

**Sunday 16-Jan-22**

**The Messiah and His Bride**

**Psalm 45:1-17**

**For the director of music. To the tune of "Lilies." Of the Sons of Korah.  
A *maskil*. A wedding song.**

- <sup>1</sup> My heart is stirred by a noble theme  
as I recite my verses for the king;  
my tongue is the pen of a skilful writer.
- <sup>2</sup> You are the most excellent of men  
and your lips have been anointed with grace,  
since God has blessed you forever.
- <sup>3</sup> Gird your sword on your side, you mighty one;  
clothe yourself with splendour and majesty.
- <sup>4</sup> In your majesty ride forth victoriously  
in the cause of truth, humility and justice;  
let your right hand achieve awesome deeds.
- <sup>5</sup> Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies;  
let the nations fall beneath your feet.
- <sup>6</sup> Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;  
a sceptre of justice will be the sceptre of your kingdom.
- <sup>7</sup> You love righteousness and hate wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions  
by anointing you with the oil of joy.
- <sup>8</sup> All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia;  
from palaces adorned with ivory  
the music of the strings makes you glad.
- <sup>9</sup> Daughters of kings are among your honoured women;  
at your right hand is the royal bride in gold of Ophir.
- <sup>10</sup> Listen, daughter, and pay careful attention:  
Forget your people and your father's house.
- <sup>11</sup> Let the king be enthralled by your beauty;  
honour him, for he is your lord.

- <sup>12</sup> The city of Tyre will come with a gift,  
people of wealth will seek your favour.
- <sup>13</sup> All glorious is the princess within her chamber;  
her gown is interwoven with gold.
- <sup>14</sup> In embroidered garments she is led to the king;  
her virgin companions follow her—  
those brought to be with her.
- <sup>15</sup> Led in with joy and gladness,  
they enter the palace of the king.
- <sup>16</sup> Your sons will take the place of your fathers;  
you will make them princes throughout the land.
- <sup>17</sup> I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;  
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.

## **Hebrews 1:1-9**

### **God's Final Word: His Son**

**1** In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

### **The Son Superior to Angels**

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son"?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

<sup>7</sup> In speaking of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels spirits,  
and his servants flames of fire."

<sup>8</sup> But about the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;  
a sceptre of justice will be the sceptre of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions  
by anointing you with the oil of joy."

## Sermon: The Messiah and His Bride

We're continuing our **series** on **Psalms** that talk **about Jesus** – the **Messiah**.

Please have your **Bibles opened** up at **Psalm 45** –we'll be looking at the Psalm in some detail and we'll reference our NT Bible reading from Hebrews chapter 1 also.

Let me pray for God's guidance and understanding

Let's pray...

### Intro/Context

- If you ever attend a wedding, you'll notice that **music** plays an **important role**
- There's usually a **special song** - either for
  1. Walking down the aisle
  2. Or as the newly-weds leave the church
  3. Or a special song for the bridal waltz
- There are probably some songs you shouldn't have at your wedding
  1. Like – **Tragedy** – by the Bee Gees
  2. Like – **DIVORCE** – by Tammie Wynette
  3. Like – **You're so vain** – by Carly Simon
- In our Bible Passage from Psalm 45 – this morning
- We have a **Wedding Song**

### [PowerPoint 1-superscription]

- If we look at the **heading [superscription]** of the Psalm [and we should never skip over the heading as it gives us some **clues about the Psalm]**
  1. The song is **for** the **music leader** or musical director
  2. It has a **special tune** called "**Lilies**"
  3. It's **written by** the **sons of Korah** – from the reign of King David onwards – these **sons of Korah** became great **leaders in choral and orchestral music** in

the **tabernacle** and then in the **Temple** when Solomon built it – **11 of the Psalms are credited to the Sons of Korah** [Psalm 42; 44-49; 84-85; and 87-88] - <https://www.gotquestions.org/sons-of-Korah.html>

4. The psalm is a **maskil** – which means it’s a song or poem of contemplation – and that’s what we’re going to do this morning – contemplate on this Psalm

5. And of course, it’s a **wedding song**

- Who’s wedding is it though?
- Well, v1 tells us – the writer of the Psalm is writing verses **for the King**
- We’re not sure which King and who the King is marrying
  
- Before we go any further though – let me point out a **general principle** that the famous English Author – **CS Lewis** – observes about some of the Psalms – He says **“Some of the Psalms meant two things”** – he says **“Psalm 45 is a good example”** – **“Psalm 45 meant one thing before Jesus came to the Earth and something else after He came”**
- From this, we have a **general principle** that when we look at an OT passage – we **need to understand what the original readers would get from the passage** – before we look at what it might mean to us today

[PowerPoint 2-2 Views]

## 2 Views

- So, **Psalm 45** –on the one-hand - **describes the King of Israel** in verses 2 to 9 and then **describes the King’s bride**, the Queen, in verses 10-15
- And on the other hand – Psalm 45 – **describes King Jesus** – the King of Kings in verses 2 to 9 – and then **describes King Jesus’ bride** – which is the **church** – that is **all Christians** (like us)

- As Christians – we **could simply see** Psalm 45 as **meaning one thing**
- The **King** in verses 2 to 9 is always **God**
- And the **Queen (Bride)** in verses 10 to 15 is always **God's people**
- **God's people** were the **Jews in the OT** and were the **Christians in the NT**
- The reason we could take this view is because all throughout the **OT marriage** is a **picture of God as a husband** and **His people as His wife** - and throughout the **NT marriage** is a **picture of Jesus as the bridegroom** and **His Church** (believers) are **His bride**
- However, I think it's worth reading the Psalm **as though we were the original readers** – and then we'll look at the Psalm to **see what it means to us today**
- First then – let's **look at how the King is described** in verses 2 to 9
- And we'll see that no Earthly King could quite fit this description and ultimately the **King on view is King Jesus**
- Then we'll look at the Queen – and **see how that might relate to us** as the **Bride** – the Church

### The King – The Bridegroom – Jesus the Messiah (Psalm 45:2-9)

- As we look at the King's description – yes it **could rightly describe a great king** – like King Solomon
- The King is described as
  - The **most excellent of men** (v2)
  - The King is **girded with His sword** as a mighty fighting **warrior king** (v3)

- The King is **clothed with splendour and majesty** (v3) – as any royal king of Israel should be
- The King **rides majestically in to town in victory** (v4) – as any king of Israel would do – who wins a battle
- The King **takes up the cause of ensuring the land is ruled in truth, humility and justice** – and achieves **awesome deeds** (v4)
- The King **defeats Israel’s enemies with sharp arrows** and the **surrounding nations fall beneath the King’s feet** (v5) – as happened for many of the Kings of Israel
- But we **start to struggle with the descriptions** of the King when we get to v6 and v7
- The King is referred to as: **O God** in v6 [and in one sense the King of Israel is like a god – small “g”] but **v6 also says** the ***King’s throne will last forever*** – that’s a problem – we don’t even have a King in Israel now – the original readers of the Psalm might have thought there would always be a king
- And still in v6 a ***sceptre of justice will be a hallmark of his Kingdom*** – and again we start to struggle – because the Kings of Israel were **not always just** – sometimes they were unfair and cruel
- V7 causes us problems too – The King is said to ***love righteousness and hate wickedness*** – Well that was supposed to be the ideal for the King – but the Kings of Israel **didn’t** follow that perfectly
- And although the end of v7 – rightly says that **the King *is set above His companions – and anointed as God’s anointed one***
- It’s hard not to think of God’s ultimate anointed one – Jesus – the Messiah – that’s what Messiah means - God’s anointed chosen one

- As we hit v8 – we see the **King is dressed in royal robes with wonderful fragrances and perfumes** – and his **palace is adorned with ivory and full of chamber music**
- And v9 - his **whole palace is full of King's daughters** [from other nations] **who are maids in the King's court**
- And next to him on his right-hand is **his glorious beautiful Bride dripping in gold**
  
- As we can see – not too many surprises that a royal king would be described like **this**
- But as we've seen some of these descriptions don't quite fit any King of Israel
- If we were to read verses 2 to 9 – as though the King was King Jesus – we'd see something amazing
  - V2 - *Your lips have been anointed with grace* – ultimately, it's King Jesus who has been anointed with the job of administering God's grace (God's undeserved favour on us) – **Jesus administers grace to us through His actions** [His death and resurrection] and through His Word [God's Word – the Bible]
  - End of v2 - *God has blessed you forever* – again only Jesus can be referred to in the sense of forever – because He's the forever King
  - Then v3 – *gird your sword* – King Jesus has a different type of sword – His Word – God's Word – is *sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating to divide soul and spirit, joints and marrow*– Jesus' sword which is God's Word – *even judges people's thoughts and attitudes* (Heb 4:12)
  - V4 – *In your majesty ride forth victoriously* – remember King Jesus rode into Jerusalem victoriously a week before His death– **knowing He was about**

**to have victory over sin and death – through His own death and resurrection**

- V4 – *in the cause of truth, humility and justice, let your right hand achieve awesome deeds* – again ultimately King Jesus is the only one who is the source of absolute truth – and **He showed humility** in leaving the glorious majesty of Heaven – to become a human - and **humbled himself on a cross** – **to achieve God’s justice on sin** – and take our punishment for our sins - and grant forgiveness of our sins
- And of course, **Jesus’ deeds were truly awesome** – miracle upon miracle – even raising people from the dead – and controlling nature
- V5 *let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king’s enemies* – King Jesus the Messiah’s sharp arrows of His Word – God’s Word – **cut the enemies of God to the heart** – and over the centuries – **His Word has transformed and reformed people** – even Kings
- And where we struggled to see how any earthly king fits the bill in v6 and v7 – we don’t have the same trouble seeing how v6 and v7 apply to King Jesus the Messiah
- Even the writer of our NT passage from Hebrews 1 – **says the same thing**
- To summarise our NT reading
- The writer of Hebrews says – **in the past God spoke through His prophets** – but in these last days (last days=from Jesus’ death and resurrection until now) – in these last days – **God speaks through His Son** – **Jesus**
- The writer of Hebrews says -**Jesus is no ordinary guy**
- The writer says Jesus is - **superior to the prophets** – and **superior to angels**
- He says - **No one ever called an angel - God’s Son**
- **Yet God calls Jesus His Son** – and the angels in Heaven even worship Jesus

- And then amazingly the writer of Hebrews – in Hebrews 1:8-9 – **quotes directly from our Psalm – Psalm 45** – and the **writer says that verses 6 and 7 in Psalm 45** - that we're having trouble attributing to any earthly King – the writer says verse 6 and 7 – are actually about God's Son – Jesus – the Messiah –
- So, if we look at v6 of Psalm 45 again – **King Jesus is God** – and **His throne will last forever and ever** – and **His throne and His Kingdom will be ruled with a sceptre of Justice** – because God the Father – **sent Jesus to administer His justice on sin – by dying for sin to be forgiven – by rising from the dead to defeat death and give eternal life – AND God the Father has appointed Jesus the Son - as the judge – when He returns one day to judge everyone**
- And in v7 – only Jesus can truly love righteousness and hate wickedness because Jesus is the only one who is perfect and fully righteous – because He's both God and human – and **He is sinless**
- And so, the end of v7 – **God has chosen King Jesus – the Messiah** and **anointed Him as the Chosen One** - to bring about His Kingdom which lasts forever
- As glorious as the King of Israel might be clothed – in v8 – **Jesus is clothed in righteousness and full of God's glory**
- As glorious as the King of Israel's palace is – **Jesus' home in Heaven is way more glorious**
- And as glorious as it is that there are daughters of King's serving in the King of Israel's courts – and as glorious as the palace is - all prepared for the King's bride to marry the King – **King Jesus the Messiah** – has gone to prepare a place in Heaven for His bride – and **Heaven is way more glorious**

(pause)

### The Queen – The Bride – The Church (Psalm 45:10-15)

- And so, the **Psalm turns to the Queen – the King’s bride – in verses 10 to 15 – and the Bride is described**
  - V10 - The writer of the Psalm tells the Bride to listen and pay careful attention – and to **forget her people and her father’s house**
  - That’s consistent with God’s definition of marriage given to Adam and Eve
  - **Didn’t God say to Adam – *a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife and they become one flesh* (Gen 2:12) – it’s the same advice to the Bride here – you need to leave your family now – because - your husband – the King – is the priority now**
  - The Bride is told in v11 – to **enthral the king with her beauty and honour him as He is the lord, the King**
  - And like any wedding – **wedding gifts pour in from the city of Tyre** – and **rich guests shower the bride with presents**
  - And so now the bride is ready to proceed to marriage – v13 & 14 – **her wedding dress is dazzling – interwoven and embroidered with gold**
  - And **she’s led to the King for the ceremony**
  - She **glides down the aisle** – v15 – led in with joy and gladness to marry the King
- As much as the description of the Bride fits the description of a bride worthy of marrying the King of Israel
- If we look at verses 10 to 15 – knowing that King Jesus – the Messiah - is the **Bridegroom - and His Church** (the people who believe in Jesus) **is the Bride**
- We can look at verses 10 to 15 in a different way

- Each one of us as part of the Church are Jesus' spiritual bride – so in v10 – **we must listen to Jesus and pay careful attention to Him** – He has the knowledge and wisdom of God – and He has the rules for living a life that pleases God
  - Still v10 – we have to in some sense forget about our family – **and make King Jesus – our spiritual husband – our 1<sup>st</sup> priority**
  - When we commit to putting Jesus first in our lives - We will be showered with gifts – like the bride in verses 12 & 13 - **Gifts like – forgiveness and eternal life** – gifts like the spiritual gifts we are given as Christians – and gifts like the fruit of the Spirit
  - If you think this all sounds like a bit of a stretch – **The Apostle Paul says the same thing**
  - In Ephesians chapter 5 - the **Apostle Paul picks up on the theme of marriage** – and how a marriage between a man and woman is like the marriage of Jesus and His church
  - Here's how Paul describes marriage in Ephesians 5:22-27
- <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*
- <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*
- I pray we can see what Jesus does in His marriage to His church – in His spiritual marriage to each one of us

- He loved us so much – He gave Himself to death on a cross - **He died for His bride** – the Church – **the ultimate sacrificial love**
- And what did He achieve? – **He made us holy** – he **cleansed us** – and **present us like a bride** – **radiant** – without stain – without wrinkle – without blemish – instead – **we are holy and blameless**
- What a bridegroom – **what a spiritual husband** – **King Jesus** – **the Messiah** is

(pause)

### **Our Response (Psalm 45:16-17)**

#### **[PowerPoint 3-Response]**

- As always – there must be a response – from us - to **Jesus our spiritual husband**
  1. 1<sup>st</sup> response - like in any marriage there must be faithfulness. As Jesus' spiritual bride [believers in the church] we must be faithful to our spiritual husband, Jesus - we need to **talk to Him** – **spend time with Him**– have a **loving relationship with Him** - **read His Word** [that's how God speaks to us in these last days Heb 1:2] – and **submit to Him** – not chase after other things we fall in love with - instead of Him
  2. 2<sup>nd</sup> response is at the end of the Psalm - **where the writer gives his wish for the King**  
 He wishes – that the ***Kings children (sons) will go throughout the land*** – literally throughout the Earth (v16)  
 And the writer promises (v17) to ***perpetuate the King's memory*** – **throughout all generations**

For us that means – as God’s children we go throughout the earth - **sharing the Good News of our King – King Jesus – and perpetuating Jesus’ memory.**

**And the aim of perpetuating the King Jesus’ memory in v17b – *is so that all nations will praise King Jesus for ever and ever!***

Let’s pray

*Father God, we thank you for your Son, Jesus, the Messiah, the Bridegroom – who shows His love for His Bride, the Church, by sacrificially laying down His life for us.*

*Help us to respond this morning – in faithfulness to Him – and by perpetuating His memory by sharing the Gospel with all we meet.*

*In Jesus precious name, we pray. AMEN.*

**Benediction (Ephesians 3:20-21)**

*<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*