

The Wedding of the Glorious King

Psalm 45

Today, I want us all to think about a wedding. Some of you have attended a wedding this summer. Weddings in our culture share certain things in common. The church is decked out in flowers. There are rings, bridesmaids and groomsmen, a flower girl and a ring bearer. And then there is that part when everyone stands. Who is it who everyone wants to see? The bride, of course. She'll be coming down the aisle, dressed in a dazzling white gown. It's her show, and all eyes are on her.

That's not what we see in Psalm 45, however. Here it is the Groom who is the center of attention. Perhaps one reason for his prominence is that he is also the King. But it may have been that the groom was more prominent in ancient times than the bride.

In our Psalm today, we find a Glorious King, on the day of his wedding. And as we look at it more closely, we will see that this King is none other than Jesus. And we can find ourselves here too, as part of his Bride.

Introduction - vs. 1

A. About this Psalm

1. A song
2. A song to the King
 - Not addressed to God, but to the King.
 - Could have been for Solomon's wedding (?)
3. A Love Song
 - Similar to Song of Solomon
 - A song about love – a wedding song
4. A Messianic Psalm

- As we read this, it becomes obvious that it is Messianic
- This is hinted at by the exaggerated praise (v. 2)
- By the title "God" (v. 6, cf. Heb. 1:8-9)
- By the fact that he is anointed (Messiah = Anointed One)
- By the extent and duration of his fame (v. 16-17)

B. About the Psalmist

1. We get a glimpse at the mind of the Psalmist.
2. He is overflowing with praise for the King.
3. He intends his Psalm to be for the King.
4. He is the eager scribe.
5. His writing this Psalm will bring about the eternal fame of the King (see v. 17).

I. The King's Glory – vs. 2-9

A. His Striking Presence – vs. 2

1. Most impressive
 - Handsome / excellent / Most excellent / beyond the sons of men
 - Not just appearance but character (as the whole Psalm will show)
 - Cf. Song of Solomon 5:10 "Fairest of ten thousand"
2. Gracious speech
 - Kings are set apart by their speech
 - Not just excellent words but gracious – words of grace (Gospel / favor / mercy)
 - Cf. Luke 4:22 "all... were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips."
 - Cf. John 7:46 "No one ever spoke like this man!"
3. Divinely Blessed
 - This grace in speech, and excellence of character is evidence that God has blessed him forever.

- Forever – hints at the True King this Psalm refers to
- Cf. Rom. 9:5 “Christ who is God over all, blessed forever.”

B. His Majestic Valor – vs. 3-5

1. Mighty One
 - Kings are the Champions
 - They fight the battles for their people
 - Who wants a wimpy King?
 - This King is Mighty
2. Majesty and Splendor
 - He is known for might, majesty and splendor
 - Sword on his thigh – where it belongs and is often seen.
 - Ride out victoriously – lead the army from your chariot
 - Awesome Deeds – story-worthy exploits / renown
 - Sharp Arrows in the heart of your enemies
 - As a people we want our enemies taken out, and we rejoice when it is the King’s arrows in their hearts
 - Peoples fall under you – they submit and pay tribute
 - All of this means the King’s people are safe and their importance is furthered by the King’s reach
 - Cf. Rev. 6:2 “he [rode] out conquering and to conquer”
3. Fighting for Justice
 - Not just fighting to fight, but fighting for a cause
 - Truth and meekness and righteousness
 - Cf. Rev. 19:11 “...a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.”

C. His Righteous Rule – vs. 6-7a

1. A Throne - forever.
 - the throne is given to him (by God) and will last forever
 - This may point to the Davidic Covenant, 1 Sam. 7

2. The King is called “God”.
 - “God” is a title that is sometimes applied to people (Ps. 138:1; 82:6; Ex. 21:6)
 - But this title for a Davidic King points to the Messiah
 - Cf. Heb. 1:8-9 says this is spoken to Jesus
3. Scepter of uprightness.
 - Loves righteousness / hates wickedness

D. His Splendid Court – vs. 7b-9

1. The stage is now being described for the wedding. The splendor of the King’s wealth and his house/court is described.
2. The King’s excellent character, majestic valor and righteous rule result in his special anointing with oil of gladness – beyond others
 - “God, thy God” makes clear that the Psalm not equating the King with God. But this applies to Jesus relation with the Father too, a hint of this mystery to be revealed.
 - This anointing may refer to a special oil or joy given for the wedding day.
3. Perfumed Robes
 - Sweet-smelling robes / cf. how the groom is described in Song of Sol. 3:6 “perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the fragrant powders of a merchant”
4. Ivory palace & stringed instruments = opulence
5. Honorable Ladies
 - These court-ladies are kings’ daughters / shows the importance of his court
6. The Queen (she is the Bride)
 - She is in gold of Ophir (finest gold)
 - She is in a place of honor – right side

TRANSITION: We've seen the glory and grandeur of this great King. Now we finally get to see his Bride. But even here, it isn't about her, it's still about Him!

II. The King's Bride – vs. 10-15

A. The Instruction for the Bride

1. Urgency & Importance of this
 - Hear, consider, incline your ear
2. Forget your people and home / Devote yourself to your new people and home / Devote yourself to your King
3. Bow to / give homage / worship - your Lord
4. Reason –
 - The King desires (and will even more desire) your beauty (not just outward but inward)
 - She will have the finest gifts (Tyre) and attention from the richest people
 - The honor of being wed to this King should make her devote herself fully to Him.
 - Cf. Rev. 21:26 "They will bring into it the glory and honor of the nations."

B. The Procession of the Bride

1. A glorious Bride.
 - All glorious within (in her chamber) – that is where she starts her procession
2. Special Robes.
 - Intervoven with gold
 - Various colors (or finely embroidered)
3. Virgin companions = bridesmaids
4. Joy and gladness
 - Festive, joyous

- Cf. Is. 35:10 "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

5. Led to the King / to his palace

- Brides even today, process to the groom. There is significance in this.
- God brought Eve to Adam, and the Church is a bride "prepared" or "adorned" for her Husband.
- Cf. 2 Cor. 11:2 "I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ."
- Cf. Eph. 5:27 "present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing."

TRANSITION: We see the Bride and she is glorious! And she is brought to the King – the Bridegroom. Her glory and her devotion is to be to the King. That is where she will find fulfillment and ultimate satisfaction and joy. Now the Psalm addresses the King again (the Hebrew indicates the pronouns "you" and "your" are masculine).

III. The King's Heritage – vs. 16-17

A. Children

1. The King doesn't look behind him (past) for honor, but before him (future). His line will follow him and get their glory from Him.
2. The prediction of numerous progeny is not just a wish (see Ruth 4:11-12, Gen. 24:60).
3. Cf. Heb. 2:10 "bringing many sons to glory"

B. Kingdom

1. These sons are princes in ALL the earth.
2. WORLDWIDE KINGDOM

3. Cf. Dan. 7:14 “to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”
4. Cf. Rev. 5:10 “you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

C. Praise

1. The King’s name will be remembered always.
2. Nations will praise him forever.
3. Cf. Hab. 2:14 “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”
4. Cf. Ps. 72:19 “Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory!”

Conclusion

A. Thinking about Jesus The Glorious King

1. More than an earthly people reveres a worthy Ruler, we should worship our King.
2. He has fought the greatest battle for us.
3. He is our Mighty Leader.
4. His speech is full of grace.
5. He fights for truth and justice, but has forgiveness and favor for those who come to him for rest.
6. His character is sweet and pleasing to the eyes and nose.
7. Majestic and Glorious is He.

B. Thinking about the King’s Bride

1. As privileged as a young lady should feel to be marrying a king (think Kate marrying Prince William), we should feel more special that we are part of the Bride of Christ!

2. Just like the earthly bride needs to have allegiance first for her Husband, the King. We too must forsake our earthly roots and prize our citizenship in Heaven.
3. We should worship Jesus, and seek to be glorious within such that the King would desire and take delight in our beauty.
4. We should be overflowing with joy and gladness as we think about our future procession, being led to eternal bliss at the King’s favored “right hand”
5. We should work with our King to raise up songs and daughters of God, more numerous than the sand of the seashore or the stars in heaven.
6. We should spread the praise of our glorious King from sea to sea.

Benediction:

Revelation 19:6-8 “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.”