

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 221—Psalms 36-37)

Introduction: In the 36th psalm David contrasts the lovingkindness of God with the wickedness of men. In the 37th he instructs the righteous not to desire the life of the wicked but to continue to live in the trust of the Lord.

Lesson aim: To show the blessings of trusting in the Lord.

A psalm contrasting the wickedness of men with the lovingkindness of the Lord—Psalm 36:1-12

1. David begins with a description of the wicked. What speaks to the heart of the ungodly? (v. 1) What does the wicked not possess?
2. Describe the wicked man's words (v. 3), his plans (v. 4), his lifestyle (v. 4b), and his attitude toward evil.
3. In contrast, David also describes God. What four features of God are mentioned? (v. 5-7). What does David say about them?
4. How did David view the lovingkindness of God? (v. 7)
5. What blessings did God's children enjoy from Him? (v. 7b-9) The Lord is the fountain of what? (v. 9)
6. What does David ask God to do? (v. 10)
7. What foot and hand did David not want to come upon him? (v. 11)

A psalm of instruction to the righteous on how to cope with the wicked—Ps. 37:1-40

1. What nine exhortations does David give the righteous concerning evil-doers? (v. 1-6) On what basis does he encourage these actions? (v. 2) What does he say God will do?
2. What exhortations does he give in v. 7-8? What principles are the bases for these instructions? (v. 9-11)

3. How does David describe the machinations of the wicked? (v. 12-15)
What does the Lord do as He sees these things being done? (v. 13)
4. Is it preferable to have much with wickedness or to have little with righteousness? (v. 16) Why? (v. 17-20)
5. How do the righteous and wicked differ in how they treat others? (v. 21)
What will the outcome be for each? (v. 22)
6. What does David say about the steps of the righteous man? (v. 23) What will the Lord do when he stumbles? (v. 24) What had David observed about the material needs of the righteous? (v. 25) Consequently God provision makes it possible for the righteous to do what? (v. 26)
7. What promise is made to those who “depart from evil and do good”? (v. 27) Why? (v. 28-29)
8. What other things characterize the righteous? (v. 30-34) What blessings are promised to them?
9. What observation did David make about the wicked? (v. 35-36)
10. What did he say would happen to those who were blameless and upright in conduct? (v. 37-40)