

# **A Study of the Wisdom Literature**

## **(OT Survey Lesson 240—Psalms 74-75)**

**Introduction:** These two psalms explore the theme of the judgment of God. In the first, the psalmist pleads for God to vindicate His cause in the face of the affliction of a foreign power. In the second the nearness of God for judgment is celebrated.

**Lesson aim:** To show the importance of looking to God for the judgment of the wicked and the exaltation of the righteous.

### **A prayer for God to vindicate His cause—Psalm 74:1-23**

*This psalm was prompted by the devastation of the sanctuary of God by some enemy power, perhaps during the exploits of Antiochus Epihanes in 167 BC. or during the Babylonian invasion in 588 BC. Consequently, the text-note “a song of Asaph” probably means that this psalm was written in the character of his psalms or by one of his descendants.*

1. With what complaint did the psalmist begin this psalm? (v. 1) What did he ask God to do? (v. 2)
2. What had the enemies of the nation done to the sanctuary? (v. 3) What had they set up in the city? (v. 4)
3. How did the psalmist describe the extent of the damage done? (v. 5-7)
4. Consequently, what was now missing in the land? (v. 9)
5. The psalmist cried out to God with what question? (v. 10-11)
6. Did this apparent abandonment of God cause him to turn from Him in unbelief? (v. 12)
7. What mighty deeds of God did he remember? (v. 13-17)
8. The psalmist asked God to remember what? (v. 18) He pleads with God not to do what? (v. 19)
9. What else did the writer want God to remember? (v. 20) Who did he want to praise God? (v. 21)

10. What did the psalmist urge God to plead? (v. 22) What did he urge Him not to forget? (v. 22)

## **A psalm celebrating the judgment of God against the proud-- Psalm 75:1-10**

*This psalm is associated to the former by its similar theme. However, it is likely that it was written at a different time. Delitzsch suggests the period just before God's judgment of Assyria during the time of Hezekiah. In that case, this psalm would be a declaration of the Israel's trust in the words the prophet Isaiah had given about the fall of Assyria.*

1. Why did the psalmist give thanks to the Lord? (v. 1) What did this cause men to do?
2. *God is portrayed as the speaker in v. 2-5.* What did the Lord say about His judgment? (v. 2) His judgment causes what to happen to the earth? (v. 3) What warning did God give to the boastful and the wicked? (v. 4-5)
3. From where can one not find exaltation? (v. 6) What is its source? (v. 7)
4. What substance is used to picture the wrath of God? (v. 8) What must the wicked do with this cup?
5. What did the psalmist purpose to do? (v. 9)
6. What did he say would happen to the "horns" of the wicked? (v. 10) The righteous?