**Psalm 37-41**

**Psalm 37**

**Of David.**

**1**Do not fret because of those who are evil  
    or be envious of those who do wrong;  
**2**for like the grass they will soon wither,  
    like green plants they will soon die away.

**3**Trust in the Lord and do good;  
    dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.  
**4**Take delight in the Lord,  
    and HE will give you the desires of your heart.

**5**Commit your way to the Lord;  
    trust in HIM and HE will do this:  
**6**He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,  
    your vindication like the noonday sun.

**7**Be still before the Lord  
    and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,  
    when they carry out their wicked schemes.

**8**Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;  
    do not fret - it leads only to evil.  
**9**For those who are evil will be destroyed,  
    but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.

**10**A little while, and the wicked will be no more;  
    though you look for them, they will not be found.  
**11**But the meek will inherit the land  
    and enjoy peace and prosperity.

**12**The wicked plot against the righteous  
    and gnash their teeth at them;  
**13**but the Lord laughs at the wicked,  
    for he knows their day is coming.

**14**The wicked draw the sword  
    and bend the bow  
to bring down the poor and needy,  
    to slay those whose ways are upright.  
**15**But their swords will pierce their own hearts,  
    and their bows will be broken.

**16**Better the little that the righteous have  
    than the wealth of many wicked;  
**17**for the power of the wicked will be broken,  
    but the Lord upholds the righteous.

**18**The blameless spend their days under the Lord’s care,  
    and their inheritance will endure forever.  
**19**In times of disaster they will not wither;  
    in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.

**20**But the wicked will perish:  
    Though the Lord’s enemies are like the flowers of the field,  
    they will be consumed, they will go up in smoke.

**21**The wicked borrow and do not repay,  
    but the righteous give generously;  
**22**those the Lord blesses will inherit the land,  
    but those he curses will be destroyed.

**23**The Lord makes firm the steps  
    of the one who delights in him;  
**24**though he may stumble, he will not fall,  
    for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

**25**I was young and now I am old,  
    yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken  
    or their children begging bread.  
**26**They are always generous and lend freely;  
    their children will be a blessing.

**27**Turn from evil and do good;  
    then you will dwell in the land forever.  
**28**For the Lord loves the just  
    and will not forsake his faithful ones.

Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed;  
    the offspring of the wicked will perish.  
**29**The righteous will inherit the land  
    and dwell in it forever.

**30**The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,  
    and their tongues speak what is just.  
**31**The law of their God is in their hearts;  
    their feet do not slip.

**32**The wicked lie in wait for the righteous,  
    intent on putting them to death;  
**33**but the Lord will not leave them in the power of the wicked  
    or let them be condemned when brought to trial.

**34**Hope in the Lord  
    and keep his way.  
He will exalt you to inherit the land;  
    when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it.

**35**I have seen a wicked and ruthless man  
    flourishing like a luxuriant native tree,  
**36**but he soon passed away and was no more;  
    though I looked for him, he could not be found.

**37**Consider the blameless, observe the upright;  
    a future awaits those who seek peace.   
**38**But all sinners will be destroyed;  
    there will be no future[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+37-41&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14489e)] for the wicked.

**39**The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;  
    he is their stronghold in time of trouble.  
**40**The Lord helps them and delivers them;  
    he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,  
    because they take refuge in him.

**Psalm 38**

**A psalm of David. A petition.**

**1**Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger  
    or discipline me in your wrath.  
**2**Your arrows have pierced me,  
    and your hand has come down on me.  
**3**Because of your wrath there is no health in my body;  
    there is no soundness in my bones because of my sin.  
**4**My guilt has overwhelmed me  
    like a burden too heavy to bear.

**5**My wounds fester and are loathsome  
    because of my sinful folly.  
**6**I am bowed down and brought very low;  
    all day long I go about mourning.  
**7**My back is filled with searing pain;  
    there is no health in my body.  
**8**I am feeble and utterly crushed;  
    I groan in anguish of heart.

**9**All my longings lie open before you, Lord;  
    my sighing is not hidden from you.  
**10**My heart pounds, my strength fails me;  
    even the light has gone from my eyes.  
**11**My friends and companions avoid me because of my wounds;  
    my neighbors stay far away.  
**12**Those who want to kill me set their traps,  
    those who would harm me talk of my ruin;  
    all day long they scheme and lie.

**13**I am like the deaf, who cannot hear,  
    like the mute, who cannot speak;  
**14**I have become like one who does not hear,  
    whose mouth can offer no reply.  
**15**Lord, I wait for you;  
    you will answer, Lord my God.  
**16**For I said, “Do not let them gloat  
    or exalt themselves over me when my feet slip.”

**17**For I am about to fall,  
    and my pain is ever with me.  
**18**I confess my iniquity;  
    I am troubled by my sin.  
**19**Many have become my enemies without cause;  
    those who hate me without reason are numerous.  
**20**Those who repay my good with evil  
    lodge accusations against me,  
    though I seek only to do what is good.

**21**Lord, do not forsake me;  
    do not be far from me, my God.  
**22**Come quickly to help me,  
    my Lord and my Savior.

**Psalm 39**

**For the director of music. For Jeduthun. A psalm of David.**

**1**I said, “I will watch my ways  
    and keep my tongue from sin;  
I will put a muzzle on my mouth  
    while in the presence of the wicked.”  
**2**So I remained utterly silent,  
    not even saying anything good.  
But my anguish increased;  
**3**    my heart grew hot within me.  
While I meditated, the fire burned;  
    then I spoke with my tongue:

**4**“Show me, Lord, my life’s end  
    and the number of my days;  
    let me know how fleeting my life is.  
**5**You have made my days a mere handbreadth;  
    the span of my years is as nothing before you.  
Everyone is but a breath,  
    even those who seem secure.

**6**“Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom;  
    in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth  
    without knowing whose it will finally be.

**7**“But now, Lord, what do I look for?  
    My hope is in you.  
**8**Save me from all my transgressions;  
    do not make me the scorn of fools.  
**9**I was silent; I would not open my mouth,  
    for you are the one who has done this.  
**10**Remove your scourge from me;  
    I am overcome by the blow of your hand.  
**11**When you rebuke and discipline anyone for their sin,  
    you consume their wealth like a moth -   
    surely everyone is but a breath.

**12**“Hear my prayer, Lord,  
    listen to my cry for help;  
    do not be deaf to my weeping.  
I dwell with you as a foreigner,  
    a stranger, as all my ancestors were.  
**13**Look away from me, that I may enjoy life again  
    before I depart and am no more.”

**Psalm 40**

**For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.**

**1**I waited patiently for the Lord;  
    he turned to me and heard my cry.  
**2**He lifted me out of the slimy pit,  
    out of the mud and mire;  
he set my feet on a rock  
    and gave me a firm place to stand.  
**3**He put a new song in my mouth,  
    a hymn of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear the Lord  
    and put their trust in him.

**4**Blessed is the one  
    who trusts in the Lord,  
who does not look to the proud,  
    to those who turn aside to false gods.   
**5**Many, Lord my God,  
    are the wonders you have done,  
    the things you planned for us.  
None can compare with you;  
    were I to speak and tell of your deeds,  
    they would be too many to declare.

**6**Sacrifice and offering you did not desire -   
    but my ears you have opened-   
    burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.  
**7**Then I said, “Here I am, I have come -   
    it is written about me in the scroll.   
**8**I desire to do your will, my God;  
    your law is within my heart.”

**9**I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;  
    I do not seal my lips, Lord,  
    as you know.  
**10**I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;  
    I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help.  
I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness  
    from the great assembly.

**11**Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord;  
    may your love and faithfulness always protect me.  
**12**For troubles without number surround me;  
    my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.  
They are more than the hairs of my head,  
    and my heart fails within me.  
**13**Be pleased to save me, Lord;  
    come quickly, Lord, to help me.

**14**May all who want to take my life  
    be put to shame and confusion;  
may all who desire my ruin  
    be turned back in disgrace.  
**15**May those who say to me, “Aha! Aha!”  
    be appalled at their own shame.  
**16**But may all who seek you  
    rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who long for your saving help always say,  
    “The Lord is great!”

**17**But as for me, I am poor and needy;  
    may the Lord think of me.  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
    you are my God, do not delay.

**Psalm 41**

**For the director of music. A psalm of David.**

**1**Blessed are those who have regard for the weak;  
    the Lord delivers them in times of trouble.  
**2**The Lord protects and preserves them -   
    they are counted among the blessed in the land -   
    he does not give them over to the desire of their foes.  
**3**The Lord sustains them on their sickbed  
    and restores them from their bed of illness.

**4**I said, “Have mercy on me, Lord;  
    heal me, for I have sinned against you.”  
**5**My enemies say of me in malice,  
    “When will he die and his name perish?”  
**6**When one of them comes to see me,  
    he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander;  
    then he goes out and spreads it around.

**7**All my enemies whisper together against me;  
    they imagine the worst for me, saying,  
**8**“A vile disease has afflicted him;  
    he will never get up from the place where he lies.”  
**9**Even my close friend,  
    someone I trusted,  
one who shared my bread,  
    has turned against me.

**10**But may you have mercy on me, Lord;  
    raise me up, that I may repay them.  
**11**I know that you are pleased with me,  
    for my enemy does not triumph over me.  
**12**Because of my integrity you uphold me  
    and set me in your presence forever.

**13**Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
    from everlasting to everlasting.  
Amen and Amen.