

A Wedding Song for Jesus Psalm 45

Intro: There's probably nothing more special to a young lady than planning her wedding day. Among the important choices she'll make with her husband was what kind of wedding music will we have?

One of the interesting things about the psalms is that they also include music not only for worship but also for various other occasions, including wedding music. For an example, let's turn tonight to Psalm 45.

When one reads Psalm 45 it becomes almost immediately evident that it is written for a very special occasion. One can clearly see that it is a wedding song designed for very important person and his bride; but for whom? Let's try to solve the mystery together.

The poet, a son of Korah, introduces his song with exuberance and joy.

My heart overflows with a good theme; I address my verses to the King;
My tongue is the pen of a ready writer. (Psalm 45:1)

A Wedding Poem for the King and His Bride

The poet's message to the Groom

He acknowledges the King's excelling handsomeness and character

Thou art fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Thy lips; Therefore God has blessed Thee forever. (Psalm 45:2)

The message is that this king is handsome outside and gracious inside. He is worthy of the lasting blessing of the Lord.

He acknowledges the King's excelling skill in battle

Gird Thy sword on Thy thigh, O Mighty One, in Thy splendor and Thy majesty! And in Thy majesty ride on victoriously, for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; Let Thy right hand teach Thee awesome things. Thine arrows are sharp; The peoples fall under Thee; Thine arrows are in the heart of the King's enemies. (Psalm 45:3-5)

This king is successful in battle. He has conquered his enemies and He is urged to continue his conquest in cause of truth, meekness, and righteousness. The psalmist prays that His might will be used successfully in keeping with His splendor and majesty.

He acknowledges the King's excelling justice in ruling

Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Thy God,

has anointed Thee with the oil of joy above Thy fellows. (Psalm 45:6-7)

The poet acknowledges that this king has made the will of God His standard for conduct. His heart loves what is right; it hates what is wrong. And because of this God has exalted him to greatness above all kings.

He acknowledges the King's excelling glory

His glory is seen in his robes

All Thy garments are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia; (Psalm 45:8)

His glory is seen in his palace

Out of ivory palaces stringed instruments have made Thee glad (Ps. 45:8b)

His glory is seen in his court

Kings' daughters are among Thy noble ladies; at Thy right hand stands the queen in gold from Ophir. (Psalm 45:9)

The poet's message to the Bride

The poet's message to the bride is designed to encourage her to enter into marriage with the king with joy and privilege.

He encourages her to see the surpassing privilege of entering the king's family.

Listen, O daughter, give attention and incline your ear; Forget your people and your father's house; Then the King will desire your beauty; (Psalm 45:10)

The idea is not that the bride would no longer love her family; but the idea is that she would see the surpassing privilege of becoming the king's bride.

He encourages her to submit to the king as her lord

Because He is your Lord, bow down to Him. (Psalm 45:11)

The bride is urged to willingly submit to His leadership.

He assures her that her relationship to the king will bring her honor and blessing.

And the daughter of Tyre will come with a gift; The rich among the people will entreat your favor. (Psalm 45:12)

(Apparently she said "yes". For now the poet describes her on her wedding day).

The poet's description of the beauty of the wedding

The King's daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is interwoven with gold. She will be led to the King in embroidered work; the virgins, her companions who follow her, will be brought to Thee. They will be led forth with gladness and rejoicing; they will enter into the King's palace. (Psalm 45:13-15)

The picture the psalmist portrays is a beautiful bride coming to the King's palace along with her maidens. It is a day of joy for the couple.

The poet's description of the glorious future

In place of your fathers will be your sons; you shall make them princes in all the earth. (Psalm 45:16-17)

This marriage will be fruitful. The sons born of this union will reign over the nation forever. And as for the king and his bride, they'll never be forgotten; for the people yet to come will thankfully remember them and the blessings that their marriage will have brought to the generations to come.

I will cause Thy name to be remembered in all generations; therefore the peoples will give Thee thanks forever and ever.

The Identification of the King and His Bride

Surely one who reads this poem can see that its language is ideal. The psalmist is describing the perfect king and the wonderful blessings of union with Him.

But who is this king?

Is it one of the kings of Israel?

It is possible that its idealistic language might with poetic license describe one of Israel's great and righteous kings like David, Solomon, Hezekiah, etc. However, some of the wording seems to point to someone far superior to any human being. It sounds too perfect to be any man. And there is even the reference to the king as "God", a thing not impossible in poetic literature, but possibly pointing beyond any king on Israel's throne.

Is there another possibility? A higher fulfillment of the poet's words?

The NT church found the solution in the person of Jesus.

The Hebrew writer quotes this very psalm as proof of the superior relationship of Jesus Christ, our great king, to the angels of heaven:

And of the angels He says, "Who makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire." But of the Son He says, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy companions."

(Hebrews 1:7-9)

It is as if the Hebrew writer understands that if there is anyone who could fulfill those words of the psalmist it would be Jesus. He is truly the perfect king in every way.

Who is the bride?

If we are satisfied that the ideal king is Jesus, then it becomes obvious that the ideal bride is the new Israel, His church.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. (Ephesians 5:25-27)

What then is the message that Psalm 45 contains for the believer?

Our king is perfect in every way. He is gracious in character, righteous in his rule, powerful in warfare, and victorious over his enemies. The grounds of his perfection is His divine nature which the Hebrew writer clearly affirms. Jesus was not merely a man; He was God the Son who came and lived upon this earth.

We should consider it a great privilege to be his “bride”. We should be willing to abandon every earthly allegiance and submit to him as Lord, eagerly awaiting the blessing and honor that will come to us through our relationship with him.

The marriage of Christ and His people is one of the most glorious and beautiful experiences of this life.

The relationship of Christ and His church will bring the greatest blessings to the world now and forevermore. The fruit of this relationship will cause those to come to give thanks forever for this union.

Conclusion: Psalm 45 turns out to be a wedding song for Jesus’ wedding to His bride, the church. I could wish that we could sing it in the words of the psalmist. But since we cannot, we might sing another song that is based on the wonderful truths of Psalm 45. Let’s sing together “Ivory Palaces” (#896). His glory in heaven, His suffering on earth, His return for His bride.