

The Majesty of Mighty Messiah
And the Beauty of His Bride

Psalm 45

Intro. 1) The arrangement of the Psalter is not without rhyme and reason. Psalms 42-72 constitute book 2, and it could not begin on a more somber and sorrowful note. Psalms 42-44 describe a people in a desperate situation. Though we are uncertain as to the exact time each was written, they would have spoken loud and clear to the nation in exile following their devastating defeat by Babylon in 587-86 B.C. Their King is dethroned, the temple destroyed and Jerusalem sacked. Thus the psalmists cry out:

2) The cries of being forgotten and forsaken by God are painful. There is a plea in Ps. 44:17-18 for God to remember His covenant and to search their hearts. Yet, in each psalm there is an echo of faith not yet destroyed. Will God answer their prayer?

- Yes, He will answer the heart cry of His people.
- How? By the appearance of a King like no other, thru the majesty of mighty Messiah joined in marriage to His beautiful bride, the people of God!

3) Psalm 45 is a royal wedding psalms and is utterly unique in the Psalter. Some have thought it was first applied to Solomon and his wedding to an Egyptian princess (1 Kings 3:1). Post-exilic Israel understood this Psalm messianically. The author of Hebrews, by the inspiration and insight of the Holy Spirit, understood what this psalm saw, for in Heb. 1:8-9, he tells us this psalm is fulfilled in Jesus!

I. Messiah is mighty and majestic because He is King 45:1-5

- 4 times the word King appears in Ps. 45 (vs. 1, 5, 11, 14).
- 3 times the idea of forever is trumpeted (vs. 2, 6, 17).
- This language is rooted in the great Davidic covenant of 2 Sam. 7:12-16.

1) He is a good King 45:1

- Vs. 1 is the prologue. The psalmist's heart is overflowing (*NIV*, "stirred") with a good or noble theme.
- This song is about a good King.

2) He is a graced King 45:2

This King is graced in appearance and conduct.

- "He is fairer" (*NIV*, "the most excellent; *ESV*, "most handsome") than all men.

"Grace is poured upon Your lips." His words are kind and wise, healing and helpful. When this King speaks, wise persons will listen.

3) He is a glorious King 45:3

Verse 3-5 evokes military imagery and are anticipatory of the Rider on a White Horse in Rev. 19:11 ff. Girding his sword at His side, He is described as the 1) Mighty One, 2) glorious and 3) majestic.

4) He is a great King 45:4-5

- For what things does this great king fight and make war? We are unprepared for the answer: 1) truth, 2) humility and 3) righteousness.
- And for those who oppose this great King?
 - 1) His sharp arrows will pierce their hearts.

The peoples (*NIV*, "nations") will fall under you.

II. Messiah is mighty and majestic because He is God 45:6-9

- These verses continue the marvelous description of the royal groom. The one who is the exalted God is now declared to be the eternal God!

1) His crown is eternal 45:6

- These words, amazingly, are directed to the King. “Your throne, Your kingdom, Your reign, O God, is forever and ever.”

2) His character is exalted 45:6-7

- These verses address the character and constitution of His kingdom. No King will ever reign like this God.
- The psalmist clearly and without hesitation calls the King, God. He goes on to say that His God is the one who anointed Him with the oil of gladness (symbolizing His joyous ascension to the throne) and He has done so more or above His companions. Some wish to excuse this as court flattery, royal hyperbole, kingly exaggeration. However, the author of Hebrews applies this to the Son of God in making the argument that He is greater than the prophets and greater than the angels.

3) His clothing is excellent 45:8

This King is glorious in character and appearance. He is excellent in every way.

4) His companions are esteemed 45:9

Continuing to draw on the wedding imagery, the dignity and importance of the guests and bride is duly noted. “Gold from Ophir” is unknown as to its origin, but highly valued for its quality. An esteemed queen for an excellent King!

III. Messiah is mighty and majestic because He is Lord 45:10-17

Verses 10-15 shift attention to the bride of the King who is at His hand (v.9).

Including the final 2 verses of this psalm that provide an appropriate and climatic refrain, 4 basic responses are given as to our posture and service before this King who has taken us as His very own.

1) Worship Him 45:10-12

- Note the verbs of vs. 10: 1) Listen, 2) Consider, 3) Incline (*NIV*, “give ear”), 4) Forget.

Forget where you were and where you came from and look to the King!

- Vs. 11 → He will desire you and your beauty (His response)
→ Because He is Lord worship Him (Our response)

Allegiance to this King transcends any and every other relationship in life. Luke 14:26 captures the gist of our duty.

2) Honor Him 45:13-15

- Our scene now shifts in focus from the throne room and palace to the beautiful bride as she prepares herself for her King.
- She is radiant and valued by her King.
- Gladness and joy envelopes our souls as we consider the One who has invited us into His kingdom, into His palace. To honor Him is a joy not a duty, a blessing not a burden.

3) Remember Him 45:16-17

Returning his attention to the King, the psalmist notes there will never come a

time when the name of this King is lost or forgotten. No one will ever forget the name of King Jesus.

4) Praise Him

45:17

- He is fairer than any man and grace is on His lips (v.2).
- He is the Mighty One who rides victoriously promoting truth, humility and righteousness (v. 3-4).
- He is sovereign over all (v.5) and His throne is forever (v.6). He loves right and hates wrong (v.7), and God has anointed Him as King (v.7). Never, never, never, shall we grow tired of singing the praises of King Jesus. Not today. Not ever!

Con. Concerning Psalm 45, Alexander Maclaren said, “either we have here a piece of poetical exaggeration far beyond the limits of poetic license, or a greater than Solomon is here.” (Boice, vol. 2, 381). Greater than Solomon. Greater than David. Greater than any King who shall ever be. This is Messiah King Jesus.