

Studying the Psalms

Security Of Those Who Trust In The Lord ...

Psalms 37:1-9

November 27, 2022

Anger: (Hebrew Word)

Psalms 37:1, “**Fret** not thyself because of evil-doers, neither be thou envious against them that work unrighteousness.”

□ The word “fret” (used 3 times in this text – Verses 1, 7-8) means to become angry with.

NOTE: Proverbs 24:19, “**Fret not thyself because of evil-doers; Neither be thou envious at the wicked**”

□ charah (khaw-raw’); to glow or grow warm; figuratively (usually) to blaze up, of anger, zeal, jealousy: (Strong)

Anger: (Hebrew Word)

Psalms 37:1, “**Fret** not thyself because of evil-doers, neither be thou envious against them that work unrighteousness.”

□ “A verb meaning to burn, to be kindled, to glow, to grow warm. Figuratively, it means to get angry or to become vexed.” (from The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament Copyright © 2003 by AMG Publishers. All rights reserved.)

□ “to be hot, to furious, to burn, to become angry, to be kindled.” (Thayer)

Anger: (Hebrew Word)

Psalms 37:1, “**Fret** not thyself because of evil-doers, neither be thou envious against them that work unrighteousness.”

□ “Burn ... with vexation” (Rotherham)

□ “This verb appears in the Bible 92 times. In the basic stem, the word refers to the ‘burning of anger’ as in Jonah 4:1. In the causative stem, *charah* means ‘to become heated with work’ or ‘with zeal for work’ Nehemiah 3:20.” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

Definition of “Anger” in the New Testament


thumos – speaks of a turbulent commotion, the boiling agitation of the feelings, passion, anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding, which is forbidden in Eph. 4:31.

parorgismos – translated “wrath” in Eph. 4:26, is also forbidden. It refers to anger that is accompanied by irritation, exasperation, embitterment.

orge – is an anger which is an abiding and settled habit of the mind that is aroused under certain conditions. This is the anger spoken of in the words, “be ye angry.” Trench says “Under certain conditions, (anger) is a righteous passion ...” (Wuest’s Word Studies)

Displays of Anger

□ Our character and disposition must be different from the world. James 1:20



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## Summary ... Let God take care of it.

- Leave it in His hands. cf. Romans 12:17-19 Why?
- Psalms 37:2 – they shall soon be cut down.
- So how do we deal with the ungodly? The answer is by living godly.
- In these verses David notes:
  - Trust in the Lord and do good (Psalms 37:3)

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## Summary ... Let God take care of it.

- Do good (Psalms 37:3) – rather than sinking to the level of the ungodly, do what is right, even above right. e.g. – turn the other cheek, go the second mile, etc.
- Dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness – don't leave His fold or the land of your inheritance.
- Delight yourself in the Lord (Psalms 37:4) – do we truly take pleasure in serving God? That is the answer to TRUE contentment.

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## Summary ... Let God take care of it.

- Commit your way to Him (Psalms 37:5) – resolve to serve Him regardless of what happens
- Trust Him (Psalms 37:5; cf. verse 3) – it means that we have faith.
- And do good (Isaiah 1:17). “*The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever,*” whereas the wicked will be cut off from it (see verses 9, 11, 29); the righteous will be fed, whereas the wicked will hunger and not be satisfied (Isaiah 65:13; Luke 6:21, 25; 1:53; cf. Psalms 34:10).
- NOTE: Does this mean the righteous will never be without food or homeless? On the contrary ... (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:11; 2 Corinthians 11:23ff; Philippians 4:12).

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## Summary ... Let God take care of it.

- Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him (Psalms 37:7) – is He your hope?
- God will bring forth your righteousness. LET HIM! (Psalms 37:6)
  - “*Feed (be fed) on His faithfulness ...*” verse 3
  - Do not fret because the wicked prospers (consider what Jesus said to the prosperous Jews who bragged about their giving, prayers, and fasting. He said, “*They have their reward.*”)
- “*Delight thyself also in Jehovah; and he will give thee the desires of thy heart.*” Psalms 37:4

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## Summary ... Let God take care of it.

- Don't be angry. In fact, forsake the idea! When we fret, it causes harm. It will not accomplish any lasting good to sink to their level with an ungodly attitude.
- Psalms 37:8, “*Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: Fret not thyself, (it tendeth) only to evil-doing.*” (cf. James 1:20; 3:16)
- Fret: “Burn ... with vexation” (Rotherham)

## Proverbs and Ecclesiastes On Anger

- Proverbs 14:17, “*He that is soon angry will deal foolishly; And a man of wicked devices is hated.*”
- Proverbs 16:32, “*He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; And he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city.*”

### Proverbs and Ecclesiastes On Anger

- Proverbs 19:11, “*The discretion of a man maketh him slow to anger; And it is his glory to pass over a transgression.*”
- Proverbs 22:24, “*Make no friendship with a man that is given to anger; And with a wrathful man thou shalt not go*”

### Proverbs and Ecclesiastes On Anger

- Proverbs 29:11, “*A fool uttereth all his anger; But a wise man keepeth it back and stilleth it.*”
- Proverbs 29:22, “*An angry man stirreth up strife, And a wrathful man aboundeth in transgression.*”
- Ecclesiastes 7:9, “*Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.*”

### Anger In The New Testament

- Anger and wrath are to be replaced by kindness and forgiveness. Ephesians 4:31-32
- We are told we must also “*put them all away: anger, wrath, malice ...*” Colossians 3:8
- “*... slow to wrath; for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.*” James 1:19-20

### The Sin of Anger

- A disposition of fury (*orge*). Colossians 3:8
  - Does not produce good fruit. James 1:20
  - We can and must put away anger. Colossians 3:8
- Repent of anger. Ephesians 4:26-27
  - Refuse anger when it begins ... How?
  - Meditate on the Lord and trust in Him. Psalms 4:4-5 (Philippians 4:8)

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### Anger: A Heart Problem

Proverbs 23:7

*“For as he thinketh within himself, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; But his heart is not with thee.”*

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### Why Are You Angry?

*“He that is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked”* (Proverbs 29:27, 10).

- Cain was angry because of envy. Genesis 4:6; 1 John 3:11-12
- Saul repeatedly tried to kill David, although he admitted that David was more righteous than himself (1 Samuel 24:11, 17).
- Haman sought to kill ALL the Jews because Mordecai refused to bow before him. Esther 3:6
- The people of Jesus’ day became “*betrayers and murderers*” of the Righteous One (Acts 7:52).

## Why Are You Angry?

- *“Cain said unto Jehovah, My punishment is greater than I can bear.”* (Genesis 4:13)
- Saul suffered death in battle against the Philistines (1 Samuel 18:25; 31:1-4).
- Haman hanged on his own gallows. (Esther 7:10; 8:7)
  - His sons also. (Esther 9:13, 25)
- Those who crucified the Righteous One incurred a greater punishment themselves than they could possibly inflict on Him – the punishment of unquenchable fire (Matthew 3:12; Luke 19:27).

cf. Hosea 8:7, *“For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: he hath no standing grain; the blade shall yield no meal; if so be it yield, strangers shall swallow it up.”*