

Psalm 45:1-17

Introduction

Many people are fascinated with weddings..

Such interest in weddings is often greatly increased when there is a royal wedding.

Psalm 45 is a unique psalm.

It was penned on the occasion of an ancient royal wedding.

It is also a messianic psalm; ultimately referring to the great King, the Lord Jesus Christ. In it, we have a picture of the heavenly wedding, where, Christ, the divine groom, takes the church, His bride, to Himself.

Summary

Psalm 45 is a love song, depicting an ancient royal wedding, which points forward and upward to the ideal, promised king, Jesus Christ, and His eternal joy in the embrace of His resplendent bride, the church.

1. Ancient Customs

In order to understand Psalm 45, we need to understand something of ancient betrothal and wedding customs.

In ancient times, the first step leading to a wedding was the betrothal.

When the day of the wedding arrived, the friends and attendants of the bride gathered at the bride's home, where she prepared herself in her finest clothes and jewelry. Simultaneously, the attendants of the groom would gather at his home and then go in procession to the home of the bride and then the entire wedding party would return in procession to the home of the bridegroom, where there would be a joyous wedding feast.

2. Praised Royal Bridegroom vv. 2-9

In the first section of this poem, the royal bridegroom appears and the poet breaks forth in His praise (**vs. 2a**).

The psalmist then moves from the king's character to His words. (**vs. 2b**).

The psalmist then goes on to praise the king's victories (**vv. 3-7**).

The Psalmist then proceeds to describe the characteristics of the the king's government **vv 6-7**.

In, **vv. 8-9**, the focus moves from the personal qualities and victories of the king and his righteous administration to the wedding setting.

3. Counseled Bride vv. 10-15

This section opens then with the psalmist exhorting the bride to receive his advice.

First, the bride is to forget the past **vs. 10**.

Secondly, the bride is to honor her Lord **vs. 11**.

Thirdly, the bride is to look forward to what the future holds for her as the bride of the great king **vv. 11-12**.

The writer sees three things in her bright future:

The love of her king **vs. 11**, the honor that will be hers as a result of her relationship to the king **vs. 12** and the joy and gladness which will be hers with him forever, **vs. 15**.

4. Bright Future vv. 16-17

The psalmist concludes by addressing to the royal groom a twofold benediction on his marital union.

First, this marriage will be abundantly blessed with offspring to perpetuate the dynasty (**vs. 16**). **Secondly**, the bridegroom's name will be remembered in all generations and will forever receive the praise of the nations (**vs. 17**)

This benediction on the marriage in vv. 16-17 in connection with the Messiah echoes the many sons which are brought to glory (**Heb 2:10, 13**) and through the holy bride gathered into his embrace, Christ will receive the glory due to him because of his divine person and even more because of his triumphant saving work.

Psalm 45 is a wedding song celebrating the marriage of a king to a princess.

It is not just the wedding song of any king, however, it is the wedding song of the King of Kings, the fairest of ten thousands, to his glorious bride, whom he bought with his own blood.