faith according to the Targumim. For example, according to the Targum Onkelos, Jacob believes the Lord’s Memra (מימרה) and the Memra will be his God (*Bereshit / Genesis 28:20*). The Lord God said I will save them through My Memra (מימרה), Abraham was justified through the Memra (מימרה) of God, the Memra (מימרה) gave Israel the Torah, Moshe prayed to the Memra (מימרה), the Memra (מימרה) spoke from the burning bush, and the Memra (מימרה) of the Lord created the World, etc. In all of these instances and more the Memra (מימרה) is much more than simply an element of speech or writing. According to early traditions (Targum Neofiti) man was created in the image of the Memra (מימרה) of the Lord (*1:27, וברא ממרה*, דיין ית בר נשא בדמותיה בדמו מן קדם יי ברה יתיה דכר וזוגיה ברא יתהון). The Targum Pseudo-Jonathan on *Devarim / Deuteronomy 4:7* in the Masoretic text reads “*What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?*” The Targum says “*The Memra of Lord God sits upon His throne high and lifted up ...*” The concept of “the Word” obtained from the rabbinic translation of the Torah into Aramaic reveals profound truths that open up our understanding and the nature of the word of God. Trusting in the “Word of the Lord” is synonymous to trusting in the Lord God Almighty Himself, and this is what David is saying in *Tehillim / Psalms 37*.

Tehillim / Psalms 37:6 states: והוציא כאור צדקתך ומשפטך כצנהרבים: 37:6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday. (NASB) What does it mean that “He will

bring forth your righteousness as the light and your judgment as the noonday?” Throughout the Scriptures, we find parallels between the Light and Righteousness. Here we are told that our Righteousness will be as the Light, that can be seen. *Isaiah 45:8* states *45:8 Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it. (NASB)* Here in *Isaiah*, it appears as if righteousness is paralleled to the rain, and the earth has seed planted that will spring forth plants when the rain falls upon the earth. The parallel is when righteousness pours down, salvation springs forth. It seems that righteousness and salvation are connected. In these verses it seems that the Lord is speaking of the heart of man, the Lord plants the seed of truth, His Word, and righteousness and salvation springs forth. *Tehillim / Psalms 37:6* says that He will bring forth our righteousness as the light. Is the Lord causing us to live righteously, something that comes from the inside out that one can see? The Septuagint states *καὶ ἐξοίσει ὡς φῶς τὴν δικαιοσύνην σου καὶ τὸ κρίμα σου ὡς μεσημβρίαν* “*And he will bring forth as light your righteousness, and your practice as at midday.*” It appears that when we trust in the Lord and follow His ways, our righteous deeds will be made apparent, our love for the Lord and for others will be brought to light to bring glory to the Lord God Almighty.

David continues saying *דָּוִד לַיהוָה וְהִתְחַלְלֵל לוֹ אֶל-תִּתְחַר בְּמַצְלִיחַ דְּרָכּוֹ בְּאִישׁ עֲשֵׂה מְזֻמוֹת: ה הֲרָף מֵאֵף וְעִזֵּב חֲמָה אֶל-תִּתְחַר אֶף-לְהִרְעֵ: ט כִּי-מְרַעִים יִכְרְתוּן וְקִנְיֵי יְהוָה הִמָּה יִרְשׁוּ-אֶרֶץ: י וְעוֹד מְעַט וְאִין רָשָׁע וְהִתְבּוֹנְנָה עַל-מְקוֹמוֹ וְאִינְנוּ: יא וְעֲנִיִּים יִרְשׁוּ-אֶרֶץ וְהִתְעַנְּגוּ עַל-רֵב שְׁלוֹם: יב זִמְם רָשָׁע לְצַדִּיק וְחָרַק עָלָיו: יג אֲדַנִּי יִשְׁחַק-לוֹ כִּי-רָאָה כִּי-יִבֵּא יוֹמוֹ: 37:7 Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. 37:8 Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret; it leads only to evildoing. 37:9 For evildoers will be cut off, But those who wait for the Lord, they will inherit the land. 37:10 Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more; And you will look carefully for his place and he will not be there. 37:11 But the humble will inherit the land And will delight themselves in abundant prosperity. 37:12 The wicked plots against the righteous And gnashes at him with his teeth. 37:13 The Lord laughs at him, For He sees his day is coming. (NASB)* Note how David instructs to rest patiently for the Lord, to cease from anger and do not seek wrath against those who do evil to you, it only leads to more evil doing. He says those who are wicked will soon be cut off and those who wait upon the Lord will inherit the land. It appears that David is warning the righteous with a discussion how a righteous person who is suffering at the hand of the wicked can be misled into corrupted morality, seeking retribution, and false doctrines. How often does that happen today? The powerful attractions of sinful behavior lie in the unconscious desire to satisfy physical and emotional needs. The only true protection against the seductive pull of sin is to seek the Lord, rest and wait on Him, and the wisdom of His ways (the Torah). The land that David mentions (Eretz Yisrael) is supposed to be the shining light to the nations, which is the inheritance, and the dwelling place of God. In a parallel fashion, our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and our trust and rest in the Lord cannot be superficial or quickly forgotten. We must actively be seeking the Lord, and trusting in His Word (writing it upon our hearts) in order overcome the challenges that we encounter in life. The Aramaic Targum and the Septuagint state the following:

Aramaic Targum Pseudo Jonathan

Tehillim / Psalms 37:7-13

37:7 Be quiet in the presence of the Lord and wait for him; do not desire the wicked man who prospers his way, the man who follows the counsel of sinners. 37:8 Wait without anger and forsake wrath; do not long indeed to do evil. 37:9 For those who do evil will be destroyed; but those who hope in the word of the Lord – they will inherit the land. 37:10 And yet a little while, and there is no wicked man; you will look carefully at his place, and he is not. 37:11 But the humble will inherit the land; and they will delight in the plenitude of peace. 37:12 The wicked man plots harm against the righteous man, and grinds his teeth against him. 37:13 The Lord will laugh at him, for he has seen, for the day of his ruin has come. (EMC)

/Numbers 33:1-36:13) no ransom (כפר, atonement) can be made for the life of a murderer. The Torah requirement for murder in the instruction on the kinsman redeemer and the cities of refuge, a murderer must be put to death in order to redeem the land in which the blood of the slain person has fallen. There was no sacrifice of atonement that can be made for the sin of premeditated murder because the land needs atoning for the blood of the slain man. (Questions: *Does this speak for or against capital punishment today? Do these things only refer to the land of Israel and not the USA or Canada or elsewhere?*) When we think on these things, and David’s warning to the Righteous to cease from anger and to not take wrath because this will only lead to do evil, if murder lies in our hearts because of the hatred for a brother or an enemy, how does this affect our relationship with the Lord? Is there atonement for murderous thoughts that continue on and on without repentance? Does hatred facilitate in the heart justice (משפט) and righteousness (צדקה) before God and before others in love and peace? Is this the meaning of “worker of lawlessness” (Matthew 7) because what is done in the body follows through from the heart?

David continues in the Psalm to say יד חרב | פתחו רשעים ודרכו קשתם להפיל עני ואביון לטבח ישרי-דרך: טו חרבם תבוא בלבם וקשתותם תשבִּרנה: טז טוב מעט לצדיק מהמון רשעים רבים: יז פי זרועות רשעים תשבִּרנה וסומך צדיקים יהנה: יח יודע יהנה ימי תמימם ונחלתם לעולם תהנה: יט לא-יבשו בעת רעה ובימי רעבון ישבעו: כ פי רשעים | יאבדו ואיבי יהנה פיקר פרים כלו בעשן כלו: כא לנה רשע ולא ישלם וצדיק וברכה יבשרו: כב כי מברכו יירשו ארץ ומקלליו יכרתו: 37:14 *The wicked have drawn the sword and bent their bow To cast down the afflicted and the needy, To slay those who are upright in conduct.* 37:15 *Their sword will enter their own heart, And their bows will be broken.* 37:16 *Better is the little of the righteous Than the abundance of many wicked.* 37:17 *For the arms of the wicked will be broken, But the Lord sustains the righteous.* 37:18 *The Lord knows the days of the blameless, And their inheritance will be forever.* 37:19 *They will not be ashamed in the time of evil, And in the days of famine they will have abundance.* 37:20 *But the wicked will perish; And the enemies of the Lord will be like the glory of the pastures, They vanish like smoke they vanish away.* 37:21 *The wicked borrows and does not pay back, But the righteous is gracious and gives.* 37:22 *For those blessed by Him will inherit the land, But those cursed by Him will be cut off.* (NASB) The Hebrew text states that the wicked “open the sword” (פתחו רשעים | חרב) and their path (way) is to slaughter the afflicted and the upright or the ones who have a “straight path” (ישרי-דרך). Note the next verse says 37:15 *Their sword will enter their own heart, And their bows will be broken.* (NASB) Comparing Tehillim / Psalms 37:14 and 37:15, David uses the same root word קש that the wicked (רשעים) is intent on breaking / striking the afflicted and upright (the righteous) and the Lord states that their swords will enter their own hearts and their bows will be broken.

- יד חרב | פתחו רשעים ודרכו קשתם להפיל עני ואביון לטבח ישרי-דרך:
- טו חרבם תבוא בלבם וקשתותם תשבִּרנה:

The unrighteous have the intent to harm and the Lord turns this back upon themselves. David says that טוב 37:16 *Better is the little of the righteous Than the abundance of many wicked.* (NASB) Mishley / Proverbs 16:8 טוב-מעט בצדקה מרב תבואות בלא משפט: 16:8 *Better is a little with righteousness Than great income with injustice.* (NASB) Basically David is speak of and comparing the portion of the righteous to that of the wicked. The righteous have little in this world but have great wealth in the world to come. According to the Scriptures, there are some who have been rich such as Abraham and Lot, Joseph of Arimathea, and even David after having become king of Israel. Generally speaking though, from the world’s perspective, the wicked have the largest share of worldly things, and the righteous have little. From the worlds perspective, the righteous have comparatively nothing with respect to the many riches of the wicked. The comparison that David is making within the context of the Psalm, between a righteous man and a wicked man, the emphasis is placed on the sense that a “righteous man’s” (צדיק) “little” is better than a “wicked man’s” (רשע) “much.” What the righteous have is given from the Lord, David says 37:18 *The*

Lord knows the days of the blameless, And their inheritance will be forever. 37:19 They will not be ashamed in the time of evil, And in the days of famine they will have abundance. (NASB) whereas 37:17 ... the arms of the wicked will be broken, But the Lord sustains the righteous. (NASB) The Lord sustains or props up (וְסִוֵּן) the righteous (צַדִּיקִים). David says that the inheritance of the righteous will be forever, but not so for the wicked. The wicked are contented in their state and condition, and sin is never satisfied. In addition to this, the wicked possess and enjoy what they have (*its their portion, see the Psalms 36 study*), however, the Lord oftentimes gives a stranger the possessions of the wicked. David says in *Tehillim / Psalms 37:20 But the wicked will perish; And the enemies of the Lord will be like the glory of the pastures, They vanish like smoke they vanish away. 37:21 The wicked borrows and does not pay back, But the righteous is gracious and gives. 37:22 For those blessed by Him will inherit the land, But those cursed by Him will be cut off.* (NASB) The phrase “*vanishing like the glory of the pastures,*” draws a parallel back to *Isaiah 40* regarding the flower and the grass that can vanish in fire and smoke. The alternating contrast in the Psalm indicates that the righteous have the presence of God with them, they live without any anxious, distressing, burdensome worries.

It is interesting that David says in *Tehillim / Psalms 37:22 For those blessed by Him will inherit the land, But those cursed by Him will be cut off.* (NASB) seems to draw a parallel to the Abrahamic covenant found in Parashat Lech Lecha (*Bereshit / Genesis 12:1-17:27*). The Lord God’s call on Abraham’s life was to go out from his land from his father’s house, and from his people (וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-אַבְרָם לֵךְ-לְךָ מֵאֶרֶץ) (וּמִמְלוֹכְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ אֶל-הָאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֶרְאֶה) to a land that He will show him. The Lord promises to bless Abraham and make him into a great nation (וְאֶעֱשֶׂה לְךָ לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל) and that those who bless him the Lord will bless, and those who curse him the Lord will curse (וְאֶבְרַכָּה מְבַרְכֶיךָ וּמְקַלְלֶיךָ אָאֵר). We find in God’s call on Abraham that in him all the families of the earth will be blessed (וְנִבְרַכְוּ בְּךָ כָּל מִשְׁפַּחַת הָאֲדָמָה). In the Hebrew text, the word Ha’adamah (הָאֲדָמָה, Earth) is used to indicate that all of the families of the Earth will be blessed, and not just those who are in the land of Israel. The Scriptures say “*all of the families of the ground*” taking from the meaning that God created man from the dust of the earth (וַיִּצְרָא יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶת-) (הָאֲדָמָה עֹפָר מִן-הָאֲדָמָה) in *Bereshit / Genesis 2:7*. The Targum Onkelos says in Aramaic that all the “*seed of the earth*” will be blessed (וַיִּתְבְּרְכוּן בְּדִילָךְ כָּל זְרַעֲיַת אֶרְעָא) or the seed of the ground; it is in this way that all the peoples of the earth are referred to. This is the way the Hebrew Scriptures show beyond a doubt that this covenant will include all the people of the world. In the covenant that God is making with Abraham, the Lord makes a promise personally to his descendants (Israel), and to all the world (non-Jewish peoples). In God’s call on Abraham to go to another land and the statement that in him all the families of the earth will be blessed (וְנִבְרַכְוּ בְּךָ כָּל מִשְׁפַּחַת הָאֲדָמָה), it is important to note that the Hebrew text uses the word Ha’adamah (הָאֲדָמָה, Earth, Land, Ground, Soil) to indicate that all of the families of the Ground/Land/Earth will be blessed, and not just those who are in the land of Israel. From an English speakers perspective, the Hebrew text reads to say “*all of the families of the ground*” and suggests that there is a parallel on the meaning that God created man from the dust of the earth/ground (וַיִּצְרָא יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאֲדָמָה עֹפָר מִן-הָאֲדָמָה) in *Bereshit / Genesis 2:7*. The Targum Onkelos says that all the “*seed of the earth*” will be blessed (וַיִּתְבְּרְכוּן) (בְּדִילָךְ כָּל זְרַעֲיַת אֶרְעָא). Does the earth produce children or have seed? The rabbis suggest that the earth bears children and in this way refers to all peoples. Studying this verse, it seems that God is reminding us of the ground in which He cursed הָאֲדָמָה in *Bereshit / Genesis 5:29* and that the seed from the ground which was cursed will become a blessing to all the people of the earth. This context also suggests a future expectation of redemption of the ground that the curse God proclaimed against the ground in *Bereshit / Genesis 5:29* would be lifted at a future time. This also alludes to a future redemption for us from the curse of sin and from death by reason that the ground was cursed and that we are created from the dust of the earth. So within these verses we find the scriptures alluding to a future expectation for both our redemption from sin and death, and the redemption of this earth from the curse. The sin of disobedience to God that originally divided man and woman, estranging the man and the woman from each other in the accusations that were made laying blame on someone else. Thus, contained within Abrahamic covenant, this blessing to all the

peoples of the earth shown in *Bereshit / Genesis 12:1-3* we also find that mankind would be brought back together in peace. The Lord would bring peace to the world. (*Note that a common rabbinic parable is each person is a complete world, Talmud Bavli Sanhedrin 75a, Yeshua brings peace to this world, each and every one of us.*) In the blessing that was to come in and through the seed of Abraham, there is a reversal of this separating factor of sin. Note also that sin scatters, for example, God scattered the people to the ends of the earth in Parashat Noach as a result of Chet HaMigdal Bavel (*the sin of the tower of Babel*). This doctrine on the blessing of the nations of this earth was present in the 1st century Judaism and the Apostles viewed this doctrine of the blessing of the nations as being fulfilled in the Messiah Yeshua. It is through the Messiah Yeshua whereby this promise of the Abrahamic covenant would be and is realized.

The Aramaic Targum and the Septuagint say the following:

Aramaic Targum Pseudo Jonathan

Tehillim / Psalms 37:14-22

37:14 The wicked have drawn the sword and bent their bows to kill the humble and lowly, to slaughter the upright of way. 37:15 Their blade will enter their [own] heart, and their bows will break. 37:16 Better in the presence of the Lord is the smallness of the righteous man than the multitude of many wicked men. 37:17 For the arms of the wicked will be broken, but the word of the Lord supports the righteous. 37:18 The days of the blameless are known in the Lord's presence, and their inheritance will last forever. 37:19 They will not be ashamed in the time of evil, and in the days of famine they are satisfied. 37:20 For the wicked will perish, and the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of young sheep that at first are fattened but finally slaughtered – likewise the wicked will perish and be destroyed in the smoke of Gehenna. 37:21 The wicked borrows and does not repay; but the righteous is compassionate, and gives. 37:22 For those who are blessed by his word will inherit the land; but those who are cursed by death will be destroyed.

יד חרבא שליפו רשיעיא ומתחו קשוותהון למקטול עניי וחשיכי למכוס תריצי אורחא: טו סיפהון תיעול בלבהון וקשוותהון יתברון: טז טב קדם יהוה זעירות צדיקא מריכפת רשיעין סגיעין: יז ארום דרועי דרשיעיא יתברון ותמיד וסעיד צדיקא מימרא דיהוה: יח ידיעין קדם יהוה יומיהון דשלמין ואחסנתהון לעלם תהי: יט לא יבהתון בעידן בישתא וביומי אולצנא סבעין: כ ארום רשיעיא ייבדון ובעלי דבביא דיהוה היך יקר פלגיסין דמן אולא מתפטמין וסופיהון מתנכסין היכנא רשיעי יסופון ובתנן גהנם יגמרון יתגמרון: כא מוזיף רשיעא ולא פרע וצדיק מחייס ויהב: כב מטול ארום דמתברכין במימרא ירתון ארעא ודמתלטטין במותא ישתיצון:

Septuagint

Tehillim / Psalms 37:14-22

37:14 Sinners have drawn their swords, they have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy one, and to slay the upright in heart. 37:15 Let their sword enter into their own heart, and their bows be broken. 37:16 A little is better to the righteous than abundant wealth of sinners. 37:17 For the arms of sinners shall be broken; but the Lord supports the righteous. 37:18 The Lord knows the ways of the perfect; and their inheritance shall be for ever. 37:19 They shall not be ashamed in an evil time; and in days of famine they shall be satisfied. 37:20 For the sinners shall perish; and the enemies of the Lord at the moment of their being honoured and exalted have utterly vanished like smoke. 37:21 The sinner borrows, and will not pay again: but the righteous has compassion, and gives. 37:22 For they that bless him shall inherit the earth; and they that curse him shall be utterly destroyed. (LXX)

37:14 ῥομφαίαν ἐσπάσαντο οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ ἐνέτειναν τόξον αὐτῶν τοῦ καταβαλεῖν πτωχὸν καὶ πένητα τοῦ σφάζει τοὺς εὐθεῖς τῇ καρδίᾳ 37:15 ἡ ῥομφαία αὐτῶν εἰσέλθοι εἰς τὴν καρδίαν αὐτῶν καὶ τὰ τόξα αὐτῶν συντριβείησαν 37:16 κρεῖσσον ὀλίγον τῷ δικαίῳ ὑπὲρ πλοῦτον ἁμαρτωλῶν πολὺν 37:17 ὅτι βραχίονες ἁμαρτωλῶν συντριβήσονται ὑποστηρίζει δὲ τοὺς δικαίους κύριος 37:18 γινώσκει κύριος τὰς ὁδοὺς τῶν ἀμώμων καὶ ἡ κληρονομία αὐτῶν εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα ἔσται 37:19 οὐ καταισχυνθήσονται ἐν καιρῷ πονηρῷ καὶ ἐν ἡμέραις λιμοῦ χορτασθήσονται 37:20 ὅτι οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ ἀπολοῦνται οἱ δὲ ἐχθροὶ τοῦ κυρίου ἅμα τῷ δοξασθῆναι αὐτοὺς καὶ ὑψωθῆναι ἐκλιπόντες ὡσεὶ καπνὸς ἐξέλιπον 37:21 δανείζεται ὁ ἁμαρτωλὸς καὶ οὐκ ἀποτείνει ὁ δὲ δίκαιος οἰκτίρει καὶ διδοῖ 37:22 ὅτι οἱ εὐλογοῦντες αὐτὸν κληρονομήσουσι γῆν οἱ δὲ καταρώμενοι αὐτὸν ἐξολεθρευθήσονται

In all three translations we read David saying 37:19 *They will not be ashamed in the time of evil, and in the days of famine they are satisfied.* (EMC) Here he is referring to the righteous, what does he mean by a person will not be ashamed in the time of evil? It is interesting to read Barne and John Calvin's commentaries regarding *Psalm 37:19*:

Barne's Commentary

They shall not be ashamed in the evil thee - In times of calamity and trouble. The word "ashamed" here refers to disappointment; as when one goes to a fountain or stream for water and finds it dried up. See Job 6:20, note; and Psalm 25:2-3. The idea here is, that when thees of trouble and calamity come, in seasons of famine or want, they will find their expectations, arising from confidence in God, fully met. Their wants will be supplied, and they will find him to be their friend. And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied - Their needs shall be supplied. God will provide for them. See Psalm 37:25. This is in accordance with the general promises which are made in the Scriptures, that God will provide for the needs of those who trust in Him. See the notes at Psalm 37:3.

John Calvin's Commentary

They shall not be ashamed in the season of adversity This verse also shows us, that the faithful have no right to expect such exemption as the flesh would desire from affliction and trial, but they are assured of deliverance in the end; which, though it be indeed obtained, yet it is of such a nature as can be realized only by faith. We must regard these two things as inseparably connected, namely, that as the faithful are mingled among the wicked in this world, so hunger and adversity are common to both. The only difference betwixt them is, that God stretches forth his hand towards his own people in the time of their need, while he abandons the ungodly, and takes no care of them. If it should be objected, that the wicked often fare sumptuously in the time of famine, and gratify all their desires, whilst the faithful are oppressed with poverty and want, I answer, that the fullness of which mention is here made consists chiefly in this, that the faithful, though they live sparingly, and often labor hard to acquire the means of subsistence, are nevertheless fed by God as truly as if they had a greater abundance of this world's goods than the ungodly, who greedily devour the good things of this life in all their variety and abundance, and yet are never satisfied. Besides, as I have elsewhere said, these temporal blessings are not always seen flowing in one uniform course. The hand of God is indeed always open, but we are straitened and limited in our desires, so that our own unbelief is no small hindrance to his liberality. Moreover, as our corrupt nature would soon break forth into excess, God deals with us more sparingly; and lest he might corrupt us by

too great indulgence, he trains us to frugality by bestowing with a sparing hand what he was ready otherwise to lavish upon us in full abundance. And, indeed, whoever shall consider how much addicted we are to sensuality and pleasure, will not be surprised that God should exercise his own people with poverty and want. But although God may not bestow upon us what is necessary for our gratification, yet, unless our own ingratitude prevent us, we shall experience, even in famine and want, that he nourishes us graciously and liberally.

While reading through these commentaries, it is interesting that the major focus is upon the Lord delivering His people from calamity and trouble (*from the time of evil*). Barne states that the people will not be ashamed because they find their confidence in the Lord and the Lord will meet their needs during the time of famine, they will be satisfied. John Calvin states that “*God stretches forth his hand towards his own people in the time of their need.*” He goes on to discuss the corrupt nature of man and the Lord giving us what is necessary and that “*even in famine and want, that he nourishes us graciously and liberally.*” Previously in Tehillim / Psalms 37:7-13 David stated 37:7 *Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. 37:8 Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret; it leads only to evildoing. 37:9 For evildoers will be cut off, But those who wait for the Lord, they will inherit the land. 37:10 Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more; And you will look carefully for his place and he will not be there. 37:11 But the humble will inherit the land And will delight themselves in abundant prosperity. 37:12 The wicked plots against the righteous And gnashes at him with his teeth. 37:13 The Lord laughs at him, For He sees his day is coming. (NASB)* The way he is writing the Psalm, instructing us to rest patiently for the Lord, to cease from anger and do not seek wrath against those who do evil to you, it only leads to more evil doing. He says those who are wicked will soon be cut off and those who wait upon the Lord will inherit the land. It appears that David is warning the righteous with a discussion how a righteous person who is suffering at the hand of the wicked may be misled into corrupted morality, seeking retribution, and false doctrines. In *Tehillim / Psalms 37:19*, he says 37:19 *They will not be ashamed in the time of evil, and in the days of famine they are satisfied. (EMC)* within the context of these verses, it would seem that the righteous, even in the midst of the “*time of evil*” will choose the correct path, trusting in the Lord, and by their righteous actions they will not be ashamed. The emphasis that seems to be implied is that sinful behavior lays in the unconscious desire to satisfy physical and emotional needs which come to a peak during times of evil in our lives. The righteous man will not give into these emotions and sin. The only true protection against the seductive pull of sin is to seek the Lord, to walk in His commandments (live correctly), rest and wait on Him in the wisdom of His ways (the Torah). When evil times come, we are not to use these times as an excuse to sin or to justify unrighteous behavior. (*How often does this happen today? Have you ever done this? In the past I have been told, well your wife cheated on you ... you should go out and cheat on her.*) Note next how the rabbis refer to Parashat Bo (*Shemot / Exodus 10:1-13:16*) in *Shemot / Exodus 12:5* הַשֶּׁה תָּמִים זָכָר בֶּן-שָׁנָה יִהְיֶה לָּכֶם מִן-הַכֹּבְשִׁים 12:5 *Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. (NASB)* in *Tehillim / Psalms 37:20* which says 37:20 *For the wicked will perish, and the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of young sheep that at first are fattened but finally slaughtered – likewise the wicked will perish and be destroyed in the smoke of Gehenna. (EMC)* The wicked in this world are like the young lambs who go about initially and are fatted in this world whose end will be for the slaughter in Gehenna (Hell). Therefore, when “*times of evil*” come we are to take care to seek the Lord and not sin, to not behave in the manner of unrighteousness, but to trust in the Lord that all things work together for good for those who trust in Him (*Romans 8:28*).

David continues in His Psalm (*Tehillim / Psalms 37:23-40*), note how David organizes the remainder of the Psalm:

1. 37:23 *The steps of a man are established by the Lord, And He delights in his way.*

2. *37:24 When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the Lord is the One who holds his hand. 37:25 I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging bread. 37:26 All day long he is gracious and lends, And his descendants are a blessing.*
3. *37:27 Depart from evil and do good, So you will abide forever. 37:28 For the Lord loves justice And does not forsake His godly ones; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.*
4. *37:28 For the Lord loves justice And does not forsake His godly ones; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off. 37:29 The righteous will inherit the land And dwell in it forever.*
5. *37:30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, And his tongue speaks justice. 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip.*
6. *37:32 The wicked spies upon the righteous And seeks to kill him. 37:33 The Lord will not leave him in his hand Or let him be condemned when he is judged.*
7. *37:34 Wait for the Lord and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you will see it. 37:35 I have seen a wicked, violent man Spreading himself like a luxuriant tree in its native soil. 37:36 Then he passed away, and lo, he was no more; I sought for him, but he could not be found.*
8. *37:37 Mark the blameless man, and behold the upright; For the man of peace will have a posterity.*
9. *37:38 But transgressors will be altogether destroyed; The posterity of the wicked will be cut off.*
10. *37:39 But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength in time of trouble. 37:40 The Lord helps them and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, Because they take refuge in Him.*

The steps of the righteous are established by the Lord and He delights in his way (37:23). The righteous are established, the Lord does this, because the righteous live their lives according to God's Word. If we are abiding in God's Word then our lives will reflect that. The Septuagint agrees saying *37:23 The steps of a man are rightly ordered by the Lord: and he will take pleasure in his way. (LXX)* The Aramaic Targum states *37:23 In the presence of the Lord the steps of a man are made firm, and he will favor his ways. (EMC)* We should be ordering our steps (our walk), how we live from the perspective of our walking in the presence of the Lord. David says that when a righteous man falls he will not be hurled head long because the Lord holds his hand. The rabbis say in the Aramaic Targum when a righteous man falls into sickness he will not die. In the *Talmud Bavli in Tracate Berakhot 8a* cites a baraita (Aramaic *בְּרַתָּא* meaning "external" or "outside" designates a tradition in the Jewish oral law not incorporated in the Mishnah) claiming there to be 903 forms of death. The most painful separation of soul from body is described as an inflammation; the gentlest is death by a kiss, likened to the withdrawal of a hair from milk. Some deaths are sudden, but

often the final passage is a gradual transition. Jewish mystical sources discuss a transition, three days in duration, during which the soul gradually separates from the body. Note a parallel to Yeshua being three days in the grave. The point is that death is a separation and is not defined in the Scriptures as extinction, annihilation, or non-existence; death in the Scriptures and from the rabbinical sources is understood as a separation between two things (soul/spirit and body). Note that the soul is coupled to our spirit which both may be separated from the body. Therefore, the Lord saves life because He keeps from death, He is holding the hand of the righteous keeping him from dying and maintaining the joining of the body, soul, and spirit.

The remainder of the Psalm according to the Aramaic Targum and the Septuagint say the following:

Aramaic Targum Pseudo Jonathan

Tehillim / Psalms 37:14-22

37:23 In the presence of the Lord the steps of a man are made firm, and he will favor his ways. 37:24 For when he falls into sickness, he will not die, because the Lord is the helper at his hand. 37:25 I was a boy, but have grown old; and I have not seen the righteous man abandoned or his sons seeking bread because of want. 37:26 For all the day he is compassionate and lends; and his seed is for a blessing. 37:27 Turn from evil, and practice kindness, and abide for eternal life. Another targum: Turn from doing evil, O righteous man, and do good; because of this you will abide forever. 37:28 For the Lord loves justice and will not abandon his pious ones; they are protected forever; but the sons of the wicked will be destroyed. 37:29 The righteous will inherit the land, and will dwell on it forever. 37:30 The mouth of the righteous murmurs wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. 37:31 The law (nimus) of his God is in his heart; his feet do not stumble. 37:32 The wicked man observes the righteous man and seeks to kill him. 37:33 The Lord will not abandon him into his hand, and will not find him guilty when he is judged. another targum: When he stands in judgment. 37:34 Hope in the word of the Lord, and keep his way, and he will raise you up to inherit the land; you will see the destruction of the wicked. 37:35 I have seen the wicked man, strong and mighty, like a native and leafy tree. 37:36 And he ceased from the world, and, behold, he is no more; and I sought him but he was not found. 37:37 Preserve blamelessness, and behold honesty; for the end of [such] a son of man is peace. 37:38 But rebels will be destroyed together; the end of the wicked is destruction. 37:39 But the redemption of the righteous is from the presence of the Lord, their strength in the time of trouble. 37:40 And the Lord helped them and saved them, he saved them from sinners; and he will redeem them, for they trusted in his word. (EMC)

Septuagint

Tehillim / Psalms 37:14-22

37:23 The steps of a man are rightly ordered by the Lord: and he will take pleasure in his way. 37:24 When he falls, he shall not be ruined: for the Lord supports his hand. 37:25 I was once young, indeed I am now old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed seeking bread. 37:26 He is merciful, and lends continually; and his seed shall be blessed. 37:27 Turn aside from evil, and do good; and dwell for ever. 37:28 For the Lord loves judgment, and will not forsake his saints; they shall be preserved for ever: the blameless shall be avenged, but the seed of the ungodly shall be utterly destroyed. 37:29 But the righteous shall inherit the earth, and dwell upon it for ever. 37:30 The mouth of the righteous will meditate wisdom, and his tongue will speak of judgment. 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart;

and his steps shall not slide. 37:32 The sinner watches the righteous, and seeks to slay him. 37:33 But the Lord will not leave him in his hands, nor by any means condemn him when he is judged. 37:34 Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are destroyed, thou shalt see it. 37:35 I saw the ungodly very highly exalting himself, and lifting himself up like the cedars of Lebanon. 37:36 Yet I passed by, and lo! he was not: and I sought him, but his place was not found. 37:37 Maintain innocence, and behold uprightness: for there is a remnant to the peaceable man. 37:38 But the transgressors shall be utterly destroyed together: the remnants of the ungodly shall be utterly destroyed. 37:39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord; and he is their defender in the time of affliction. 37:40 And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them: and he shall rescue them from sinners, and save them, because they have hoped in him. (LXX)

The rabbis translate David's words in *Tehillim / Psalms 37:31-32* saying לא נימוסא דאלהיה בליביה לב מסתכי רשיעא לצדיקא ובעי למקטליה: 37:31 The law (nimus) of his God is in his heart; his feet do not stumble. 37:32 The wicked man observes the righteous man and seeks to kill him. 37:33 The Lord will not abandon him into his hand, and will not find him guilty when he is judged. another targum: When he stands in judgment. (EMC) The Aramaic word "nimus" (נימוסא) means "law or custom." Therefore, for the righteous man, "the custom of his God is in his heart and his feet do not stumble." A custom may be used to form good habits that keep us from sinning on a daily, habitual basis. Customs, and their resulting traditions, arise as a way for people to regulate social life, in a similar manner as habits in the individual regulate personal life (i.e. habitual sin). The customs of one generation handed down to newer generations become what is known as tradition. For example, the Mishnah was given to pass down the tradition of service and interpretation of the Torah in order to maintain the religious centric government and social life of Israel (i.e. the Temple service). Another example, the monastic culture within the Catholic Church arose from a unique set of conditions prevalent in Israel and Egypt in the post-apostolic era together with strong dispositional and temperamental qualities of many Christians of the time. This culture was sanctioned and supported by the Church at large and to a lesser degree by a society which was increasingly dominated by the Catholic Church. The customs and traditions of the Church protected and safe-guarded the monastic culture within. The point of the rabbis is that Traditions are not always bad, there is value in tradition; and custom or tradition may be used of God for the purpose of ordering our steps and to keep our feet from stumbling into sin. The wicked observe this and they seek to kill the righteous. According to David, the wicked do not inherit the land, they stick their own hearts with their swords, they will be broken and like the withering grass, they will be cut off. On the other hand, the righteous man David says *Tehillim / Psalms 37:3 Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart. 37:5 Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. 37:6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday. (NASB)* The Aramaic Targum states 37:5 ... trust in his word, and he will act. (EMC) Trusting in the Lord, His ways, His word, and His Son Yeshua the Messiah, is the path He wants each of us to follow. Let's Pray!

Heavenly Father,

Truly You are worthy to be praised! Help each one of us to do what is right, to live righteously in the time of evil, when bad things happen to us, for your glory Lord. We desire to live holy and righteous lives because You have separated us as holy unto Yourself. You have done this in Your commandments and in Your Son Yeshua the Messiah. Help us to walk and abide in Christ as the Scriptures say we are supposed to

— Tehillim / Psalms 37 | ספר תהילים לז —

do. Thank You Lord for sending Your son Yeshua that we may enter into the salvation You have provided. Thank you Lord for these writings so that we can grow in our faith and know who we are in the Messiah Yeshua. Help us to apply these truths to our lives so that we can dedicate our lives to You daily. We praise Your Holy Name and give You all of the honor, and the glory, and the praise forever and ever.

In Yeshua's (Jesus') Name we pray! Amen!

Be Blessed in Yeshua, Christ our Messiah!

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
“Yeshua” King Messiah forever and ever

Notes