

Psalm 45

“This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”
Ephesians 5:32

Introduction:

1. Paul determined not to know anything but Jesus Christ crucified (I Cor 2:2), and I determine the same.
2. Paul found his greatest glory and theme in the cross of Christ (Gal 6:14), and I desire to do the same.
3. Do you meditate on the psalms? Do you meditate on the Messianic psalms? Do you sing the psalms?
4. The psalm has an introduction (1), a conclusion (17), a Conquering Prince (2-7), and royal Lover (8-16).
5. This psalm is a Messianic psalm about the Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore a precious psalm indeed.
 - a. Its good matter is far too much for Solomon or any other earthly monarch, even figuratively.
 - b. Its first words of description of the king can only apply to the Lord Jesus Christ (45:2).
 - c. This psalm is not about Solomon, for he was not a mighty and glorious conqueror (45:3-5).
 - d. It is quoted by Paul as describing the glorified Lord Jesus Christ (45:6-7; Hebrews 1:8-9).
 - e. The large posterity, expansive dominion, and perpetual praise belong to Jesus Christ alone.
 - f. This is my favorite psalm for it describes the great love between Christ and His church.
 - g. Observe that this psalm was marked by the Hebrew scribes as “A Song of Loves.”
 - h. It corresponds very well with the whole Song of Solomon, and particularly 5:9-7:10.
6. Use this psalm as a gauge of your soul, a sample of honeycomb, a provoking of your heart, etc.
7. I cannot exhaust each verse of its sweetness, but I hope to give you reason for comfort, joy, and glory.
8. How do you measure a fat soul? Right here. This is good matter. This is marrow. Delight in it.

VERSE 1

1. **Indite.** To utter, suggest, or inspire a form of words to be repeated or written down; = Dictate.
 - a. This verse describes the doctrine of inspiration – God gave us His words through men.
 - b. The psalmist repeated in written form the things which were dictated to his heart.
 - c. David knew inspiration well, for he wrote Scripture from the Lord (II Samuel 23:1-5).
2. The matter, or subject material of his heart, and the theme and content of this psalm, was **good**.
 - a. It was of a King, so noble and majestic, and therefore of excellent purpose and content.
 - b. It was the poetic and figurative picture of a glorious Prince, victorious over all His enemies, Who was rewarded with many gifts and the beautiful woman of His choice.
 - c. It was delightful thoughts of Christ, for a mere record of Solomon is not nearly so good.
 - d. It was the **good matter** of our glorious Saviour and our complete redemption by Him.
 - e. This is no carnal love ballad of two sinners pretending to have love between them.
3. The psalmist had words in his tongue – no thoughts were necessary – he could speak or write.

VERSE 2

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is fairer than any natural man (compare Song of Solomon 5:9-16).
 - a. Adam’s sons are corrupt in all ways by sin and its vital effects (Ps 14:1-3; Rom 3:9-18).
 - b. Adam’s sons are corrupt in all ways by sin and its practical effects (Eph 2:1-3; Tit 3:3).
 - c. He is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate, and higher than the heavens (Hebrews 7:26).
 - d. The glory of His countenance is as the sun shining in its strength (Revelation 1:16).
 - e. He is fairer in nature; He is certainly fairer in character; but He is also fairer in glory!
2. He is the Bright and Morning Star (Rev 22:16), the Blessed and Only Potentate (I Tim 6:15), and the Dayspring from on high (Luke 1:78).
3. Graciousness, and gracious speech, is one of the most desirable traits in a man (Prov 22:11).
 - a. Jesus had greater graciousness and grace in His lips than any man (Luke 4:22).
 - b. Our speech should be always with grace, seasoned with salt, as was His (Col 4:6).
4. Because of His glorious character, God blessed Jesus Christ forever. We do not understand this “therefore” conditionally, but rather finally, as part of the Divine covenant of grace.

VERSE 3

1. Here is a picture of a mighty and successful prince preparing for battle in glorious majesty.
2. Jesus received a rod of iron upon His ascension to His great throne (Rev 2:27; 12:5; 19:15).
3. Do you wish to see a New Testament picture of this glorious Prince (Revelation 19:11-16).

VERSE 4

1. Here is a picture of a majestic conqueror with a skilled right hand to dispatch any and all foes.
2. The “sword” is used synecdochally for all arms, as we shall read of arrows in the next verse.
3. The majestic, prosperous ride of our Lord Jesus Christ is by truth, meekness, and righteousness.
 - a. He came in truth; He spoke truth; He is the Truth (John 1:14,17; 8:45; 14:6); He was a king with truth (John 18:47); He was the True and Faithful Witness (Rev 19:11). While earthly princes often obtain power by deceit, there was none in Him (Isaiah 53:9).
 - b. He exercised His office with glorious meekness (Zech 9:9; Mat 12:18-21; Phil 2:6-11).
 - c. There have been none righteous as Jesus Christ (Heb 7:1-2; Rev 19:11; Matthew 3:15).
4. The right hand, the hand of skill and power, represents the ability to wage war successfully.

VERSE 5

1. Here is a picture of successful combat with our great Prince actually defeating His enemies.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ came from Edom in prophecy to destroy His enemies (Isaiah 63:1-6).
3. Jesus came in power and great glory with tribulation upon Israel (Matt 24:21; Luke 21:22).
4. Jesus will come again in power and great glory upon His enemies (II Thess 1:7-10; 2:8).
5. He has or will crush all our enemies both natural and spiritual, Satan and Pope, sin and death.

VERSE 6

1. Here is a coronation declaration of our glorious Prince as God and King forever and ever.
2. These words prove the Messianic character of this psalm as pertaining to our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Paul quotes these words in Hebrews 1:8-9, where he establishes the superiority and preeminence of Jesus Christ above the angels of God.
4. These words prove the full Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, as the Word of God (Jn 1:1,14,18).
 - a. Jesus was Immanuel, or God with us by prophecy and fact (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23).
 - b. The New World Translation blasphemes, “God is your throne to time indefinite, even forever,” in Psalm 45:7 and “God is your throne forever,” in Hebrews 1:8.
 - c. The Revised Standard Version blasphemes, “Your divine throne endures for ever and ever,” in Psalm 45:6; yet declares, “Thy throne, O God,” in Hebrews 1:8 (see footnote).
5. **Sceptre.** An ornamental rod or wand (often of gold and jewelled) borne in the hand as a symbol of regal or imperial authority.
 - a. Esther depended on Ahasuerus’s sceptre in the Persian court (Esther 4:11; 5:2; 8:4).
 - b. Prophecy had been given seven hundred years earlier of this sceptre (Genesis 49:10).
 - c. Even Balaam prophesied of a Star and Sceptre out of Israel to smite Moab (Num 24:17).
6. Everything Jesus Christ has done or ever shall do is in perfect righteousness (John 5:30; 8:29).
 - a. David needed the Lord Jesus Christ to give him a godly Descendant (II Samuel 23:3-4).
 - b. And the Lord fulfilled His covenant with David by sending Jesus Christ (Jer 33:15).

VERSE 7

1. Here the coronation declaration continues with descriptions and promises of great blessings.
2. Jesus loved righteousness and hated wickedness like no other (Matthew 3:15).
 - a. It is true love to hate everything opposed to the object of your affection (Matthew 6:24).
 - b. The righteousness of God is by the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21-22).
 - c. What the Nicolaitanes believed matters little – Jesus hated their doctrine (Rev 2:15).
 - d. He taught the rule of judging righteous judgment rather than by appearance (John 7:24).
3. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Ghost – the oil of gladness – above all His peers (John 3:34; Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 4:16-22; Psalm 89:19-20).

VERSE 8

1. Here is pictured our Prince, after victory, delighting in peaceful clothing and doting attendants.
2. His garments now, replacing His sword and arrows of militant majesty, are garments of love.
 - a. All three of these substances are found in lovemaking beds (Prov 7:17; Song 4:11-15).
 - b. **Myrrh.** A gum-resin from several species of plants used for perfume and incense.
 - c. **Aloes.** *Always plural.* The fragrant resin or wood of the Agalloch.
 - d. **Cassia.** An inferior kind of cinnamon, esp. bark obtained from *Cinnamomum Cassia*.
3. “Out of the ivory palaces” are streaming His servants and attendants to dote upon their Prince.
4. “Whereby they have made thee glad” describes the delight that He takes in the love of subjects.
5. This verse is fulfilled by the glorious praise of the angels, saints, and elders around the Lamb.

VERSE 9

1. Here is a picture of the wedding of our Prince, or King, to a beautiful queen in glorious attire.
2. The wedding party is large and illustrious with princesses among the select feminine company.
3. The queen did stand at His right hand in the purest gold (I Kings 9:28; Job 28:16; Isaiah 13:12).

VERSE 10

1. Here is pictured the bride’s attendants instructing her to forget her family and love her Prince.
2. The love of Christ has no competitors, as we ought to hate father and mother (Luke 14:25-33).
3. Jesus told one in His day, “Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead” (Matthew 8:22).
4. Please don’t think of going to heaven to see relatives, for we are to forget them in light of Him.

VERSE 11

1. Here is pictured the bride’s attendants encouraging her with praise and pressing her to worship.
2. Jesus Christ loved the church and sought her with His own life for her beauty (Eph 5:25-27).
3. The church, being but the bride of her Lord, is bound to worship in return (Ephesians 5:22-24).

VERSE 12

1. Here is pictured the bride’s attendants foretelling her of gifts from the Gentiles and rich.
2. Jesus Christ has so adorned His church that the rich city of Tyre paid homage (Acts 21:3-6).
3. I should be remiss if I did not mention U.S. tax benefits yet provided the kingdom of Christ.

VERSE 13

1. Here is pictured by narrative the adorned bride within her dressing room in woven gold clothes.
2. Though Jesus has made us glorious within – in our souls, the picture is of her bridal chamber.
3. He perfected us with holiness and without blame before Him in love (Eph 1:3-6; Jude 1:24).
4. The Lord has clothed us with the garments of a glorious salvation (Isaiah 61:10; Rev 3:18).

VERSE 14

1. Here is narrative of the bride being taken to the king in glorious garments and with attendants.
2. These are the nuptial garments for the consummation of the marriage and intimate lovemaking.
3. Jesus will clothe us with the fine linen of the righteousness He secured for us (Rev 19:8,14).
4. There were many at Solomon's bed (Song 6:8), and also in heaven (Heb 12:22-23; Rev 5:11).

VERSE 15

1. Here the narrative continues by describing the ecstatic scene of the bride meeting her Lord.
2. The gospel privilege of knowing Jesus Christ is such a joyous privilege (Isaiah 35:1-10).
3. Our Lord has prepared a place for His bride here and there (Eph 2:19-22; John 14:2-3).
4. The heavenly privilege of being with Christ is a greater joyous event (Revelation 7:16-17).

VERSE 16

1. Here the attendants further instruct the bride of the spiritual seed and their royal dominion.
2. Note the spiritual seed, which would serve Jesus and be accounted a generation (Ps 22:30-31).
3. A blessing of Christ's gospel is to replace natural relatives with spiritual ones (Mark 10:28-30).
4. Jesus Christ has made us all – male and female – kings and priests (Rev 1:6; 5:10; Gal 3:28).
5. Isaiah foretold this fertile bride bearing many children (Isaiah 49:21-23; 54:1-10; Gal 4:26-27).
6. The Jewish "fathers" rejected Jesus, but Gentile "children" sought Him (Acts 15:13-18).

VERSE 17

1. Here the psalmist concludes his good matter, promising perpetual preaching and praise to Him.
2. God's ministers make His glorious Name, Person, and work remembered (Rom 11:33-36); and it is the privilege of God's saints to praise Him forever and ever (Psalm 72:17-20; 145:1-21).
3. The name of Jehovah God and His Son Jesus Christ have been loved by Gentiles (Mal 1:11).
4. This nuptial psalm has been the source of such, is still today, and shall be forever in fulfillment.

Conclusion:

1. Consider the glorious fulfillment of this psalm the apostles gave the Jews (Acts 2:36; 5:31).
2. Know my earnest desire for your increase in knowledge of Christ (Phil 3:8; II Pet 3:18; Eph 3:14-18).
3. Are there any weeping Marys here, who would desire to sit at the feet of Jesus Christ (Luke 10:38-42).
4. If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha (I Corinthians 16:22)!