

Studying the Psalms

When Anger Rules

Psalms 37:1-9

November 6, 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

□ Beth – Verses 3-4

□ Gimel – Verses 5-6

□ Daleth – Verse 7

□ He – Verses 8-9

2

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

3

Anger: (Hebrew Word)

Psalms 37:1, “*Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!*”

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

NOTE: **Proverbs 24:19**, “*Fret not yourself because of evildoers, and be not envious of the wicked*”

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

4

Anger: (Hebrew Word)

Psalms 37:1, “*Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!*”

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

5

Anger: (Hebrew Word)

Psalms 37:1, “*Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!*”

□ “to get angry, be angry.”

□ “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’ Neh 3:20.” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

6

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

- Politics and anger. Proverbs 22:8
- Our character and disposition must be different from the world. James 1:20



Summary ... Let God take care of it.

- Leave it in His hands. Why?
Romans 12:17-19
- Psalms 37:2 – they shall soon be cut down.
- So how do we deal with the ungodly?
 - By living godly lives. (Titus 2:11-12)
- In these verses David notes:
 - Trust in the Lord and do good (Psalms 37:3)