

A Study of the Wisdom Literature (OT Survey Lesson 261—Psalms 116-118)

Introduction: Psalm 116 expresses praise for a personal blessing the writer has received; but Psalm 118 expresses praise for a national blessing as well. In between them is a short but powerful statement of God's desire that all the world honor him for his goodness.

Lesson aim: To show the appropriate praise to God for His blessings.

A psalm of praise to God for an answered prayer—Psalm 116:1-19

1. What feeling did the psalmist express toward the Lord? (v. 1) Why? What had he called upon Him to do?
2. In what condition had the psalmist found himself? (v. 3) What did he do? (v. 4)
3. Now, what does he affirm about the Lord? (v. 5-6) What can his soul now do? (v. 7) Why? (v. 8)
4. Consequently, what could he now do? (v. 9) What feelings had he expressed during his time of trial? (v. 10-11)
5. With what question does the psalmist begin the second section? (v. 12)
6. What things did the psalmist pledge to do in response to the Lord's blessing? (v. 13-14)
7. What do you think, in view of the context, is the meaning of v. 15? What does the psalmist affirm that he is? (v. 16)
8. What did the psalmist pledge to do in v. 17-19? Where did he want to do these things?

A psalm of praise—Psalm 117:1-2

1. Who does the psalmist urge to praise the Lord? (v. 1)

2. For what two things does the psalmist praise God? (v. 2)
3. What use did Paul make of this psalm in Rom. 15:11?

A festive psalm celebrating God's deliverance—Psalm 118:1-29

(In this festival psalm we are allowed to experience a journey of a group of worshippers toward the temple courts. The psalmist expresses not only his joy for a personal deliverance from God but has been a part of a national deliverance as well. Together he and his fellow-worshippers come to the temple, calling for the gates to open to them. Then praises and sacrifices are offered to the Lord for his wonderful works. Perhaps the psalm belongs to the period after the return from captivity.)

1. What does the psalmist urge the reader to do? (v. 1) Why? Who does he urge to repeat this praise? (v. 2-4)
2. What experience did the psalmist relate in v. 5? What assurance did this give him? (v. 6-7) What words of wisdom does the psalmist offer to his readers? (v. 8-9)
3. What experience did the psalmist relate in v. 10-13? In whose name would he defeat the nations? Why?
4. The psalmist speaks to one who tried to do what to him? (v. 13) What did the Lord do? What then was his hope? (v. 14)
5. What does the psalmist say is heard in the tents of the righteous? (v. 15) What three things does he affirm about “the right hand of the Lord”? (v. 15-16)
6. What hope did this give him? (v. 17) How had the Lord dealt with him? (v. 18)
7. Who or what is “the stone that the builders rejected”? What use does the NT make of this quotation? (See Mt. 21:42; Ac. 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:7)
8. Whose doing does the psalmist believe this is? (v. 23) Who has made the day he celebrates? (v. 24)
9. What then does the psalmist urge God to do? (v. 25) Who do the worshippers declare is “blessed”? (v. 26) Again, what use is made of this quotation in the NT? (See Mt. 21:9ff)

10. What does the psalmist say God has already done? (v. 27) How should his people respond? (v. 27) How does the psalmist express his personal praise? (v. 28) What does he then urge others to do? (v. 29)