

Psalm 37 is an acrostic Psalm with 22 sections built on each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This musical setting follows that pattern, with 22 "songlets." The last four measures of each songlet can be sung in counterpoint to the first four measures of the next songlet, creating a 22-link musical chain.

# Psalm 37

## An Antiphonal Acrostic:

### Why do good things happen to bad people?

Words and music by  
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*♩=37*

**A** *Em Bm C G Am Em Bsus B*  
An - ger may come, but don't let it rule your heart. Don't en - vy those who do wrong. As

**5** *C Em D G C Dsus D G*  
green fields at noon with - er and fade they will shriv - el like grass in the sun. **Be -**

**B** *C Em D G C Dsus D G*  
lieve, be blame - less, be — blessed by the boun - ty of God's land. **Be**

**13** *Am D G C F Dm Esus E*  
filled with joy! Your heart's de - sires are sat - is - fied by God's hand.

**6** *Am D G C F Dm Esus E*  
**Com**-mit your way un - to the Lord; con - fide in God, your soul's sup - port. And your

**21** *C D/C G/B Em Gm C7 F Dm*  
faith - ful - ness will shine like the dawn and jus - tice like the noon - day sun.

**D** *C D/C G/B Em Gm C7 F Dm*  
**Deep** is the peace of those who rest in God. **Do**

**29** *B<sup>b</sup> C/B<sup>b</sup> F/A E<sup>b</sup> F/E<sup>b</sup> Dsus D*  
not be dis - tressed by those with e - vil de - signs.

*E* *B*<sup>b</sup> *C/B*<sup>b</sup> *F/A* *E*<sup>b</sup> *F/E*<sup>b</sup> *D**sus* *D*

*E* - vil for e - vil on - ly brings more e - vil. Turn from wrath and walk a - way from an - ger.

37 *G**m* *D**m* *E*<sup>b</sup> *B*<sup>b</sup>

E - vil will end and the faith - ful will see their re - ward.

*F* *G**m* *D**m* *E*<sup>b</sup> *B*<sup>b</sup>

*F*or soon the faith - less will be no more; search high and low, still they won't be found.

45 *C**m* *G**m* *F* *C**sus* *C*

But the meek will in - her - it the earth, for - ev - er blessed with peace.

*G* *C**m* *G**m* *F* *C**sus* *C*

*G*rin-ding their teeth and lick - ing their lips, the wick - ed make their plans for the right - eous.

53 *E*<sup>b</sup> *B*<sup>b</sup> *F* *C* *E*<sup>b</sup> *B*<sup>b</sup> *F* *B*<sup>b</sup>

God on - ly laughs as they lay their traps for he knows that their own down - fall is com - ing.

*F* *E*<sup>b</sup> *B*<sup>b</sup> *F* *C*

*F*here they lie in wait with weap - ons drawn— their swords are sharp - ened their bow strings are

59 *E*<sup>b</sup> *B*<sup>b</sup> *F* *B*<sup>b</sup>

taut— hop - ing to harm the hum - ble, the ho - ly and the poor who walk in peace up - on the

61 Gm Eb F Dm

road. How con-fused they'll be to find their ar-rows bro-ken, their bows all shat-tered How could they have

63 Eb Gm Cm Ab

known that their own swords in their own hearts would find a home?

Gm Eb F Dm Eb Gm Cm Ab

*It* is bet-ter— to be im-pov-erished with the in-no-cent than en-joy the a-bun-dance of in-iq-ui-ty.

69 Fm Bb/D Eb/sus Eb Ab/C Db Gb/Bb Ab/C /Bb F/A

The i-ron grip of the wick-ed will be bro-ken, but God will hold the— right-eous in his hands. *Je-*

Fm Bb/D Eb/sus Eb Ab/C Db Gb/Bb Ab/C /Bb F/A

ho-vah leads the jour-ney of the just; their leg-a-cy en-dur-ing like the sun. When ca-

77 Bbm Eb Ab Gb/Bb Ab/C Db

tas-tro-phe comes they'll stand strong; and in fam-ine they'll still have e-nough.

Bbm Eb Ab Gb/Bb Ab/C Db

*King* of— all, and all must bow down. But the

85 Ebm Ab Db /C Bbm /Ab Gb Db/F Ebm Ab/sus Ab

faith-less, like fields on fire, All gone— gone up in smoke.

*L* Loans to the crook-ed\_\_\_ will nev-er be re - paid. God's peo - ple give with gen-er-os - i - ty and

93 grace. Bless the Lord for count-less bless-ings. Curse not for it comes to\_\_\_ no - thing.

*M* Might - y is the Lord, who strength - ens the steps of those who walk his way.

101 They maystum - ble but they'll nev-er fall, Hand in hand with the Lord of all.

*N* Now I am old, but once I was young, And I have nev-er seen the right-eous for-sak-en,\_\_\_ or their

109 chil-dren go hun-gry, or their fam-ilies go beg-ging. Their rich-es\_\_\_ they give free-ly-\_\_\_ for - ev-er\_\_\_ a bless-ing!

*O* On-ly do good; turn from all sin; then you will dwell for\_\_\_ ev - er in the land.

117 For the Lord loves the just and will not a - ban - don his faith - ful. The

*P*  $E^b$   $A^b/E^b$   $E^b$   $Cm$   
 Peo - ple of the Lord will a - bide with God for - ev - er, but\_\_

125  $Fm/A^b$   $E^b/B^b$   $B^b$   $A^b/C$   $B^b$   $B^b$   
 e - vil comes to no - thing and the wick - ed come to no - thing.

*Q*  $Fm/A^b$   $E^b/B^b$   $B^b$   $A^b/C$   $B^b$   $B^b$   
 Qui - et words of wis - dom\_\_ flow from the mouths of the just. Their tongues speak

133  $Gm$   $Cm$   $/B^b$   $F/A$   $G/B$   $Csus$   $C$   
 right - eous-ness for God's law is in their hearts. There-fore their feet do not slip. *Re-*

*R*  $Gm$   $Cm$   $/B^b$   $F/A$   $G/B$   $Csus$   $C$   
 solved to trap the faith - ful the\_\_ wick - ed will lie in\_\_ wait. But God's

141  $Dm$   $Am$   $F2$   $Csus$   $C$   
 own\_\_ will not be caught\_\_ with - in their schemes of hate.

*S*  $Dm$   $Am$   $F2$   $Csus$   $C$   
 Stay on God's path. Hope in the Lord.

149  $F$   $C$   $Dm$   $Asus$   $A$   
 Your eyes shall see the tri - umph of good.

**T** *Ty-rants* may flour - ish like trees, their branch-es \_\_\_\_\_ spread - ing like ce - dars. But they

157 van - ish in the breeze; they're for - got - ten like a fe - ver. The

**U** *U*p - right, the blame - less, and those who seek God's peace will en -

165 joy a glad fu - ture the un - just will nev - er know.

**V** *V*in-di-ca-tion for the right - eous comes from God, and God a - lone.

173 Run to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ Lord; \_\_\_\_\_ you will find a fort - ress strong!

*(Connects back to the beginning.)*

177 An - ger may come, but don't let it rule your heart. Don't en - vy those who do wrong.