

HERE COMES THE BRIDE

Friday, April 6

Reading: Psalm 45

***Psalm 45:9** Daughters of kings are among your honored women; at your right hand is the royal bride in gold of Ophir. **10** Listen, daughter, and pay careful attention: Forget your people and your father's house. **11** Let the king be enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord...**13** All glorious is the princess within her chamber; her gown is interwoven with gold. **14** In embroidered garments she is led to the king; her virgin companions follow her— those brought to be with her. **15** Led in with joy and gladness, they enter the palace of the king.*

Do you cry at weddings? I was at a wedding recently and was touched to see the groom with “wet eyes” during the ceremony. The refrain of “Here Comes the Bride” and the beauty of the bride in her wedding gown can make the heart skip a beat or two. Weddings are special occasions and make lasting memories. Psalm 45 was written for a wedding. But not just any wedding; it was composed for the wedding of Israel’s king.

The song begins with the kingly groom (45:2-8). His wedding attire is described in glorious detail (45:3, 8). More important is the description of his actions. He has been blessed by God because he speaks with grace (45:2). In humility, he rides out to defend truth and justice (45:4). His enemies fall before him (45:5) because he loves righteousness. This all culminates in the joy of the Lord being poured out in his heart (45:7).

The bride is described with equal glory (45:9-17). She is arrayed in a beautiful gown and attended by maids on this, her special day (45:9, 13-14). The call to “forget your people” suggests that she is a foreign princess (those who were often married off to cement alliances). She is instructed to now cling to her husband and by implication to his God (45:10-11). In this way she will bring joy and gladness to the king (45:15, 17) and continue the line by being the mother of princes (45:16).

In the middle of this wedding song is an interesting verse:

Psalm 45:6 Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of Your kingdom.

Some scholars suggest that this verse refers to the king as God’s representative. But I believe it is placed here to remind us that for any marriage to truly succeed God must be at the center. God’s throne is the controlling factor. The joy and happiness of marriage depends on God being the One both husband and wife look to as their ultimate Guide and Master.

A final thought from this psalm comes from the fact that verses 6 & 7 are quoted in Hebrews 1:8-9 and refer to Jesus Christ. This reminds us that we are the Bride of Christ and gives this psalm another layer of meaning for us. The New Testament uses marriage as a picture of Christ and His Church (see Ephesians 5:15-33). As our conquering King and Bridegroom, are we beautiful in His sight? Do we “forget” our old way of life and honor Christ with the way we live and serve Him today?

THRU THE BIBLE Reading: Judges 4-6; John 2