**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.