

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 204—Psalms 1-2)

Introduction: It is interesting that the first two psalms declare the principles upon which God deals with the world. In the first psalm there is a clear portrayal of the destiny of the righteous in contrast with the wicked. In the second, there is declared the futility of fighting against God and His Messiah. The messages of these two psalms in many ways provide the foundation for the many appeals made to God in the Psalms. Perhaps this is why they are placed first in this Spirit-led song book.

Lesson aim: To show the blessings of the righteous vs. the judgment of the wicked.

The righteous and wicked contrasted--Psalm 1:1-6

1. What two kinds of people are being contrasted in this psalm? (v. 1, 4).
2. How is the righteous person more specifically described? (v. 1)
3. In what is the righteous man's delight? (v. 2) What does this cause him to do?
4. What will the righteous person's devotion to God's law cause him to be like? (v. 3) What do you think the psalmist means by this?
5. Instead of being like a tree planted by the river, the wicked are said to be like what? (v. 4) What do you think the psalmist means by this?
6. Consequently, how do the wicked differ from the righteous in the outcome of their lifestyle? (v. 5)
7. What is the basis for this conclusion? (v. 6)
8. What important message is being declared in this psalm about the righteous person? (v. 1)

(questions on back)

The futility of fighting against God and His Messiah—Psalm 2:1-12

1. With what question does the psalmist introduce his subject? (v. 1)
2. What are the kings of the earth and the rulers said to be doing? Against whom are they fighting? (v. 2) What do they say that indicates their intentions? (v. 3)
3. How does the Lord view their plans to overthrow him? (v. 4)
4. God's laughter toward those who rebel against him is turned to what? (v. 5) What does God say to them? (v. 6)
5. In verse 7-10 God's king speaks of the decree the Lord spoke to him. What did God say to the king? (v. 7) Who is this king whom God's calls "my Son"? (See Heb. 1:5) On what day was the king "begotten" of God? (See Ac. 13:32-33; Cf. Col. 1:18)
6. What territory does the Lord promise to give to His anointed one (Messiah)? (v. 8) What will this king do to those who oppose him? (v. 9)
7. In view of this, the psalmist issues a warning (v. 10-12). What does the psalmist urge the kings and judges of the earth to do? (v. 10)
8. Instead of opposing the Lord, what are they exhorted to do? How is this worship to be given? (v. 11)
9. Instead of opposing the Lord's Son, what are they exhorted to do? Why? (v. 12)