

THE MESSIAH KING TAKES A BRIDE
Psalm 45

Psalm 45

My heart overflows with a pleasing theme;

I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

2 You are the most handsome of the sons of men;
grace is poured upon your lips;
therefore God has blessed you forever.

3 Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,
in your splendor and majesty!

4 In your majesty ride out victoriously
for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness;
let your right hand teach you awesome deeds!

5 Your arrows are sharp
in the heart of the king's enemies;
the peoples fall under you.

6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.
The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

7 you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

8 your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.
From ivory palace stringed instruments make you glad;

9 daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor;
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

10 Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear:
forget your people and your father's house,

11 and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him.

12 The people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts,
the richest of the people.

13 All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold.

14 In many-colored robes she is led to the king, with her virgin companions following behind her.

15 With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king.

16 In place of your fathers shall be your sons; you will make them princes in all the earth.

17 I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

ESV_

PSALM 45 WAS WRITTEN for a royal wedding.

It tells of a powerful king who is about to take a bride, and of a beautiful woman, who with her attendants, is about to enter the king's palace.

The identity of this king is uncertain. It may be Solomon; but he was not as warlike as this king. Ahab is a possibility; but he and his wife worshipped Baal. It is not necessary to identify this king as long as we see what the Holy Spirit intends for us to understand about the messianic implications of this psalm.

The messianic character of this psalm is established by the comparison of verses 6-7 with Hebrews 1:8-9.

Psalm 45

6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.

The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

7 you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you

with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

Hebrews 1

8 But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

ESV

All through the Bible the bridegroom and bride analogy is made for Christ and His church. The very first institution set up by God was the marriage of Adam and Eve: Adam is clearly a type of Christ. Hosea, who loves and provides for a harlot, pictures Christ's love for his people who were once spiritual harlots.

The New Testament has many references to Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as His bride. With this thought in mind we will look at Psalm 45:

1. INTRODUCTION

Psalm 45:1

See first the excitement of the writer at the prospect of the marriage of his king. We would do well to have this kind of enthusiasm at the prospect of our marriage to Christ being consummated.

2. The KING's BEAUTY

Psalm 45:2

This language may seem a little flowery to us but this was normal for those who spoke to and about kings. While this may seem excessive for a human king, it well serves the Messiah. {Cf. Luke 4:20-22; John 7:46}

Luke 4:20-23

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." **22** And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

John 7:45-46

45 The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" **46** The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!"

3. The KING's POWER

Psalm 45:3-5

The king is called on to go out to battle, not for conquest, but "because of truth, humility, and righteousness." While it is not possible to identify a human king who fits these motives, it aptly describes Messiah as the Righteous Ruler.

4. The KING's PERSON

Psalm 45:6-8

Even the Jews sometimes addressed their king as virtual divinity. Jesus acknowledged this usage when He quoted Psalm 82:6 (John 10:34-36).

Psalm 82:6-7

6 I said, "You are gods,
sons of the Most High, all of you;
7 nevertheless, like men you shall die,
and fall like any prince."

John 10:31-39

31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. **32** Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" **33** The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." **34** Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? **35** If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— **36** do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? **37** If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; **38** but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." **39** Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

The point, however, is that the Holy Spirit established in the Hebrews passage that the intent here is a reference to Jesus the Christ.

Only in Messiah can the words of this psalm have perfect fulfillment.

It is hard for us to relate to the oils and spices and the way they were used. Imagine a time when people did not take a bath and deodorants were unknown.

5. The KING's BRIDE

Psalm 45:9-15

Among the women who attend this king are king's daughters, yet his bride is preferred over them. The gold of Ophir (we don't know where Ophir was) was highly prized.

All of this, when understood in New Testament terms, shows the value Christ places on the church, His bride. Read this passage and try to imagine yourself as a Christian being the object of these words!

6. The KING's SONS

Psalm 45:16-17

Finally, the king is addressed again, and now his new bride also, with the customary blessing of expected offspring. It is not stretching the analogy too far to apply this to spiritual offspring.

Many years ago, Harry Barraclough wrote this song based on verse 8:

My Lord has garments so wondrous fine,
And myrrh their texture fills;
Its fragrance reached to this heart of mine,
With joy my being thrills.
His life had also its sorrows sore,
For aloes had a part;
And when I think of the cross He bore.
My eyes with teardrops start.
His garments too were in cassia dipped,
With healing in a touch;
Each time my feet in some sin have slipped,
He took me from its clutch.
In garments glorious He will come,
To open wide the door;
And I shall enter my heavenly home,
To dwell forevermore.
Out of the ivory palaces,
Into a world of woe,
Only His great, eternal love
Made my Saviour go.

Jim Gunn, May 7, 2014