

Psalm 37:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Analysis

'Rest in the LORD' (Hebrew 'damam,' be still, silent, quiet) and 'wait patiently' emphasize active trust through passive waiting. The repetition of 'fret not' (from v. 1) with specific application—don't fret over the prosperous wicked—intensifies the command. The one who 'prospereth in his way' appears to validate wickedness through success, creating spiritual crisis. Yet God's people must cultivate stillness before God, refusing anxiety's agitation. This rest isn't passivity but confident trust that God governs outcomes.

Historical Context

In ancient culture, success was often interpreted as divine blessing. Seeing the wicked prosper while the righteous suffered challenged this theology, requiring deeper faith in God's ultimate justice.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does 'resting in the LORD' practically look like when others prosper through evil?
2. How can you develop patient waiting without passive resignation?

Interlinear Text

תַּתְמֹרֶךְ אֶל־לֹז וְהַתֵּחֶזֶק וְלֹא־לִיהְיוֹת
Rest in the LORD and wait patiently H0 H408 for him fret
H1826 H3068 H2342 H2734

בְּמִצְלָה יְמִינְךָ וְאֶתְרָכָתָךְ בְּאֶשְׁתָּה
not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way because of the man to pass
H6743 H1870 H376 H6213

מִזְמֹרֶת:
wicked devices
H4209

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 27:14 (References Lord): Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psalms 62:5 (Parallel theme): My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.

Proverbs 20:22 (Evil): Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.

Habakkuk 2:3 (Parallel theme): For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Jeremiah 12:1 (Evil): Righteous art thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of thy judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously?

Isaiah 30:15 (References Lord): For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

Psalms 40:1 (References Lord): I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Psalms 62:1 (Parallel theme): Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.

Galatians 6:9 (Parallel theme): And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Isaiah 8:17 (References Lord): And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.

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