

## Studying the Psalms

# God Does Not Forsake His Saints

Psalms 37:1-9

November 20, 2022

## Introduction

- This is an acrostic psalm
  - All 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet are used as the first character in each section
  - In verses 1-9 the sections are:
    - Aleph – Verses 1-2, “Fret not ...”
    - Beth – Verses 3-4, “Trust ... Delight ...”
    - Gimel – Verses 5-6, “Commit ...”
    - Daleth – Verse 7, “Be still ... wait patiently ...”
    - He – Verses 8-9, “Refrain from anger ...”

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## Introduction

- The nine acrostic psalms:
  - 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, 145
- There are acrostics also in:
  - Proverbs 31:10-31
  - Lamentations
  - Nahum 1:2-8
- Why acrostics?
  - Perhaps a sense of completeness (i.e. – A to Z)
  - Perhaps to assist in memorization

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## Aleph – Verses 1-2

- “Fret not ...”
  - “Burn with vexation”
  - “Be incensed”
  - God’s anger
    - “... speak to them in his wrath ...” (Psalms 2:4-6)
    - “... because he was angry.” (Psalms 18:7)
  - Anger of the unrighteous
    - “... their anger was kindled against us” (Psalms 124:1-3)

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## Aleph – Verses 1-2

- “... they will soon fade ...”
  - “... they are doomed to destruction ...” (Psalms 92:7-8)
  - “... destroyed in a moment” (Psalms 73:19)
  - See also: Verses 9-10, 15, 17, 20, 28, 36, 38

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## Beth – Verses 3-4

- “Trust in the Lord ...”
  - “... put their trust in you ...” (Psalms 9:10)
  - “Blessed is the man ...” (Psalms 40:4)
  - “Cast your burden on the Lord ...” (Psalms 55:22-23)
  - “The Lord is on my side ...” (Psalms 118:6)
    - cf. Hebrews 13:6, “So we can confidently say ...”

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### Beth – Verses 3-4

- “Delight yourself in the Lord ...”
  - “... you shall take delight in the Lord” (Isaiah 58:13-14)
  - “... abide in me” (John 15:7-8)

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### Gimel – Verses 5-6

- “Commit your way to the Lord”
  - “Humble yourselves ...” (I Peter 5:6-7)
  - “Commit your work to the Lord” (Proverbs 16:1-3)
  - “... this is the whole of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

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### Gimel – Verses 5-6

- “... righteousness ...”
  - “... counted it to him as righteousness” (Genesis 15:6)
  - “... the righteous holds to his way” (Job 17:9)
- “... justice ...”
  - “my justice was like a robe ...” (Job 29:14)
  - “I have done what is just ...” (Psalms 119:121)

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### Daleth – Verse 7

- “Be still ... wait patiently ...”
  - “... wait quietly for the salvation ...” (Lamentations 3:25-26)
  - “... Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalms 46:10-11)
- Compare Mark 4:39, “Peace! Be still!”

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### He – Verses 8-9

- “Refrain from anger ... wrath”
  - “... wrath and anger ... be put away” (Ephesians 4:31-32)
  - “... put them all away: anger, wrath ...” (Colossians 3:8-10)

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