

I. Introduction to Psalm 45

- A. This particular psalm is extremely significant when we consider many titles that the writer gives to it. This psalm was not to be treated as the rest of the psalms but was significantly set apart. The writer of this psalm clearly understood that they had written a song under the inspiration of the Spirit that was to be held in a higher place of holiness than the others.
1. Set to the Lillies - This refers to the beauty and melody of this psalm as well as the instrument that was to lead it. The “Shoshannim” (original Hebrew word) was a specific 6 stringed instrument. There are only two other psalms which were set to “the lillies” (Ps. 69 and 80).
 2. Sons of Korah - This song was only to be sung by the sons of Korah. These were the most notable and skilled leaders of the tabernacle of David. Heman, Asaph, Ethan, and Jeduthan are most noted among the sons of Korah. These individuals played an important role in the thanksgiving services and pageantry when the ark of the covenant was brought to Jerusalem (1 Chron. 15:17-19). There are 11 psalms set apart to only be sung under the leadership of the sons of Korah. (Ps. 42, 44-49, 84-85, 87-88)
 3. A Contemplation - The original word (Maschil) literally means, “a song of divine wisdom, a psalm of Holy teaching, a song with an ulterior motive”. There are 13 psalms labeled “a contemplation” or Maschil. (Ps. 32,45,44,45,52-55,74,78,68,69,142)
 4. Song of Love - More literally, “A wedding song of the beloved”. Here is where this psalm stands alone; no other psalm is given such a title. This is the pinnacle psalm dedicated to singing of the love and wedding of the lover and the beloved. (Song. 1:1-7; Is. 5:1)

II. Song written and sung by the Father God

- A. If we haven't already felt like we were walking on holy ground, given the titles and labels of this psalm, the commentary found in Hebrews will insist upon the removal of our sandals. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the writer of Hebrews declares the person singing this song is the Father Himself. The One who's presence and identity demands perpetual worship and adoration of myriads of angels and saints has composed a song and now sings it. (Heb. 1:5-9)

1. These direct glimpses of the deep love of the trinity are rare in the scriptures. Rarer still are the direct expressions of the Father expressing His love and praise of the Son. Here in this psalm, the Father draws back the curtain and exposes the depths of His heart to sing over His Son and the bride that He has prepared for Him. (Mt. 3:17; Jn. 3:35, 5:20, 17:1-26)

III. Inductive Outline

1. Ps. 45:1 - Introduction
 - a. Ps. 45:1a - The Father's heart overflows with the drama, beauty, and praise concerning the theme of His son, the bridegroom king, His bride, and their wedding.
 - b. Ps. 45:1b - Out of the overflow of the Father's heart, He composes and sings this song.
2. Ps. 45:2-9 The Beauty and Glory of the Bridegroom King
 - a. Ps. 45:2 - The proclamation of the matchless divine beauty and glory of the bridegroom king.
 - b. Ps. 45:3-5 - The bridegroom king's identity and work as a righteous man of war.
 - c. Ps. 45:6-8 - The bridegroom king's identity and work as righteous ruler.
 - d. Ps. 45:9 - The bridegroom king's daughters and bride.
3. Ps. 45:10-12 The Exhortation to the Bride
 - a. Ps. 45:10 - Exhortation to forsake all lesser loves in light of the beauty and glory of the bridegroom king.
 - b. Ps. 45:11 - Exhortation of the deep love and desire the bridegroom king has for His bride.
 - c. Ps. 45:12 - Exhortation of the place of honor she will have as the bride of the king.
4. Ps. 45:13-15 The Beauty and Joy of the Wedding
 - a. Ps. 45:13 - The beauty of the prepared bride.
 - b. Ps. 45:14 - The drama of the presentation of the bride to the bridegroom king.
 - c. Ps. 45:15 - The unmatched joy and gladness of the long awaited wedding.

5. Ps. 45:16-17 The Glory and Fame of the King and Queens Kingdom
 - a. Ps. 45:16 - The surpassing glory of the righteousness of their kingdom compared to any past kingdoms.
 - b. Ps. 45:17 - The eternal praise, fame, and celebration of the drama of the story and song of the bridegroom king, his bride, their wedding, and the establishment of the kingdom.

C.S. Lewis saw this psalm pointing to Christmas: "The birth of Christ is the arrival of the great warrior and the great king. Also of the Lover, the Bridegroom, whose beauty surpasses that of man. But not only the Bridegroom as the lover, the desired; the Bridegroom also who makes fruitful, the Father of children still to be begotten and born." (C.S. Lewis, cited in Willem VanGemeren)

IV. Verse by Verse Study Commentary

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

A. **Ps. 45:1** - The Father's heart overflows with the drama, beauty, and praise concerning the theme of His Son, the bridegroom king, His bride, and their wedding. The Holy Spirit longs to take the deep things of God's heart and reveal them to your heart in order that you might grow in love through intimate relational knowledge. This psalm declares that the main theme that is overflowing from God's heart is this. We can be confident that there is so much deeper we can go in this theme to the point of our own hearts overflowing with it as well. (Jn. 16:13-15; 1 Cor. 2:6-11)

1. The Theme - It is greatly unfortunate how many sincere believers there are who have never really considered this theme and are only vaguely familiar with it. The storyline of the bible is absolutely saturated with the theme of the coming messianic king, who defeats and destroys everything that hinders love and righteousness and restores it all for the sake of His deep love for a special people. In return, they have pledged their eternal love and bridal partnership to Him forever. (Mt. 9:15, 22:2, 25:1-10; Jn. 2:1-11, 3:29; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-32; Rev. 19:7-9, 22:17; 170 Chapters in the bible have this as the main theme, also note the progression of Ps. 44-49)

2. Ready Writer - So overflowing is the Father's heart with this theme that it demands the outlet of a pen, so that everyone hears and knows the message. The Father declares His tongue must speak and sing about this theme because of His overflowing heart in it. (2 Pet. 1:19-21)

*This theme is a **GOOD matter**, and it is a pity that such a moving art as this poetry should ever be employed as less than it is. This is touching the King, King Jesus, and His kingdom, His bride, and His government upon the earth. There is no subject so noble, so copious, so fruitful, so profitable, and so well-becoming us; it is a shame that this good matter is not more the matter of our constant discourse. - Matthew Henry*

“You are fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon your lips; Therefore God has blessed you forever.” (Ps. 45:2)

- B. **Ps. 45:2** - The theme starts by turning our eyes upon the main subject of the theme. The bridegroom king is introduced to us as the one most worthy of all attention and all affection because His worth and beauty is matchless in the earth. We are introduced to both His nature and character and His ministry.

1. Fairer - The original Hebrew word literally means, “more beautiful than beauty”, or “doubly beautiful”. When we speak of beholding or seeing God’s beauty, we are not talking about His physical features or glorious lights that surround His person. The scriptures refer to God's beauty as His nature, character, and actions. The scriptures proclaim that the physical frame and features of Jesus were not desirous and that His identity as God was not discernible by seeing Him in the flesh. (Is. 53:2; Jn 1:10)
 - a. Matchless - What makes Jesus more beautiful than all the sons of men is what's on the inside of Him. Every thought of mind, every emotion of His heart, and every corresponding action is more beautiful than anyone who has ever walked the earth. For every thought, emotion, and action is perfect in divine love, wisdom, righteousness, and goodness. (Ps. 27:4; Jn 1:14; 2 Pet. 1:16)

“His soul is like a rich pearl in a rough shell; like the tabernacle, goat’s hair without, but gold and the person of God within.” (Trapp)

- b. Full Revelation - We have often looked upon the beauty of the suffering servant, the faultless, innocent One who laid down His life in the most excruciating and shameful way for those who hate Him. What's in view here is the full story and the full identity of the beautiful one. Our eyes have yet to see the beauty of the lion and the lamb, the bridegroom king in His fullness. Jesus said that His time to be fully known and fully revealed had not yet come. (Ps. 50:1-6; Is. 4:2; Rev. 1:12-18)
2. Grace poured upon His lips - We move from the beauty of His person to the ministry that flows out of His person. Primarily, grace is used to speak of the divine gift of power and how mercy comes through that divine power. All the words that Jesus speaks are saturated in grace. His words give life, bring truth, impart wisdom, establish us, and pierce through even the darkest of veils bringing light and freedom. (Jn 1:1-3, 6:68; Rev. 19:15, 21, 25)
 - a. Like Him in speech - Possibly one of the greatest manifestations of God's power (grace) being shown through us is when we speak the words that He speaks in conjunction with a life connected to Him. This is how Jesus entered into the eternal blessing of His Father as a man. So too with us; the blessing of God comes upon a people of clean lips. (Ps. 34:11-14; 1 Pet. 3:8-12; Jam. 1:26, 3:2-8)
3. God has blessed you Forever - In light of His beauty and His ministry, God the Father has blessed the Son forever. He has blessed His Son with the blessing of receiving the Kingdom and the Bride forever. Whom the Father blesses we should bless, and more so, our Bridegroom, for His blessedness blesses us (Eph. 1:3; Rev. 5:9-14)