

ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 3 | LESSON 2b

WISDOM LITERATURE – The Promise Pictured Through Israel’s Struggle

God is a PROMISE Caring God




Through Israel’s Journey, God pictures 1) His **DESIGN** and **DESIRE** to 2) **RESCUE** His people from sin and death through a future 3) **KING** who will 4) **RESTORE** them to Himself in the **LAND** 5) for their **JOY**.

“I Will Make the Nations Your Heritage”

The Condition of Man and the Coming Messiah

Psalms 1 & 2

⁸ “Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.” (Ps. 2:8)

	<p>THE HEAD – There are two kinds of people in the world – believers and unbelievers. The righteousness of the believers is through belief in the messiah. Have you believed in the messiah?</p>
	<p>THE HEART – Ps. 1:2 says “Blessed is the man . . . whose delight is in the law of the LORD.” Do you delight in God’s Word? Do you delight in knowing God? Do you delight in Jesus who is God’s Word incarnate?</p>
	<p>THE HAND – Ps 2:11 says “Blessed are all who take refuge in him [the Son].” What does it mean to “take refuge in the Son”? Have you taken refuge in the Son?</p>

EMPHASIS

The Woman’s Seed are those who love God’s Word and look to it as they follow YHWH. The Serpent’s Seed reject God’s Word and choose to rebel against YHWH. In both cases, all nations shall bow before Him.

Psalms 1 and 2 form an introduction, or melodic line to the entire book of Psalms. Psalm 1 points to “Torah Meditation” and Psalm 2 points to “Messiah Anticipation.” Together they represent the theme of all Psalms.

Psalm 1 compares and contrasts the righteous from the wicked. The righteous are those who delight in the “Law of the LORD” (v. 2), meditates on His Word (v. 2), and whom the LORD knows (v.6). Imagery describing the righteous is reminiscent of the Garden in Eden and what will be once again in Revelation.

Psalm 2 points to the promised messiah who will move His people from wickedness to righteousness, from death to life. The world's defiance toward Him will be in vain. He will rule the earth. The righteous will be blessed, and the wicked will perish.

LITERARY CONTEXT

Psalm 1 and 2 form an introduction to all the Psalms. See introductory lesson.

Psalm 1 speaks of the Torah; the Psalms expand on Torah; Torah meditation

Psalm 1 = Sinners/Righteous = theme of whole Bible

Psalm 2 = Promise of King/Messiah

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Neither Psalm 1 nor 2 identify their author. Because of the New Testament, we know Psalm 2 is a Psalm of David from Acts 4:25-26 which quotes Ps 2:1, 2 attributing it to David. Knowing David wrote at least Psalm 2 helps us know David is the king the Psalm points to in the immediate context.

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

Psalm 1: No direct quotes but the imagery is used elsewhere in Psalms as well as other areas of Scripture.

Psalm 2:

v. 1 Nations Rage = see Acts 4:25-26

v. 4 One who sits in heaven laughs = see Ps. 59:8; 37:13

v. 7 You are My Son; today I have begotten you = see Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5, 5:5

v. 9 Break with rod of iron = see Rev. 12:5

STRUCTURE

Psalm 1:

- I. Description of both righteous and wicked (vv. 1-2)
- II. Poetic imagery of the righteous and wicked (vv. 3-4)
- III. Ultimate end of the righteous and wicked (vv. 5-6)

Psalm 2: [Notice the intentional structuring of Psalm 2]

- I. The world's defiance toward the Anointed One (vv. 1-3)
 - a. God determines the Anointed One (vv. 4-6)
 - b. The Anointed One's heritage/authority (vv. 7-9)
- II. The world's proper response toward the Anointed One (vv. 10-12)

Psalm 1 begins with blessing and Psalm 2 ends with blessing forming bookends to these introductory Psalms.

JESUS IN THE TEXT

Psalm 1 shows us the nature of man. He is either wicked (unbeliever) or righteous (believer). This righteousness is Christ's righteousness imparted to the believer. Psalm 2 shows us the way by introducing the concept of a messiah, pictured originally in King David but ultimate realized in Jesus. This is why these two Psalms need to be looked at together.

See Biblical Context above.

APPLICATION

- Unbelievers:
If the LORD knows the way (1:6), seek the LORD and His ways. Submit to God's rule (2:10-11) by acknowledging His Son (2:12a) lest you perish (2:12a).
- Believers:
Thank God He counts you among the righteous thanks to Jesus Christ. Delight in his Word; meditate on Him; Enjoy His presence (blessing). God is ruling and reigning; take refuge in your King (2:12b) and be blessed (2:12b)

VISUALS

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 2:8

"Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession."

RESOURCES