

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Delight In Jehovah

(Jerry Fite)

David writes, “*Delight thyself also in Jehovah; and he will give thee the desires of thy heart*” (Psalm 37:4). Humanity is divided between the righteous and the wicked. The righteous should not “fret” because of “evil doers”, nor be “envious” against them who “work unrighteousness” (Psalm 37:1). As David reminds the righteous, the wicked will not flourish long, but will “*wither as the green herb*” (Psalm 37:2) and be “*cut off*” (Psalm 37:9).

The righteous should not only refuse to be affected by the wicked, they need to “trust in Jehovah”. By continuing to do “good”, they will “dwell in the land”; and by “waiting for Jehovah”, they will continue to enjoy the land as an “inheritance” (Psalm 37:3, 9).

The righteous are exhorted to not only trust in Lord, but they should “delight” in their relationship with Jehovah. The Hebrew word translated in all capitals in some versions as “LORD” or as “Jehovah”, is “Yahweh”. This is the name for Israel’s “personal”

God who redeems and protects His people.

The righteous do not selfishly delight themselves apart from Jehovah, but “in Jehovah”. Trusting in the Lord, they commit their way unto Him in hope as they do righteousness and justice according to God’s law that is in their hearts (Psalm 37:5, 6, 31).

With the righteous connected inwardly in trust and obedience with Jehovah, their “desires” should be godly. The godly desires arising from a heart harmonious with the Lord will be granted by Jehovah. In meekness, the righteous desire blessings according to “the will of God”. God will work things according to His will. When the righteous “delight” in Jehovah, and have “desires” that are in line with the will of Jehovah, they will be blessed.

Oprah Winfrey, in an interview on the Late Show with Stephen Colbert, said Psalm 37:4 is her favorite passage in the Bible. In explaining the meaning of the passage beginning with Jehovah, she says, “*Lord has a wide*

*range: compassion, love, forgiveness, kindness. So you delight yourself in those virtues where the character of the Lord is revealed.*” Notice Oprah turns from delighting specifically in a personal God “Yahweh” to delighting in the general characteristics of God, which happen to be pleasant to everyone.

Oprah then sums up these general characteristics in a word, and tells us what the passage means to her: “... *if you focus on being a force for good, good things will come.*” Generalizing further, she unites science, eastern religions and Jesus by saying, “*That is the same as 1) the third law of motion, 2) karma, 3) the golden rule.*”

Now, we know why she likes this passage so much. It is made to fit her agenda of finding common ground for all religions and science, thus uniting planet earth. Psalm 37:4 exhorts us to delight in Jehovah Himself, not just the characteristics of God. Oprah reminds us that we must be careful not to read into Scripture what we desire it to mean.