

**Psalm 45 — “The Royal Wedding of King-Messiah”**

“Written for a royal wedding, this psalm is truly Messianic (vv.6-7; Hebrews 1.8-9) and shows us Jesus in His role as the Royal Bridegroom” (William Varner)

Marriage is a picture of Christ and the church. It is a sacred mystery. In fact, the sacredness of Christ’s church is linked to the sacredness of marriage. Christ is the heavenly Bridegroom and the church is His bride (Revelation 21:9). Marriage illustrates this union. The husband is called to be Christlike in his love for his wife because this protects the sacredness of the divine object lesson. The Christian husband therefore displays what he thinks of Christ by the way he treats his wife. And marriage itself is a sacred institution because of what it illustrates.

(John MacArthur)

Marriage is a total commitment and a total sharing of the total person with another person until death.

(Wayne Mack)

- The very first institution that God ever gave to man—pre-fall!—is the covenant bond and life-commitment of **marriage** between one man and one woman. by God’s design, marriage *points* to a *spiritual, lasting, heavenly* marriage — Christ & His Church (Eph 5.30-31).
  - Marriage is a covenant (Mal 2:14; Prov 2:17).
  - Marriage is a picture (Eph 5:22-33)
  - Marriage is a relationship of companionship! (Gen 2:18-25).
    - Ps 45 pictures a royal marriage! A King’s Marriage!

### *Background to Psalm 45*

- **The theme/purpose of Ps 45 — A/authorial Intent:** It’s the Old Testament writer, whose hand is inspired/carried by the Holy Spirit, writing of the coming King-Messiah. And he describes such an awesome, divine & majestic one in the most royal image of an Ancient Near Eastern [ANE] King’s wedding.

### **Messianic Interpretation of Psalm 45**

- The Aramaic Targum translates it and interprets it of Christ (v.2– your Beauty **O KING MESSIAH** is greater than that of the sons of men)
- Ibn Ezra has: “This psalm treats either of David or of his son Messiah, for that is his name.
- Hebrews 1 - this psalm points to and is fulfilled in Christ (Hebrews 1.8-9) (cf. Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, Hengstenberg etc.).
- Spurgeon said: ‘well focused spiritual eyes see here Jesus only... this is no wedding song of earthly vows but one of the heavenly bridegroom!’ ... King Jesus must be praised!”
- JJ Stewart Perowne “A greater than Solomon is here... The outward glory of Solomon was but a type and a foreshadowing of a better glory to be revealed ... A Righteous One was yet to come who should indeed rule in truth and equity... In Him God and Man would in some mysterious manner meet”.
- David Dickson: “The words of this psalm, which cannot be verified/fulfilled in any person except in Jesus Christ alone, and we see the plurality of loves here – to show the reader the excellency of the love of Christ, and the love of God to us in Christ Jesus; wherein we see the perfection of all loves that ever was heard of – for it is a song of love.

➡ So then: I believe that the biblical writer is writing as if he saw the Divine Person, whom he is about to celebrate as standing before him. Psalm 45 is often listed with Psalms 2, 16, 22, and 110 as being *completely* Messianic. It is a royal psalm of Messiah’s kingship in the *image of a wedding*. This Coming Messiah is the Ultimate Bridegroom!

***Marriage Customs in the ANE*** (Ancient Near East):

1. Betrothal
2. Dowry
3. Wedding Ceremony

**THESIS — PSALM 45 presents your royal Messiah in 3 majestically unrivaled Truths:**

(1) he is KING (2) he is GOD (3) he is LORD

### **I. HE IS KING (1-5)**

His BEAUTY (v.2)

His DEITY (v.3)

His VICTORY (v.4-5)

### **II. HE IS GOD (6-9)**

He is ETERNAL (v.6)

He is UPRIGHT (v.6)

He is HOLY (v.7)

He is GLAD (v.7)

He is UNRIVALED (v.8-9)

### **III. HE IS LORD (10-17)**

You must LEAVE (v.10)

You must CLEAVE (v.11)

You must WEAVE (v.12-15)

*All fairest beauty, heavenly and earthly, Wondrously, Jesus, is found in Thee;  
None can be nearer, fairer or dearer, Than Thou, my Savior, art to me.*

— Joseph Seiss

## **THE KING IN ALL HIS BEAUTY**

### **Verse 1**

O lift your eyes to heaven, see  
The Holy One eternal  
Behold the Lord of majesty  
Exalted in His temple  
As symphonies of angels praise  
Now strain to sound His glory  
Come worship, fall before His grace  
The King in all His beauty

### **Chorus**

How worthy, how worthy, how worthy  
The King in all His beauty

### **Verse 2**

Now see the King who wears a crown

One made of shame and splinters  
The sacrifice for ruined man  
The substitute for sinners  
As earth is stained with royal blood  
And quakes with love and fury  
He breathes His last and bows His head  
The King in all His beauty

### **Verse 3**

Now see the Savior lifted up  
The Lamb who reigns in splendor  
The hope of every tribe and tongue  
His kingdom is forever!  
Bring praise and honor to His courts  
Bring wisdom, power, blessing  
For endless ages we'll adore  
The King in all His beauty

**YOUR EYES WILL SEE THE KING IN ALL HIS BEAUTY.** They will behold a far-distant land!" [Isaiah 33:17]

If God is mine, then I shall dwell on high with Him forever. I am traveling to a world where I shall be fully satisfied.

1) My **intellect** will have her blessing then. Just now I am learning many glorious lessons in the school of Jesus; but there are questions of the mind which remain unanswered, and problems which are still unsolved. But by and by I shall know even as also I am known--clearly, unerringly, perfectly.

2) My **conscience** will have her blessing then. Since Christ became mine, her troublesome accusations have been stilled, and her governing power has been restored. But she has her fears even yet, and her difficulties and uncertainties. It is not quite the full noon in the realm of conscience. But, when she walks with the Lamb in white, all the shadows will be gone.

3) My **will**, too, will have her blessing then. By the grace of God, I have an obedient will now, whose delight is to run the way of the Master's commandments. Yes--but traces of the old rebelliousness linger within me, to my own sorrow and shame. When I see the King, I shall gladly serve Him day and night!

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4) And my **heart** will have her blessing then. Jesus has met her craving for love; and yet she is crying out for more of His presence and Himself--more and more! But, in the far-distant land, my heart's most daring requests will find their fullest response, and she is content and at rest.

What stores of happiness, what rivers of pleasures, are at His right hand! (Alexander Smellie, 1899)

**THE SANDS OF TIME ARE SINKING**

The sands of time are sinking,  
The dawn of Heaven breaks;  
The summer morn I've sighed for,  
The fair, sweet morn awakes;  
Dark, dark hath been the midnight,  
But dayspring is at hand,  
And glory, glory dwelleth  
In Immanuel's land.

The King there in His beauty,  
Without a veil is seen;  
It were a well spent journey,  
Though sev'n deaths lay between;  
The Lamb with His fair army  
Doth on Mount Zion stand,  
And glory, glory dwelleth  
In Immanuel's land.

O Christ, He is the fountain,  
The deep, deep well of love;  
The streams on earth I've tasted,  
More deep I'll drink above;  
There to an ocean fullness  
His mercy doth expand,  
And glory, glory dwelleth  
In Immanuel's land.

The bride eyes not her garments,  
But her dear Bridegroom's face;  
I will not gaze at glory  
But on my King of grace;  
Not at the crown He giveth,  
But on His pierced hand;  
The Lamb is all the glory  
Of Immanuel's land.

**PSALM 45: PSALTER (Isaac Watts)**

*Tune: The Doxology*

Now be my heart inspired to sing  
The glories of my Savior King,  
Jesus the Lord; how heav'nly fair  
His form! how bright his beauties are!

O'er all the sons of human race  
He shines with a superior grace;  
Love from his lips divinely flows,  
And blessings all his state compose.

Thy throne, O God, for ever stands,  
Grace is the scepter in thy hands;  
Thy laws and works are just and right,  
Justice and grace are thy delight.

God, thine own God, has richly shed  
His oil of gladness on thy head,  
And with his sacred Spirit blessed  
His first-born Son above the rest.

The King of saints, how fair his face,  
Adorned with majesty and grace!  
He comes with blessings from above,  
And wins the nations to his love.

Let endless honors crown his head;  
Let ev'ry age his praises spread;  
While we with cheerful songs approve  
The condescensions of his love.

It is easy to love earthly things excessively; but it  
is impossible to love Christ too much!

— William Plumer