

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 225—Psalms 44-45)

Introduction: It is difficult to determine the exact time of the writing of Psalm 44 (Keil suggests the period of the Maccabees); but the message of the psalm is clear. The psalmist appeals to the Lord to relieve the sufferings of His people who do not seem worthy of the afflictions they experience. The 45th psalm celebrates a marriage of one of Israel's kings (Joram?, 2 Kg. 8:16). Perhaps it was hoped that he would elevate Israel to a new level of righteousness after the reign of his wicked predecessors. However, no king of Israel could fully exhaust its ideal language. The Hebrew writer quotes it as referring to the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:8-9)

Lesson aim: To show the beautiful picture of Christ and the church depicted in the relationship of a king and his new bride.

A psalm of petition for God to come to the aid of his faithful people—Psalm 44:1-26

1. The psalmist remembers what events in Israel's past? (v. 1-2) Were Israel's successes due to their own sword and arm? (v. 3)
2. What does the psalmist urge God now to do? (v. 4) What did he say would result? (v. 5) In what would he not put his trust? (v. 6) How did he say God had dealt with His people in the past? (v. 7-8)
3. Now the psalmist says that the Lord has done what? (v. 9-16)
4. What has been the state of the nation in spite of this time of affliction? (v. 17-18) Yet what had been their experience? (v. 19)
5. Had Israel been unfaithful to the Lord, would they have deserved such treatment? (v. 20-21) Would God have known of their unfaithfulness?
6. How did the psalmist describe the condition of the nation? (v. 22) What use did Paul make of this verse in Romans 8:22?

A psalm celebrating the wedding of the king—Ps. 45:1-17

1. The psalmist indicates that his words are to be addressed to whom? (v. 1)
What observation does the psalmist make first about the king? (v. 2)
2. What is the king pictured as doing in v. 3-5? His is a cause of what four things? (v. 4)
3. In v. 6, the king is called what? What does the psalmist say about the king's throne and the king's scepter? What is the king's attitude toward righteousness and lawlessness? (v. 7) Consequently, what has the Lord done to him?
4. How is the king attired? (v. 8) In what kind of house does he live?
5. Who is among the king's noble ladies? (v. 9)
6. In v. 10, it appears that the psalmist addresses the daughter of another king. What does he urge her to do? (v. 10) How does he urge her to act toward him? (v. 11) What will be the result of her marriage to the king? (v. 12)
7. Now in v. 13 the psalmist describes the King's daughter who will marry the King of Israel. How is she described? (v. 13) What is the spirit of those who accompany her? (v. 15)
8. What will come forth from the union of these two in marriage? (v. 16)
What positions will they occupy?
9. Consequently the king's name will be remembered for how long? What will the peoples do to the king?
10. Thought question: Who is this king and his bride? What is the fulfillment of this beautiful picture? (See Heb. 1:8-9)