

PSALM 45

To the Chief Musician (1 word – לְמַנְצֵחַ)

According to the Lilies (2 words – עַל - שְׁשׁוּנִים)

Of the sons of Korah (2 words – לְבָנֵי - קֹרַח)

A maskil (1 word – מַשְׁכִּיל)

A song of love songs (2 words – שִׁיר יְדִידוֹת)

v. 1 – My heart was stirred up (with) a good word, (4 words – רָחַשׁ לְבִי דְבַר טוֹב)

I am saying my works to a king, (4 words – אֶמְרָא אֲנִי מַעֲשֵׂי לְמַלְךָ)

my tongue, a stylus, a skilled scribe. (4 words – לְשׁוֹנִי עֵט סוֹפֵר מְהִיר)

v. 2 – You were more beautiful than sons of man, (3 words – יִפְיִפִּיתָ מִבְּנֵי אָדָם)

grace was poured out upon your lips; (3 words – הַיּוֹצֵק חֵן בְּשִׁפְתוֹתֶיךָ)

Therefore, (2 words – עַל - כֵּן)

God has blessed you forever. (3 words – בֵּרַכְךָ אֱלֹהִים לְעוֹלָם)

Compare v. 17 – therefore, forever

v. 3 – (You) gird your sword upon the thigh, (4 words – חָגוּר - חֶרֶבְךָ עַל - יָרֵךְ)

O mighty one, (1 word – גִּבּוֹר)

(in) your majesty and your splendor. (2 words – הַיּוֹדֵךְ וְהַדְרָךְ)

Note the ה/ה, “ke/ka” at the end of four words.

There are five words with an ר, resh – an “r”.

The first word is hagar; the word in line two is gibbor, the last word is a noun – hadar.

v. 4 – And (in) your splendor, (1 word – וְהַדְרָךְ)

(you) be successful, (1 word – צָלַח)

(you) ride upon the word of truth and the occupation of righteousness.

(רָכַב עַל - דְּבַר - אֱמֶת וְעִנְוָה - צַדִּיק)

and let it teach you fearful deeds - your right hand. (3 words – וְתוֹרָךְ נוֹרְאוֹת יְמִינְךָ)

The verse begins with the exact same word that ends verse 3.

The translations follow the Septuagint – humility instead of occupation.

v. 5 – Your arrows are being sharpened, (2 words – חֲצִיץ שְׁנוּנִים)

peoples beneath you are falling, (3 words – עַמִּים תַּחְתֶּיךָ יִפְּלוּ)

in the heart of the enemies of the king. (3 words – בְּלֵב אוֹיְבֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ)

The middle line interrupts the thought.

v. 6 – Your throne, O God, (is) forever and ever, (4 words – בְּסֵאֵף אֱלֹהִים עוֹלָם וָעֶד)

a scepter of uprightness (is) a scepter of your kingdom.

(שֵׁבֶט מִיֶּשֶׁר שֵׁבֶט מַלְכוּתְךָ - 4 words)

v. 7 – You loved righteousness and you hated wickedness, (4 words – אָהַבְתָּ צְדָקָה וּתְשׁוּנָה רָשָׁע)
therefore, (2 words – עַל - כֵּן)

God your God anointed you (with) oil of joy more than your companions.

(6 words – מָשַׁחְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהֶיךָ שֶׁמֶן שִׂשׁוֹן מִחֲבֵרֶיךָ)

v. 8 – Myrrh and aloes, cassias, (anoint) all your garments,

(מר - וְאֶהְלוֹת קִצְיֵעוֹת כָּל - בְּגָדֶיךָ (5 words)

out of palaces of ivory, stringed instruments make you glad.

(מִן - הַיְכָלִי שֶׁן מִנֵּי שִׁמְחֹדֶךָ (5 words)

All five words in the first line contain an “o”.

The first word in each line begins with מ – mem, an “m”.

The last word in each line ends with ק – “ka”.

v. 9 – Daughters of kings (are) among your noble women, (3 words – בָּנוֹת מְלָכִים בְּיִקְרוֹתֶיךָ)
a queen stood at your right hand in the gold of Ophir.

(נֹצֵבָה שָׁגַל לַיְמִינְךָ בְּכֶתֶם אוֹפִיר - (5 words)

v. 10 – (You) listen, (1 word – שָׁמְעִי -)

O daughter, (1 word – בַּת)

and (you) see, (1 word – וּרְאִי)

and (you) incline your ear, (2 words – וְהִטִּי אָזְנוֹךָ)

and (you) forget your people and the house of your father, (4 words – וְשָׁכַחְתִּי עַמֶּךָ וּבֵית אָבִיךָ)

There are six commands to the daughter, two in verse 11.

v. 11 – and let the king crave your beauty, (3 words – וַיִּתְאָוּ הַמֶּלֶךְ יָפְנוֹךָ)

for he is your lord, (3 words – כִּי - הוּא אֲדֹנֶיךָ)

and (you) bow down to him. (2 words – וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִי - לוֹ)

v.12 – And daughter of Tyre, (2 words – וּבַת - צַר)

with a gift, your face, the rich ones of the people, will appease.

(בְּמִנְחָה פָּנֶיךָ יִחְלוּ עֲשִׂירֵי עָם - (5 words)

The “your” in line two is feminine; thus, the daughter of Tyre is addressed.

v. 13 – All of the riches (are on) the daughter of the king inside,

(כָּל - כְּבוֹדָה בַּת - מְלָךְ פְּנִימָה - (5 words)

from settings of gold (are) her garments. (3 words – מִמְּשִׁבּוֹת זָהָב לְבוּשָׁה)

The word for gold is the normal one here. The different word for gold in v. 9 may be a loan word from Ophir, or a different kind of gold – fine gold.

v. 14 – In regard to variegated fabric, she shall be brought to the king,
 (3 words – לְרַקְמוֹת תּוֹבֵל לְמֶלֶךְ)
 virgins, her companions behind her, are being brought to you.

(5 words – בְּתוּלוֹת אַחֲרֶיהָ רְעוּתֶיהָ מוּבְאוֹת לְךָ)
 “She” in line one and “her” in line two refer to the daughter of the king.
 The “you” in line two is feminine; thus, the daughter of Tyre is still addressed.

v. 15 – They shall be brought with joys and rejoicing, (3 words – תּוֹבְלָנָה בְּשִׂמְחָה וְגִיל)
 they shall come into the palace of the king. (3 words – תְּבֹאִינָה בְּהִיכַל מְלֶכְךָ)

Synthetic Parallelism
 Two words for bring/come, used once each in both verse 14 and verse 15.
 “They” in both lines is feminine referring to the daughter of the king and the virgins.

v. 16 – Instead of your fathers will be your sons, (4 words – תַּחַת אֲבֹתֶיךָ יְהִיוּ בְנֶיךָ)
 you shall set them for princes in all the earth. (4 words – תִּשְׁתַּמּוּ לְשָׂרִים בְּכָל - הָאָרֶץ)
 “Your” in line one and “you” in line two are all masculine, referring to the king.

v. 17 – Let me cause to remember your name in every generation and generation,
 (5 words – אֲזַכֵּירָה שְׁמֶךָ בְּכָל - דָּר וָדָר)
 therefore, (2 words – עַל - כֵּן)
 peoples will praise you forever and ever. (4 words – עַמִּים יְהוֹדֶךָ לְעֹלָם וָעֶד)
 Note the repeated words at the end of each line.

Broader Structure:

Title	God – 4x (one refers to the king?)
v. 1 – The Son of Korah Speaks	Psalmist – 5x
vv. 2-9 – Addressing the King/Praising the Royal Groom	King – King – 6x; mighty one, master
vv. 10-15 – Addressing the Queen/ Calling the Royal Queen	- you – 30x
vv. 16-17 – The King’s Legacy	- he/him – 2x
	Queen – you – 12x
	- she/her – 4x

Title
 v. 1 – The Psalmist Writes For the King
 vv. 2-5 – The Beauty and Splendor of the King
 vv. 6-9 – The Throne and Glory of the King
 vv. 10-12 – The Queen Leaves and Cleaves
 vv. 13-15 – The Bridal Party
 v. 16 – Progeny of the King
 v. 17 – The Psalmist Memorializes the King

Title
 A – v. 1 – Introduction
 B – vv. 2-5 – Four Petitions for the King
 C – vv. 6-9 – The Glory of the Groom
 B¹ – vv. 10-12 – Six Petitions for the Bride
 C¹ – vv. 13-15 – The Glory of the Bride
 A¹ – vv. 16-17 – Conclusion