

# **A Study of the Wisdom Literature**

## **(OT Survey Lesson 272—Psalms 144-145)**

**Introduction:** These two psalms round out David's contribution to the Psalter. The first is a prayer for rescue and prosperity and reiterates themes found throughout the psalms of David. The second is an alphabetical psalm praising the Lord for his character and deeds.

**Lesson aim:** To understand why we should praise the Lord.

### **A prayer for deliverance and prosperity—Psalm 144:1-21**

1. How does David describe God in the first two verses? What does he say the Lord does for him?
2. What question does David ask? (v. 3) Why does he ask this question? (v. 4)
3. What does David appeal to God to do? (v. 5-8) Against whom does he desire God's judgment?
4. What does David pledge to sing upon receiving the Lord's blessing? (v. 9-10) What is his plea to God? (v. 11)
5. How does David request of God to bless the children of Israel's parents? (v. 12) Israel's crops and cattle? (v. 13-14)
6. Who does David say is blessed? (v. 15)

### **An alphabetical psalm of praise to God—Psalm 145:1-21**

*(You may wonder why this psalm has only 21 verses, since the Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters. The psalm preserved in the Masoretic tradition has only 21 verses, leaving out the letter nun. However, there has been found among the Dead Sea Scrolls a manuscript that includes a verse for this letter. It appears then that the original psalm had 22 verses and one was omitted through a copyist's error)*

1. How does David indicate his desire to worship God? (v. 1) How often would he do so? (v. 2)
2. How does David express God's worthiness to be praised? (v. 3) How would that praise continue? (v. 4)

3. Upon what would David meditate? (v. 5) Of what would men speak? (v. 6) What would they eagerly utter? (v. 7)
4. What qualities of God are mentioned making Him worthy of praise? (v. 8-9) From what sources would God receive praise? (v. 10-12) For how long did David say the “kingdom of God” would endure? (v. 13)
5. To whom does God show his favor? (v. 14) For what do all living things depend upon God? (v. 15-16)
6. What other things does David affirm about the Lord? (v. 17-18) What does he say the Lord will do? (v. 19-20)
7. What did David purpose to do? (v. 21)