

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 212—Psalms 20-21)

Introduction: In ancient Israel the king was the spiritual leader of the nation. In addition, he led the forces in battle against their enemies. In these two psalms the writer addresses the king pronouncing God's blessings upon him (Psalm 20) and expressing faith in the Lord's deliverance of him (Psalm 21).

Lesson aim: To show the importance of encouraging our leaders to continue to trust in the Lord.

A psalm of encouragement to those who go out to battle in the Lord's name—Psalm 20:1-9

1. What blessings does the psalmist wish for those who are about to go out in battle? (v. 1-4) Take a moment to consider the significance of each benediction.
2. Was David hopeful that the Lord would grant victory to His people? (v. 5)
3. What does David affirm that the Lord will do? (v. 6) If the psalm is written by David for another king, who would "the Lord's anointed" be?
4. In what did many armies place their trust? (v. 7) What was the result of doing this? (v. 8)
5. In what did the psalmist put his trust? (v. 7b) What was the result of doing this? (v. 8b)
6. What is the final prayer of this psalm? (v. 9)

A psalm of thanksgiving to God for hearing prayers and giving victory over the enemy—Psalm 21:1-13

1. In what did the psalmist say the king would be glad or rejoice? (v. 1)
2. What had the Lord given to the king? (v. 2) Compare this statement with the statement in Psalm 20:4 and notice how the two psalms are related.

3. Make a list of the blessings the king enjoys through the Lord (v. 3-6).
4. In whom did the psalmist say the king placed his trust? (v. 7) What will this enable him to do? (v. 7-10)
5. Would the king's enemies succeed in their plots against him? (v. 11-12)
6. The king's victories are not for the king's glory but to the glory of whom? (v. 13)