

Psalm 45
The Marriage of the King

- I The formal structure of the psalm
- A. It is a love song.
1. It is celebrating the marriage of the king
 - a) It does not say which king, although many scholars believe it is dealing with the marriage of Solomon to the daughter of Pharaoh.
 - b) It was used in the Temple service because it is for the sons of Korah (priests).
 2. It was composed by a poet and then written down.
 - a) My **tongue** is the pen of a ready writer.
 - b) The poet was filled with the excitement of the occasion.
 - 1) My heart overflows with a good theme.
 - 2) Literally the word boils or bubbles over.
 - c) His verses are addressed to the king (verse 1).
- B. There are four sections to the poem.
1. Verse one is the Introduction.
 2. Verses 2-9 are an address to the groom.
 3. Verses 10-15 are an address to the bride.
 4. Verses 16-17 are the conclusion.
- C. Ancient wedding customs.
1. Boice: In ancient times the first step leading to a wedding was the betrothal. This was a very formal act, usually arranged by the parents of the future bride and groom, though quite often taking the wishes of their children into account. Betrothal meant more than engagement does to us. It was a legal procedure enacted before witnesses and confirmed by oaths taken by the couple. It was so weighty a matter that the couple could be called husband and wife, even though there had been no physical union. That was the case with Joseph and Mary at the time Jesus was conceived. It required ... a divorce to break this covenanted union... there was often a long delay between the betrothal and the time of the wedding itself. When the day of the wedding finally came, the friends and attendants of the bride gathered at the bride's home, where she prepared herself in her finest clothing and jewelry. At the same time, the attendants of the groom would gather at his house. Then there would be a grand procession through the streets of the city as the groom and his attendants went to fetch the bride, followed by a second procession of the entire party, both the bride and groom's entourage, from the bride's home back to the groom's. At the groom's home there would be a joyful wedding feast, which could last as long as one or two weeks, depending on the status and wealth of the groom's family.
 2. Boice: Jesus' parable about the five wise and five foolish virgins has as its setting such a returning procession and feast.
- D. Address to the groom.
1. You are fairer than the sons of men.
 - a) Literally it is beautiful-beautiful.
 - b) Hebrew for you are more beautiful...
 - c) It is not speaking of his physical beauty, but his character.
 2. Grace is poured upon Your lips.

Craigie: *"The reference here is to his manner of speaking, as corresponding with the beauty of his person...the gentleness; the kindness; the persuasive eloquence of his words."*
 3. He fights for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness.

4. He is a Mighty One (verse 3) whose throne is forever and ever (verse 6).
- E. Address to the Bride.
 1. Forget the past
 - a) Forget your people and your father's house (verse 10).
 - b) She was apparently a foreign bride.
 - c) This was important (Listen, give attention (behold), incline your ear).
 2. Honor your lord (bow down to him).

F. Verse 13 – 15 describe the return procession to the King's house.

1. Verse 14: She will be led to the King...
2. As Eve was brought to Adam by God.
3. As wives are brought to their husbands by God.
4. As saints are brought to Christ by God.

II Psalm is not about an earthly king – it is about Christ.

A. Hebrews 1:8 **But of the Son He says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.**

1. The Son spoken of is Jesus Christ.
2. The He is God the Father.
3. God the Father calls Jesus God and promises that His throne will be eternal.
4. Therefore, the psalm is about Jesus Christ, who is God and who will reign forever.

B. The King in view is Christ the King.

1. He is the One who is more beautiful than the sons of men.
2. He has had "Grace poured upon Your lips..."
 - a) Lk. 4:22: **"And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips..."**
 - b) Jn. 7:46: **"The officers answered, "Never did a man speak the way this man speaks.""**
3. He is the Mighty One who rides forth in splendor and majesty for the cause of truth.
 - a) Craigie: *"The "object of his conquests was to secure the reign of truth over the minds of the people.""*
 - b) Jn. 18:37-38: **Pilate therefore said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"**
 - c) Heb. 4:12; **For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing, as far as the division of soul and spirit...and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

C. The bride in view is the Church.

1. The betrothal was sometimes a long time prior to the consummation.
 - a) As we are betrothed to Christ, yet the consummation is still future.
 - b) Eph. 1:4: **...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.**
2. The psalm gives advice to us as the bride of Christ.
 - a) Verse 10: Three commands focus on the importance of the advice.
 - 1) Listen, give attention (behold), incline your ear.
 - 2) Verse 11: Forget your people and your father's house.
 - (a) We are all foreign brides in the Church.
 - (b) Eph. 2:3: We all **"...were by nature children of wrath..."**
 - (c) Matt 10:37: **"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."**
 - (d) Luke 9:61-62: **And another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." 62 But Jesus said**

to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

- (e) Those who become the bride of Christ must be willing to forsake **all** for Him. We must forsake the world and be devoted to serving/worshipping Him.
 - (f) Verse 11: Then the King will desire your beauty...
 - (g) By devoting herself to the King, the bride secures His affection.
 - (h) As a wife should devote herself to her husband and so secure his love.
- b) Because He is your Lord, bow down to Him.
- 1) We must honor Christ above everything else.
 - 2) You cannot serve God and mammon.
 - 3) You cannot serve two husbands.
 - 4) Chantry: *"If a marriage union is to endure, the husband must express his love to his wife by tenderly cherishing her as part of his own body, by considerateness, by sharing all the goodness of God in his life with her. She in turn must express love by holding her husband in high esteem and by submitting to him in all things. Thus the church must bow down to Christ both because he is her Lord and Sovereign and because he is her Lord and Husband. Since the bride loves her Lord, it is a pleasant thing to serve his interests. She desires to bring Christ honor, to fulfill his will, to worship his name."*
3. We wait for our husband and Lord to return and take us home.
- a) 1 Th. 1:9-10: Christians have "...**turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.**"
 - b) Jn. 14: 2-3: **"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, you may be also."**