

“OUT OF THE IVORY PALACES”

Psalm 45

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INTRODUCTION

- ❖ This psalm is all about that which is “beloved, lovely, inciting love.” [“Song of loves.”] It is the only such psalm with such a description in its title. The persons are beloved and objects of great love—toward each other and by others as well, and the topic and descriptions given are lovely as well.
- ❖ It was written to be celebrated and become part of worship—for the choir director.
- ❖ Its tune was that of a familiar song beginning with the words “the lilies” [of testimony]—cf. 60, 69, 80.
- ❖ It is meant to be instructive and contemplative—A Maskil
- ❖ It is composed by the Sons of Korah—as were 42-44; descendants of the rebel Korah of Numbers 16.

Its Subject is the **wedding of the King and Queen**. And just like most weddings it is to be happy and celebratory. But, **who is the King? Who is the queen?** And how may this psalm be applied to us today?

THE KING. There are really two questions in relation to the king:

1. The identity of the Earthly king
2. The identity of the divine person of whom he is a type.

Of the many suggestions that have been made concerning identity of the earthly king: Ahab, Jehu, Jeroboam II, Solomon, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat, Jehoiachin, the Maccabees, etc., only two merit detailed discussion: Solomon and Jehoram.

Jehoram, Jehoshaphat’s son has several points in his favor:

- He was married to a foreign princess—Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel—Jezebel came from the foreign city of Sidon (I K. 16:31) near Tyre.
- Ahab had an ivory palace.
- His father Jehoshaphat was very godly and extended the kingdom of Judah and prospered.
- Jehoshaphat prepared a fleet of ships to do foreign commerce to obtain gold, ivory, etc. (though the fleet was destroyed).

*The problem is that Jehoram and Athaliah were **extremely wicked and condemned in Scripture**—SUCH COULD NOT MEET THE IDEAL PICTURE GIVEN HERE AND EVEN SERVE AS TYPES OF CHRIST!*

Solomon is the most likely candidate: Son of David, prepared large army, ivory throne, maybe also an ivory palace, fleets traded in gold, ivory, and many exotic products, married a daughter of Pharaoh and many other foreign women, **portrayed as a good king and a fit subject to be considered a type of Christ**, wrote a similar Song of love and of a beloved—Song of Solomon—to which there are several allusions in this psalm. He was even given the name used as the title of this psalm by his mother, Bathsheba: “beloved of Yahweh.”

But, there is more to say about this King—he is more than human:

Read Hebrews 1:8-9 with vv. 6-7 of this psalm.

See verse 2: “Fairest of the sons of men” —“Fairest of 10,000, bright and morning star”

See v. 16: “princes in all the earth” (cf. Rev. 3:21; 5:10; 20:4 etc.; Hebrews 2:10—bringing many sons into glory).
See v. 17—Name remembered in all generations; all the peoples give him thanks and praise “forever and ever.”

THE BRIDE: Israel (e.g. Hosea 3; Is. 5) in the OT, the Church in the NT (Eph. 5:31-32 etc.).

THE WEDDING: Rev. 19:7-10.

We must be careful not to regard this psalm as an allegory and try to spiritualize every minute detail!

In this psalm we see the 1) Glories of the King; 2) The Privileges of the Queen, 3) The Future of the Kingdom

I. THE GLORIES OF THE KING (1-9)

- A. Inspired Utterance (v. 1): Heart is astir, bubbling up with so much to say; speak my works to the King, tongue the pen of a scholarly writer--scribe.
- B. King is the Fairest of the sons of men with “grace poured upon His lips, blessed by God forever (2)
- C. A mighty victorious Warrior (3-5) “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”—defending **Truth, Meekness, and Righteousness.**
- D. God—whose throne is Eternal :upright scepter, loving righteousness, hating wickedness, anointed with the “oil of gladness” (6-7). **NOTICE: “GOD, THY GOD”—divine, yet has a God!”**
- E. Garments so “luscious” that they seem to consist of precious ointments: myrrh, aloes, cassia (8)
- F. Ivory palaces, beautiful music with stringed instruments.
- G. The Queen by His side in the “Gold of Ophir”; with King’s daughters as his noble ladies—wedding party.

II. THE PRIVILEGES OF THE QUEEN (10-15)

- A. Understand Your privileged position
 - 1. Forget your past—no matter how good you think it was—it can’t compare to what you have.
 - 2. Be content with the love and desire of the King for you (11).
 - 3. Submit to Him—he is your “**Lord**” (11b).
 - 4. The wealth of the world will be at your disposal, and all will seek your favor (12).
 - 5. Your wedding garments are splendid, and interwoven with gold (13).
 - 6. The wedding party is brought to the King; they come with gladness and rejoicing (14-15).
 - 7. Privileged to enter the **palace** of the King (15).

III. THE FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM (16-17) [these words addressed to the King—masculine pronouns]

- A. His sons will inherit His kingdom and Rule with him (16).
- B. His name and reputation extend to all generations (17).
- C. All the peoples will give Him thanks and praise forever.

CONCLUSION

No one is like our King! And yet, he has made us His Queen!

What else do you want? What else is there more important, more fulfilling.

We will rule and reign with our Lord forever and ever. We have a future.

YOU MUST LET GO OF ALL ELSE THAT DOES NOT MATTER AND ENJOY YOUR GLORIOUS KING!