

# Grudge not to see the wicked men

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - *Psalm 37*

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590 - 1633)

CANTVS  
MEDIVS  
TENOR or Playsong  
BASSVS

*Glasgow Tune*

Grudge not to see the wick - ed men, in wealth to flour - ish still:  
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S. Nor yet en - vy such as to ill, have bent and set their will.  
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2. For as green grass and flourishing herbs are cut and wither away:  
So shall their great prosperities, soon pass, fade and decay.

3. Trust thou therefor in God alone, to do well give thy mind:  
So shalt thou have the land as thine, and there sure food shalt find.  
4. In God set all thy heart's delight, and look what thou wouldst have:  
Or else canst wish in all the world, thou need'st it not to crave.

5. Cast both thyself and thine affairs, on God with perfect trust:  
And thou shalt see with patience, the effect both sure and just.  
6. Thy perfect life and godly name, he will clear as the light:  
So that the Sun even at noon days, shall not shine half so bright.

7. Be still therefore, and steadfastly, on God see thou wait then:  
Nor shrinking for the prosperous state, of lewd and wicked men.  
8. Shake off despite, envy and hate, at least in any wise:  
Their wicked steps avoid and sly, and follow not their guise.

9. For every wiked man will God, destroy both more and less:  
But such as trust in him are sure, the land for to possess.  
10. Watch but a while and thou shalt see no more the wicked train:  
No not so much as house or place, where once he did remain.

## *The Second part.*

11. But merciful and humble men, enjoy shall sea and land:  
In rest and peace, they shall rejoice, for nought shall them withstand.

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12. The lewd men and malicious, against the just conspire:  
They gnash their teeth at him, as men which do his bane desire.

13. But while that lewd men thus do think the Lord laughs them to scorn:  
For why he seeth their term approach, when they shall sigh and mourn.  
14. The wicked have their sword out drawn, their bow eke have they bent:  
To overthrow and kill the poor, as they the right way went.

15. But the same sword shall pierce their hearts which was to kill the just:  
Likewise the bow shall break to shivers wherein they put their trust.  
16. Doubtless the just man's poor estate is better a great deal more:  
Then all these lewd, and worldly men's rich pomp and heaped store.

17. For be their power never so strong, God will it overthrow:  
Where contrary he doth preserve, the humble men and low.  
18. He seeth by his great providence, the good men's trade and way:  
And will give them inheritance which never shall decay.

19. They shall no be discouraged, when some are hard bestead:  
When other shall be hunger-bit, they shall be clad and fed.  
20. For whosoever wicked is, and enemy to the Lord:  
Shall quail, yea melt even as lambs grease or smoke that flyeth abroad.

## *The Third part.*

21. Behold the wicked borroweth much and never payeth again:  
Whereas the just by liberal gifts, makes many glad and fain.

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22. For they whom God doth bless shall have, the land for heritage:  
And they whom he doth curse likewise shall perish in his rage.

23. The Lord the just man's ways doth guide and gives him good success:  
To every thing he takes in hand, he sendeth good address.  
24. Though that he fall yet is he sure, not utterly to quail,  
Because the Lord stretcheth out his hand, at need and doth not fail.

25. I have been young and now am old, yet did I never see:  
The just man left, nor yet his seed, to beg for misery.  
26. But gives always most liberally, and lendeth where as is need:  
His Children and posterity, receive of God their meed.

27. Fly vice therefore and wickedness, and virtue do embrace:  
So God shall grant thee long to have, on earth a dwelling place.  
28. For God so loveth equity, and sheweth to his such grace:  
That he preserves them evermore, destroying the wicked race.

29. Whereas the good and godly men, inherit shall the land:  
Having as Lords all things therein, in their own power and hand.  
30. The just man's mouth doth ever speak of matters wise and high:  
His tongue doth talk to edify, with truth and equity.

31. For in his heart the law of God the Lord doth still abide:  
So that where ever he go or walk, his foot can never slide.

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32. The wicked like a ravening wolf the just man doth beset:  
By all means seeking him to kill, if he fall in his net.

## *The Fourth part.*

33. Though he should fall into his hands, yet God would succor send:  
Yet men against him sentence give, God would him yet defend.  
34. Wait thou on God and keep his way, he shall preserve thee then:  
The earth to rule and thou shalt see, destroyed these wicked men.

35. The wicked have I seen most strong, and placed in high degree:  
Flourishing in all wealth and store, as doth the Laurel-tree.  
36. But suddenly he passeth away, and lo he was quite gone:  
Then I him sought but could scarce find, the place where dwelt such one.

37. Mark and behold the perfect man, how God doth him increase:  
For the just man shall have at length, great joy with rest and peace.  
38. As for transgressors woe to them, destroyed they shall all be:  
God will cut off their budding race, and rich posterity.

39. But the salvation of the just, doth come from God above:  
Who in their trouble sends them aid, of his mere grace and love.  
40. God doth them help, save and deliver, from lewd men and unjust:  
And still silt save them whilst that they, in him do put their trust.

## Critical notes:

This setting is similar to the one of Psalm 91;  
text somewhat modernised.