

## **A Study of the Wisdom Literature (OT Survey Lesson 269—Psalms 136-138)**

**Introduction:** The three psalms of this study are varied in purpose and scope. The first is seemingly an antiphonal psalm on God's lovingkindness, the second a song from the captivity reflecting the distress of the people there, the third a psalm of David thanking the Lord for deliverance.

**Lesson aim:** To understand the attitudes of those who asked for God's blessings.

### **A psalm rehearsing the everlasting lovingkindness of the Lord—Psalm 136:1-26**

1. In what ways does the psalmist describe God as he urges the reader to "give thanks to Him"? (v. 1-3) Verses 4-9 remind the reader of God's worthiness to be worshipped as what? What things is the Lord said to have done?
2. What acts of the Lord does the psalmist rehearse in v. 10-22?
3. What other deeds of God are mentioned in v. 23-25, making Him worthy of worship?
4. With what final exhortation does the psalmist summarize this psalm? (v. 26)

### **A psalm recalling the experience of the captivity—Psalm 137:1-9**

1. Where did the psalmist say he was? (v. 1) What did he do there? Why?
2. Where did they hang their harps? (v. 2) What did the captors of the people demand of them? (v. 3)
3. How did the captives feel about singing in the foreign land? (v. 4) What city did they want to remember and exalt? (v. 5-6)

4. What people did the captives want God to remember? (v. 7) What had they said while Jerusalem was being attacked?
5. Who did the psalmist say would be blessed? (v. 8) What did the psalmist imagine the avenger doing to the children of the Babylonians? (v. 9)

### **A psalm of praise and hope in God—Psalm 138:1-8**

1. What did God pledge to do to God? (v. 1-2) Why did he desire to give God worship? (v. 2) What specifically had God done for him? (v. 3)
2. Who did David say would give thanks to the Lord? (v. 4) Why? (v. 5)
3. For whom did David say the Lord had regard? (v. 6) What is attitude toward the haughty?
4. What assurance did David have? (v. 7)
5. In what feature of God did David place his trust? (v. 8)