

- **PSALM 37** has many beautiful promises that are really fitting for the times and country we're living in. Let's dive in and discover God's truths:

- The bulleted points in red, are some thoughts and ideas about the highlighted words or phrases. These form the basis of the sermon outline

1 "**Don't worry** about the wicked or envy those who do wrong. 2 For like grass, **they soon fade away**. Like spring flowers, they soon wither.

- This too is a promise for the wicked

- Here, God is teaching us where to focus (trust, don't worry)

3 **Trust** in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and **prosper**.

- Prosper only because of God's economy. The economy of the Kingdom of Heaven

4 **Take delight in the LORD**, and He will give you your heart's desires.

- Let God develop in you, a passion for Him

5 **Commit everything** you do to the LORD. Trust him, and He will help you.

- Start small, in the things you're believing God for

6 He will make **your innocence** radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun.

- Forgiveness: crucial for fulfilment of promises (innocence)

7 **Be still** in the presence of the LORD, and **wait patiently** for Him to act. Don't **worry** about evil people who prosper or fret about their **wicked schemes**.

- Be calm in the midst of the storm

- Worry and wickedness, make and sell news

8 **Stop being angry! Turn from your rage!** Do not lose your temper— it only leads to harm.

- We have a role to play to bring peace

9 For the wicked will be destroyed, but those who trust in the LORD **will possess the land**.

- Only when we're faithful

10 Soon the wicked will disappear. Though you look for them, they will be gone. 11 The lowly will possess the land and will live in **peace and prosperity**.

- God's promise of safety and abundance

12 The wicked **plot** against the godly; they snarl at them in defiance.

- The business of the wicked will continue

13 But the Lord just laughs, for He sees their day of judgment coming.

14 The wicked draw their swords and string their bows to kill the poor and the oppressed, to slaughter those who do right. 15 But their swords will stab their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.

- God will have His vengeance

16 It is better to be godly and have little than to be evil and rich. 17 For the strength of the wicked will be shattered, but the LORD takes care of the godly.

18 Day by day the LORD takes care of the **innocent**, and they will receive an inheritance that lasts forever.

- Otherwise, we subject ourselves to the enemy

19 They will not be disgraced in hard times; **even in famine** they will have more than enough.

- God's supernatural provision, not subject to scarcity

20 But the wicked will die. The LORD's enemies are like flowers in a field— they will disappear like smoke.

21 The wicked borrow and never repay, but the godly are generous givers. 22 Those the LORD blesses will possess the land, but those He curses will die.

23 The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. 24 **Though**

they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand.

- We will face struggles

25 Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread.

- Reflect on God's goodness shown in times past

26 The godly always give generous loans to others, and their children are a blessing.

27 Turn from evil and do good, and you will live in the land forever. 28 For the LORD loves justice, and He will never abandon the godly. He will keep them safe forever, but the children of the wicked will die.

- God won't abandon us even if it feels like it

29 The godly will possess the land and will live there forever.

- Sometimes, unsuitable top soil must be removed to get to good soil beneath, like a purge

30 The godly offer good counsel; they teach right from wrong.

- Teach and help where you can

31 They have made God's law their own, so they will never slip from his path.

- This is the key to longevity. It's not how we start but how we finish that matters

32 The wicked wait in ambush for the godly, looking for an excuse to kill them. 33 But the LORD will not let the wicked succeed or let the godly be condemned when they are put on trial. 34 Put your hope in the LORD. Travel steadily along his path. He will honour you by giving you the land. You will see the wicked destroyed.

35 I have seen wicked and ruthless people flourishing like a tree in its native soil. 36 But when I looked again, they were gone! Though I searched for them, I could not find them!

- Whether good or evil, whatever we sow we will reap

37 Look at those who are honest and good, for a wonderful future awaits those who love peace.

38 But the rebellious will be destroyed; they have no future.

- The future of this nation really is in God's hands

39 The LORD rescues the godly; He is their fortress in times of trouble. 40 The LORD helps them, rescuing them from the wicked. He saves them, and they find shelter in Him."

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the reasons people are anxious in our land today?
2. How can God's promises about the land, in Psalm 37, change our perspective of the future?
3. What role do you have to play, to ensure God's promises are fulfilled?