

A Royal Wedding Song Psalm 45

September 6, 2023

Question: What is this psalm about?

In Book II (Psalms 42-72)

1. *Identified authors:* the sons of Korah, Asaph, David, & Solomon
2. Probably compiled during the reign of Hezekiah or that of Josiah, kings who worked to bring revival to Judah

The inscription

“ a love song”

- The psalm is a beautiful poem that shows it was “prepared on the occasion of a royal wedding, evoking all the sights, sounds, movement, splendor, and emotion of such an important occasion.”¹

The king is one of the sons (descendants) of David, and points forward to the greater Son of David, the Lord Jesus Christ

1. Not David, as this king is in the middle of the Davidic kingly line (verse 16)
2. Verses 6-7 are quoted in Hebrews 1:8-9 as Messianic

The king’s bride appears to be a foreign princess

1. She is called upon to forget her people and her father’s house (verse 10)
2. She is called a princess (verse 13)

This wedding was pivotal for the kingdom, which could be ruled in the future by one of the royal couple’s future sons.

Question: What were the main responsibilities of a king?

The Davidic king was to rule God’s people as God’s representative

The poet (1)

The king (2-9)

2 “grace is poured upon your lips”

- His words bring blessing to the people of his realm

¹ James Montgomery Boice, *Psalms*, 2:380.

4 “for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness”

1. The king was to lead his kingdom in these. His kingdom was to be a place where these flourished.
2. The poet is calling upon the king to protect the kingdom from its enemies, for this cause

4 “let your right hand teach you awesome deeds!”

- **NIV** “let your right hand achieve awesome deeds.”

vv 6-7

1. Quoted in **Hebrews 1:8-9** (context is **vv 2-7**)
2. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the poet in verse 6 goes beyond what was true of the Davidic king of his day, and speaks of the ultimate Davidic king
3. The Messiah would be both divine (verse 6), and at the same time God’s representative (verse 7)
4. The Messianic element does not deny that a Davidic king from the day of the poet is in mind throughout most of this psalm
 - cf. the Messianic and non-Messianic elements in **2 Sam. 7:12–16** “When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”
5. Christ’s scepter will be a scepter of uprightness, showing His perfect love of righteousness and hatred of wickedness
 - The OT Davidic kings were to seek to do the same

verse 8

1. In preparation for the wedding, the king’s robes have been perfumed with fragrant oil made from a mixture of “myrrh and aloes and cassia”
2. “ivory palaces” are palaces decorated with lavish amounts of ivory

verse 9

1. Dignitaries from other political states are in attendance
2. The bride has been presented to the king

3. The queen is adorned with “gold of Ophir”
 - Ophir was located outside the land of Israel
 - Very fine gold

This is quite a king, and quite a wedding!

The king’s bride (10-15)

vv 10-11a

1. “O daughter”
2. In marriage, husband and wife must leave father and mother in order to form a new family unit
 - **Gen. 2:24** “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”
3. The poet has more in mind. He exhorts the bride to be like Ruth, and to form new loyalties
 - **Ruth 1:16–17** “But Ruth said, ‘Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.’”

vv 11b-12

1. Though the king would be her husband, at the same time he was her king
2. Tyre
 - A great trading center in Phoenicia
 - Because of the new queen’s relationship with the king, dignitaries from Tyre will give her large gifts, either as wedding gifts or in the future

vv 13-14

1. Goes back in time in the wedding events
2. It would have been customary for the king to have led a procession to his bride’s chamber
3. Now she is led from her chamber to the king
 - Similar to how God brought Eve to Adam
 - **Gen. 2:22** “And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.”
4. The bride’s “virgin companions” are her bridesmaids, and may also be her permanent attendants

verse 15

1. A procession, led by the king and his bride

What a joyous occasion!

The poet's blessing (16-17)**verse 16**

1. "your/you" is masculine singular in Hebrew, referring to the king
2. The idea is that the king's sons shall follow in the footsteps of the king's forefathers, continuing the kingly line

Having mentioned the king's future sons, the psalm becomes Messianic again

verse 17

1. With this royal wedding song, the poet will cause the king's name to be remembered
2. This verse can only be said of Christ

Conclusion

We cannot read this psalm without thinking about the future wedding of the greater Son of David

- **Revelation 19:6-9**

This psalm, in a beautiful way, brings together...

1. The Davidic king
2. The blessing of marriage
3. Christ and His majesty
 - How much more majestic Christ is!
4. Christ's glorious bride
 - **Eph. 5:25-27** "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."

We were created and have been redeemed for something far greater than the things for which the world lives! And this psalm shows us a faint glimmer of it.