

In this Psalm we read of a great King who is getting married to a beautiful Bride.

- In the title of this Psalm we read that it is **A Song of Love**. It is a love song prepared for a Royal Wedding.
- It is prepared by the **Sons of Korah**. These were Levites who were appointed by God through David to teach the congregation with songs. (see I Chronicles 6:31-38) They were inspired by God. When Hebrews 1 quotes Psalm 45, it begins the quote by saying: **God says**. (Hebrews 1:6-9) This is God's Love Song given to all believers to teach us to praise the King and His Bride and their Royal Wedding.
- The Psalm is called a **Contemplation** (NKJV) or a **Maskil** (ESV). This word means a teaching or instruction.

Many have wondered: *Who is this King, and who is his Bride?*

- Some think this describes the wedding of King Solomon, others, the wedding of King David.
- But the King in this Psalm is a man, and also much more than a man. We do not have to wonder who this is. Hebrews 1 tells us plainly: in Psalm 45 God is telling us about His Great Son, Jesus the Messiah.

He is the royal bridegroom, and the royal Bride is His Church!

May the Lord God use Psalm 45 to teach us in the power of His Spirit to adore Jesus Christ, the Church's Excellent Husband, and also to praise God for the Royal Wedding of Jesus Christ and His Church! As those who belong to His Church we are taught here to praise Jesus for His great love for us, and also stirred up to make Him our first love in life.

Psalm 45 is divided into two parts. Part I describes the Excellent Bridegroom (verses 1-9), and Part II describes the Beautiful Bride (verses 10-17). In this first sermon we will hear Part I: **The Church's Excellent Bridegroom**.

The Psalm begins by describing His Excellent Character (Psalm 45:1-2)

(Psalm 45:1) **My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King. My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.**

- The King and His upcoming wedding are the **good theme** of this Psalm. The writer's **heart** is **overflowing** ("bubbling over") with it, and his **tongue**, like holding a pen in your hand, is ready and eager to confess 忏悔 Jesus Christ.
- This is what true Christian faith looks like: it fills the *heart*, and comes out of the *mouth*. Paul said: **If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.** (Romans 10:9) When such a good theme lives in your heart, you cannot keep it inside!
- *Are your heart and mouth filled to overflowing with praises for Christ the King of kings?*

(Psalm 45:2) **You are fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured out upon Your lips; therefore God has blessed You forever.**

- The King is described as **fair**, which means *bright, beautiful, and handsome*. This speaks not of his outward looks, but His whole character which shines through with God's **grace** and **blessing** (2), and also with **truth, humility** and **righteousness** (4). Brides are tempted to look for someone who is handsome in outward appearance and charming in personality, but God teaches us here to praise excellence of character.
- He is described as **fairer than the sons of men**. This means that His excellence rises above all other people; it is superhuman. There is no beauty among men comparable to the beauty of the Messiah. There is no one like Him in all the world. God is commending His Son to us as the Ultimate Husband everyone should desire! The hymn-writer says: *No mortal can with Him compare among the sons of men. Fairer is He than all the fair who fill the heavenly train.* (PH 382:2)
- His **lips** are described as having **grace poured out** upon them. This means that His lips are anointed with good news for us. When Jesus preached in Nazareth his hometown we read: **All... marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth.** (Luke 4:22) He brought a message of kindness, forgiveness, love, acceptance and salvation to every sinner who repents. Even His enemies said, **"No man ever spoke like this Man"** (John 7:46). **"We beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth"** (1:14). Think of the power of His Word by which He set people free: by His word He cast out demons, stilled the storms, healed the sick and raised the dead! His word contains everything you need to set you free, protect you, and make you complete.
- Indeed, **God has blessed Him forever**. This does not mean that God has blessed Him because He is so good and gracious, but that He is so good and gracious because He is **God-blessed forever** (see Romans 9:5). He is filled with all the rich, never-ending blessings of God, and He shares all these blessings with those who trust Him and are married to Him. Paul says: **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.** (Ephesians 1:3)
- How poor and cursed we are if we are not joined to this Bridegroom by faith. How rich and blessed we are if He is ours by faith! Let us learn to gaze upon the beauty and majesty of Jesus Christ in Scripture. In His heavenly excellence, He is perfectly suited to every situation in your life. In every area where you see imperfection and failure, in Him you will find the answer to your need!

The Psalm goes on to describe His victorious power (Psalm 45:3-5)

(Psalm 45:3-5) **Gird佩带 Your sword upon your thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty. And in your majesty ride prosperously (victoriously) because of truth, humility, and righteousness; and Your right hand shall teach You awesome things. Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; the peoples fall under You.**

- Suddenly the Psalm takes us from a Man of grace to a Man of war who carries a sword, rides a warhorse, and takes down people with His arrows. Can this be the same Person? Yes! For our King, if He's truly going to protect us and save us, must have power to fight and destroy all our enemies. A truly gracious Jesus cannot be a weak and passive Jesus; He must be a Mighty Protector and Defender. For this reason the NT pictures that word of grace that comes from His lips as a sword coming out of His mouth! The Word of God is called **the Sword of the Spirit** (Ephesians 6:17). In Revelation 19 we meet Jesus as the Rider on the white horse whose name is called the Word of God and out of whose mouth goes a sharp sword to strike the nations.
- In Isaiah 59 the prophet describes salvation as God's military campaign against our sin. There the Lord is looking for someone on earth who is good enough and powerful enough to rescue us from our appalling sin. Finding no one, God Himself put on righteousness as a breastplate and the helmet of salvation on His head, and put on garments of vengeance. So His own arm worked salvation for Him. He came down to earth in Jesus Christ to make war on our sin and deliver us from it. In I John 3:8 we read: **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. This what He was doing on the cross! The Son of God came down to earth as a man so that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.** (Hebrews 2:15) In His death for our sin, He destroyed sin, death, and Satan's power!
- Such a Mighty King may seem dangerous and oppressive to you. But *this* King is not self-serving and tyrannical like the kings of this earth. In His warfare against sin, He serves the cause of **truth, humility, and righteousness**. (4)
 - He fights for the cause of **truth** and **righteousness**. He works for what is true, holy, good and right in the sight of God. (He does not lie and cheat and steal and hurt to serve His own selfish goals.)
 - And He does so in **humility**. This Mighty Warrior rides forth victoriously as a **humble** servant! Philippians 2:6-8 describes His humility: **Though He was in the form of God, Christ Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.** This is unheard of for a Mighty King! But this is how Jesus displayed His power: not by *taking* our lives from us, but by *giving* His life for us. Rather than destroy us for our unrighteousness, He took our place in our unrighteousness and paid for all our sins on the cruel cross. That's how He conquers unrighteousness and serves righteousness!
 - When you surrender in faith in this powerful King, you will discover Him also to be your loving Bridegroom, who gave His life to rescue you. As the perfect Husband, He uses sacrificial strength to exalt you, not exploit you. In this Person alone you will find total and eternal security for your life. All earthly husbands are taught here by Jesus how to use their strength: **Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her that He might sanctify her and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.** (Ephesians 5:25-26)
- Not only on the cross, but in the Great Commission too, Jesus is a Man of War. After Jesus destroyed sins and death by His own death, He rose again and was taken up into heaven to God's right hand. Right now He is seated on the throne to gather from all nations, all the sinners He bought with His precious blood. How is he gathering them? With the Sword of His Word – the Gospel. In the power of the Spirit, the Good News of Jesus Christ is the **sword** and **arrows** which Jesus is using to **pierce the heart of His enemies** and cause them to **fall down at His feet**. (5)
 - In Acts 2 we read about Peter preaching to Jesus' enemies who crucified the Messiah. This word was an arrow that pierced their hearts! 3000 repented of their sin and were baptized in Jesus' name. They fell down before Jesus in worship and became His adoring disciples! To this day, the Mighty King, Jesus, is striking hearts and lives with His Word of forgiveness and salvation to everyone who believes. Those *gracious* words that flow from His lips are words of *power*. He has power to penetrate to the very depths of your being where no physical sword can go.
 - To those who confess their sins and trust in Him, His Word is a power that saves. To those who refuse to surrender, His Word is a power that condemns.
- In this Psalm what is God calling you to do? Not to run from this Mighty Messiah and hide from His awesome Word, but to accept His word as a Word of love that saves you. Are you letting His Word pierce you and bring down your pride? Or do you stand tall and refuse to let it touch you and change your life? Will you embrace His Word and fall down before Him in worship? Or will you continue to avoid and evade what He says to you and fall down in eternal destruction? Do you worry about what might happen to you, or what it might cost you to surrender and bow down to Him? Have no fear! If you trust in Him who is **fairer than the sons of men** and **God-blessed forever** (2) you will enter into the happiest marriage of all!

Finally, Psalm 45 describes Messiah's Everlasting Throne (Psalm 45:6-7)

(Psalm 45:6-7) **Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the sceptre of Your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.** In these 2 verses we see the excellence of Christ in 3 more ways:

- First, He is God, and therefore His throne will last forever and ever. You cannot put confidence in earthly kings because they will die and their power, promises, and policies will die with them. Even if they arrogantly call themselves divine rulers, they lie, and their sins, sicknesses and death prove it. But, as God's eternal Son, Jesus shares God's very nature, and is fully divine. You can place all your confidence in Him because He will never leave you forsake you. **Therefore He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him because He always lives to make intercession for them.** (Hebrews 7:25) All that He promised He will do because He is Truth and He is Life!
- Secondly, His **scepter** is made of **righteousness**. He is not just another corrupt politician, another crooked King. He loves righteousness and hates wickedness. He loves what agrees with God's holy character and commandments, and hates whatever goes against God. Since He also has all power, you can fully count on this excellent King to use His scepter to redeem the world from sin, and create a new world: **new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.** (II Peter 3:13). The beautiful thing about His scepter of righteousness, is that by that scepter Jesus not only demands righteousness from us, but He also reaches out that scepter to everyone who repents of his sin and trusts in Jesus' payment for sin on the cross. Then He gives you as a free gift all the righteousness He demands, and accepts you as His own.
 - Dear believers, this King has saved you and now you live under His scepter. Do you know what this means? *Righteousness must win in this world, and wickedness must lose.* Even though there is still so much wickedness in the world, even in our own hearts, we may be absolutely sure that Jesus shall reign until all evil is destroyed, and righteousness is all there is. In that day there will be **nothing to hurt or destroy in all His holy mountain!** (Is. 11:9)
- Third, as Eternal King on a Righteous Throne, He is **anointed** by God the Father **with the oil of gladness.** (7) As someone has said: *Christ has not been anointed with vinegar to make people miserable, but with the oil of gladness to make people joyful.* Sure, there is much sadness and trouble in this world, but Christians have been given the gift of true, deep, and lasting joy even in the midst of trouble. In Isaiah Jesus says: **The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me...to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.** (Isaiah 61:1, 3) Paul says that **the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.** (Romans 14:17) Whoever trusts in this Excellent King and Bridegroom is brought into fellowship with the One anointed with the oil of gladness. The "spirit of heaviness" (overwhelming emptiness, darkness, hopelessness, despair) is taken away, and replaced with praise, hope, and light. You will receive the gifts of true joy and peace with God. **In Your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forever more.** (Psalm 16:11b)

Conclusion: This Excellent King comes out to His Royal Wedding to Receive His Bride (Psalm 45:8-9)

(Psalm 45:8-9) **All Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, by which they have made You glad. King's daughters are among Your honorable women; at Your right hand stands the queen in gold from Ophir.**

After describing Messiah's excellence, power, and reign, we finally get to meet Him, coming out of the ivory palaces, dressed in His expensive, royal wedding robes, soaked in fragrant, rare spices. The Royal Wedding is about to begin. Escorted by the bridal party, He comes out to stand beside His Royal Bride, whom He honours by placing her at His right hand. Here she is, His Queen, all dressed in gold from the land of Ophir, the place from which David and Solomon imported gold. She is the Church He loves, and the next section of the psalm describes her more fully.

Up to this point, what must we learn from this Psalm? Let me point out 3 things:

- We must learn to gaze upon 注目 His beauty and adore 崇拜 His excellence – both in His Person and His work for our salvation. We do this by meeting the Beautiful Saviour in His Word. The more fellowship we have with His majestic grace, the more our lives will be transformed and blessed by Him. His beauty should hold our hearts captive far above any beauty and pleasure we can find in this world. *There is more in Christ to engage our love than there is or can be in any creature.* (Matthew Henry)
- Satan is constantly tempting us to lose our focus on Christ, and to be distracted by the wealth, glamour 迷惑, and power of this world. He wants us to believe that what we have in Christ is not nearly as exciting and powerful as what we can have in money, a sports car, or a relationship. This distraction from Christ is what causes us to become slack in their spiritual lives and in coming to Church, as Christ becomes less important and the world becomes more important. This temptation of Satan is a lie. **Christ is all and in all!**
- King Jesus in all His excellent perfection is more than enough for you in every inadequacy, every affliction, every sickness, every fear, every temptation, every sin. In Him the Bride has everything! So whether you struggle with your tongue, or your attitude, or desires, go to Him and rest in His perfection 完美 to cover all your sins, and to equip you for every task.