



24 October 2005

Welcome to

Wake Up Call

your weekly email support from WorkNet

Look Again

Note: we are still looking for an Assistant see news below

This is the seventh wake up call in a series based on Psalm 37.
Follow the Bible Reading link to read the Psalm

How often do you shake your head in disbelief as you read about the latest corporate scandal? How on earth does someone hide 30 million of any currency? Devious ingenuity seems to know no boundaries and there seems to be no end to our ability to create schemes of fraud. Business pages are as full of corruption stories as they are of yearly results and the disease seems to spread throughout sectors. Investigations into misuse of funds come to light from hospitals, schools, local authorities and public bodies as well as high street names. Exorbitant interest rates, inappropriate profits, directors over paying themselves and nepotistic appointments litter the headlines.

Such corruption spreads up and down the working ladder. Cowboy tradesmen rip off elderly house owners by charging ridiculous amounts to repair a chimney and cowboy politicians cream off food aid to line their pockets while their people starve.

When David wrote his psalms he had an increasing life experience including the relatively junior job of shepherd through to soldier, commander, politician and king. He was a man who had been forced to achieve through conflict and he had enormous first hand experience of wicked behaviour. We would do well to remember that he was no theorist publishing research papers on the philosophy of just wars or human evil. He had mud, blood and sweat on his hands as well as responsibilities on his shoulders.

So it is out of his breadth of experiences that he advises us to watch the fate of the corrupt. Appearing to be endless, they are definitely not timeless. "A little while" he says and "they will be no more". He is advocating that we remember that corruption destroys the perpetrators and rather than look at them with envy, disdain or fury, we should be aware that they will disappear. "Though you look for them, they will not be found". Sometimes when evil regimes or unfair managers hang around for what we consider a long time, it is well worth looking at the history of the corrupt. They feed on self-centredness, but in fact are eaten by their own evil.

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In this whirlwind of behaviours, you as a person of God are called to find the path between passivity and aggression which, according to David's A-Z, will lead you to inherit the land and enjoy great peace. Somewhere between rage and silence lies meekness which is the hardest path of all. Today you would call it assertive, real and honourable behaviour. It is a path of challenge, but it results in peace. As far as David is concerned, it is also a way of seeing things - and this from a man who had seen it all.

In Jesus' Name,

Geoff Shattock

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Here is some Biblical background for your Wake Up Call

Psalm 37:1-40

Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong;

² for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.

³ Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

⁴ Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:

⁶ He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

⁸ Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.

⁹ For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will

inherit the land.

¹⁰ A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.

¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.

¹² The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them;

¹³ but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming.

¹⁴ The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose ways are upright.

¹⁵ But their swords will pierce their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.

¹⁶ Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked;

¹⁷ for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.

¹⁸ The days of the blameless are known to the Lord, and their inheritance will endure for ever.

¹⁹ In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.

²⁰ But the wicked will perish: The Lord's enemies will be like the beauty of the fields, they will vanish—vanish like smoke.

²¹ The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously;

²² those the Lord blesses will inherit the land, but those he curses will be cut off.

²³ If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm;

²⁴ though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

²⁵ I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

²⁶ They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed.

²⁷ Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land for ever.

²⁸ For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected for ever, but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off;

²⁹ the righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it for ever.

³⁰ The mouth of the righteous man utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks what is just.

³¹ The law of his God is in his heart; his feet do not slip.

³² The wicked lie in wait for the righteous, seeking their very lives;

³³ but the Lord will not leave them in their power or let them be condemned when brought to trial.

³⁴ Wait for the Lord and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

³⁵ I have seen a wicked and ruthless man flourishing like a green tree in its native soil,

³⁶ but he soon passed away and was no more; though I looked for him, he could not be found.

³⁷ Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a future for the man of peace.

³⁸ But all sinners will be destroyed; the future of the wicked will be cut off.

³⁹ The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴⁰ The Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

Wake Up News

Online News

Prayer

Retreats

Group Register

- **We have now fixed a date for a conference under the theme of "Doing the work you were born to do" for March 4th 2006. See [this link](#) now for details -we expect high demand for this conference so visit the page now.**
- Hear Geoff Shattock at the [FaithWorks Conference](#) at Eastbourne 5th November.
- WorkNet is looking for someone to fulfill the vital role of Assistant to Geoff Shattock. A reworded Job and Person description is now available on the online news page follow the link on the left to view or download. If you are interested in this post, please send your CV to geoff@worknetuk.org If you know someone who may be interested, please make this important need known to them. Short term we are looking for a typist -if you have experience and would like some temporary work please be in touch.
- The [WorkTalk](#) course is based on the seven sayings of our Lord from the cross. If you haven't got your copy, you can order it now from our [on-line shop](#) and use it for your personal meditation as well as a learning programme.

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