



DAY ONE: Behold the king

Romance was in the air the night of my 21st birthday. The upscale French restaurant glowed with candlelight while a violinist softly serenaded the patrons. The pop of a Champagne cork drew my family's attention to the couple seated nearby. As the bottle's contents bubbled into crystal stemware, the woman noticed a diamond ring sparkling inside her glass. At that moment her date fell to one knee and proposed.

Two years later, when Skip Heitzig asked me to marry him there was no restaurant, no ring, and little romance. While sitting in my parents' den he rambled through an awkward proposal to which I consented. As if in shock, Skip sprang from the couch stammering, "Wait a minute. Did I just ask you to marry me? And did you say yes?" He added, "I need a drink of water and then let's talk."

Psalm 45 is a love song extolling the romance between a bride and groom on their wedding day. It includes an ornate dress, bridesmaids, gifts, and a long guest list. Many theologians believe it refers to Solomon's marriage to Pharaoh's daughter.

The author of Hebrews reveals that Psalm 45 is also a Messianic psalm referring to Jesus. "Your throne, O God will last forever" (Hebrews 1:8). But who is Christ's bride? Paul reveals, "I have betrothed *you* to one husband...that I may present *you* as a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:2 emphasis mine). If *you* are a Christian, *you* are Christ's fiancée. Isn't it thrilling to realize that there is romance in the heart of the Redeemer? As you study Psalm 45, visualize yourself within its verses.

The title revealed that Psalm 45 was a contemplation of the sons of Korah. Korah, a Levite and cousin of Moses and Aaron, was swallowed up by the earth because of rebellion (Num. 16:32). But despite his wickedness, God allowed Korah's descendants to become music ministers in the tabernacle during David's reign. All of us have problem people or sinful situations lurking somewhere in our pasts. But take comfort in knowing that even if your family trees harbors broken branches, God's grace brings hope that springs eternal. The coming King proclaims, "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev. 21:5).



Read the verse below and answer the following questions:

*My heart is overflowing with a good theme;
I recite my composition concerning the King;
My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.*

*You are fairer than the sons of men;
Grace is poured upon Your lips;
Therefore, God has blessed You forever.
Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One,
With Your glory and Your majesty.
And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness;
And your right hand shall teach You awesome things.
Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies;
The peoples fall under You. Psalm 45:1-5*

Practical Observation:

- 1) The psalm begins with a personal word from the author. Describe his mood and the action he takes.

- 2) Next the psalmist addresses the King.
 - a. Who does the King surpass in beauty?
 - b. How do you know the King possesses God's favor?

- 3) What title is the King given and what actions does He take?

- 4) What will He discover at His right hand?

- 5) Who will be affected by the King's sharp arrows?

Personal Application:

- a) The psalmist's heart overflowed with adoration for his King, the Mighty One. He responded by penning Psalm 45. As you think of your feelings for your King, journal a declaration of praise and adoration for the Mighty One, Jesus Christ.



- b) Grace, which pours from the King’s lips, means kindness or undeserved favor. John described Jesus as “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Describe the last time you personally experienced His grace. Next, write about how you may pour grace on the life of another.

DAY TWO: Behold the Kingdom

By the time our founding fathers landed on the Atlantic shores they had already endured some failed forms of government from aristocracy to the monarchy. They dreamed of a government that would “love righteousness and hate wickedness.” This new government “by the people, for the people” would be independent from other countries yet declare its dependence upon God who had created all men equal. They engraved, “In God We Trust” upon their currency. The nation’s major institutions relied upon Scripture for inspiration from the court to educational systems. Democracy was to represent a little bit of heaven on earth.

However, if these pioneers and pilgrims caught a glimpse of America today, they would be aghast. Our nation has abandoned its faith in the name of freedom. With the birth of the ACLU, humanities worst vices are not only protected—they’re also promoted. Witch covens, Muslim mosques, and Buddhist temples now replace churches. The multi-billion-dollar porn industry outstrips the revenues of Hollywood’s movie industry. Our court system elevates sin through legalized abortion and gay marriage while simultaneously denigrating Scripture with the removal of school prayer and the public display of the Ten Commandments. Human governments are corrupt because they reflect the heart of man that is “deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9).

The real solution for man’s corrupt governments is found in Psalm 45 when Jesus returns to establish His divine Theocracy. His rule will be one of truth and righteousness, glory, and grace. He promises, “Surely I am coming quickly” (Rev. 22:20).

Yesterday we marveled that the King’s countenance was beyond compare. We also learned that His language matched His looks since grace was poured upon His lips. Today instead of admiring the King’s beauty we focus on His behavior—the rule of His administration. While our earthly politicians become embroiled in scandal and shame, we have a heavenly potentate with an untarnished rule. Human leaders long to be remembered for one great accomplishment, this King will easily achieve political perfection.

Read the verses below and answer the following questions:

*Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;
A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.*

*You love righteousness and hate wickedness;
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.
All Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia,
Out of the ivory palaces, by which they have made You glad. Psalm 45:6-8.*



Practical Observation:

- 1) What additional title was the King given?
- 2) According to this psalm, what will last forever and ever?
- 3) Describe the scepter of God's kingdom.
- 4) Explain the contrast between righteousness and wickedness.
- 5) Describe who anointed the King and how it was done.

Personal Application:

- a) Have you experienced disease, darkness, or the death of someone or something you loved? How did God help you during this season?
- b) There are circumstances that create a before and after in our lives. What does that look like in your life? What happened during the in-between?
- c) Read Romans 8:38-39, then make a list of the forces mentioned in the text. Can any of these entities separate you from the love of God? Write a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for His faithfulness.

DAY THREE: Behold the Queen

Commoners rarely ascend to the throne. Royals have an “all in the family” policy when it comes to marriage. Kingdoms are fortified as royals from one realm marry royals from another. However, sometimes a King opts to marry an outsider. Usually, they're motivated by passion instead of power. This bride holds the title *Queen of Hearts*.

Grace Kelly's marriage to Prince Rainier of Monaco stands as a heartwarming example of this. As part of the U.S. delegation to the Cannes Film Festival in April 1955, she participated in a photo shoot at the Palace of Monaco where she met the prince. After her return, she privately corresponded with Rainier until December when the prince visited America in what most believed was a tour to find a bride. A 1918 treaty with France stipulated that if the prince did not produce an heir, Monaco would revert to France. Rainier met with Grace and



her family and after just three days he proposed. Their nuptials were shared in the Palace Throne Room and concluded as the 142 official titles that belonged to Rainier were conferred upon Princess Grace.

Peeking inside the ivory palace in Psalm 45 we catch a glimpse of the righteous King as his *Queen of Hearts* joins him in holy matrimony. We know nothing about this woman. You might say that she has no past, only a future! Isn't she a bit like you and me? We, too, are commoners made queens. Our bloodline, tainted by sin, has been cleansed by Christ's shed blood. Like Rainier, He has made us joint heirs. Our guilty past fades away as our bright future hastens.

Because the rule of the majestic King in Psalm 45 was good, He was also glad. For one attribute results in the other. John Phillips writes, "There have been gloomy kings, sad kings, bad kings, and even some mad kings, but few glad kings."¹ Often we launch out on a pursuit of happiness only to discover that it is elusive—just out of reach. That's because happiness is a by-product that is rarely achieved in direct pursuit. But when we seek holiness, happiness is sure to follow. The psalmist understood this principle when he proclaimed, "What joy for those you choose to bring near, those who live in your holy courts. What joys await us inside your holy Temple" (Psalm 65:4).

Read the verse below and answer the following questions:

*Kings' daughters are among Your honorable women;
At Your right hand stands the queen in gold from Ophir.*

*The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace;
Her clothing is woven with gold.
She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors;
The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You.
With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought;
They shall enter the King's palace. Psalm 45:9, 13-15*

Practical Observation:

- 1) Who are the bridesmaids at the wedding?

- 2) Describe the queen's location and her appearance.

- 3) What additional title is given to the bride and describe her character?



- 4) Describe her wedding dress?
- 5) What two words reveal the mood of the wedding party?

Personal Application:

- a) The church is called the bride of Christ. Read Revelation 19:7-8, then describe the fabric for our heavenly wedding dress. Explain how you can embellish this dress prior to your wedding day.
- b) The bride is characterized as “glorious within.” Many commentators believe within speaks of her inner beauty rather than her location in the palace. Read Colossians 1:27 and explain what makes us glorious within.
- c) How does knowing you are the bride of Christ make you feel? How will you reciprocate your love to your heavenly Bridegroom?

DAY FOUR: Behold Their Love

Education is the discipline of remembering. Some believe that knowledge is the mere calling to memory of facts and figures. Countless kids have made the grade, from times tables to spelling, with the use of flash cards. How many of us have chugged coffee and lost sleep trying to cram for a final exam?

But did you know that an important part of remembering is to forget? If every time you were asked for your phone number you began to recall the number of your childhood home, your college dorm, or your first apartment you’d be stumped. A recent Stanford study revealed that the brain suppresses, or forgets, less useful memories to prioritize important memories.

You might be surprised to discover that forgetfulness is also a Biblical practice. In Psalm 45, the king counseled the bride to forget one thing to remember another. The Jews wandering in the wilderness were asked to forget the food of Canaan to appreciate the miraculous manna. Even God, who knows everything about everything, chose to forget some things—our sins (See Heb. 8:12). It’s not that God can’t remember; it’s that He won’t remember.

So how do we forget? One professional recommends this: “Conjure the image that triggers a memory you want to forget. Follow it immediately with an image of a white wall, black board, or whatever image that suits you. Repeat as often as necessary. Next time you accidentally conjure the image, the other image will immediately follow and prevent associated memory from surfacing

Read the verses below and answer the following questions:



*Listen, O daughter,
Consider and incline your ear;
Forget your own people also, and your father's house;
So the King will greatly desire your beauty;
Because He is your Lord, worship Him.
And the daughter of Tyre will come with a gift;
The rich among the people will seek your favor. Psalm 45:10-12*

Practical Observation:

- 1) The psalmist now addresses the royal daughter—the bride. What three words or phrases emphasize the importance of his advice?

- 2) What marital advice does the queen receive and what will the result be if she does?

- 3) Why is the King worthy of the bride's worship?

- 4) Who will bring gifts to the royal couple?

- 5) Describe the people who will receive royal favor.

Personal Application

- a) A faithful and devoted heart is the most beautiful gift we can give our King. Paul said, "I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Cor. 11:2). Describes some ways that you will remain pure until your Bridegroom comes for you.

- b) King greatly desires the bride's beauty—He delights in her. Do you think the Lord is delighted in you? Explain why or why not.

- c) As the Lord of the universe, Jesus is worthy of our praise. Worship literally means to sink or bow down in humility and submission. Take time now to pray submitting every are of your life to Him.



DAY FIVE: Behold Their Legacy

In his book *Destined for the Throne*, Paul Billheimer writes, “The universe, including the earth, was created for one purpose: to provide a suitable habitation for humans. The human race was created in the image and likeness of God for one purpose: to provide an eternal companion for the Son. The Jewish race was born and nurtured in order to bring the Messiah. And the Messiah came for one intent and only one: to give birth to His Church, thus, to obtain His Bride. The Church, the called-out body of redeemed mankind—turns out to be the central object, the goal, not only of mundane history but of all that God has been doing in all realms, from eternity .”

If Jesus intends us to join Him forever in heaven, then why aren't we instantly raptured upon salvation? That's because, after regeneration comes sanctification—the process of in which we are changed from glory to glory (See 2 Cor. 3:18). For Christ's bride, the time in between now and then serves as on the job training. We can say with the psalmist, “I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness” (Psalm 17:15).

The phrase “forever and ever” serves as bookends for Psalm 45. One refers to the King's throne, revealing his eternal kingdom (v. 6). And the other refers to the queen, as she would be remembered for all generations (v.17). It is interesting to note that this same phrase occurs 13 times throughout the book of Revelation. There we see the culmination of God's plan for all of eternity at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Jesus came to earth to obtain a bride for His eternal companion. Jesus and His bride will live happily forever after!

But heaven has room for multitudes. Therefore, the King and His queen want everyone in the world to become citizens of their eternal kingdom. So, they work as a team toward this goal. While the King stands knocking at the door of each heart, the queen works to “make disciples of all the nations” (Matt. 28:19).

Read the verses below and answer the following questions:

*Instead of Your fathers shall be Your sons,
Whom You shall make princes in all the earth.
I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations;
Therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever. Psalm 45:16-17*

Practical Observation:

- 1) Explain how this marriage will produce a shift in focus and priorities.
- 2) How will this marriage affect the whole earth?
- 3) Psalm 45 ends with a final prophecy about the King. Describe the first part of this prophecy.



- 4) Explain the second part of this prophecy.

Personal Application:

- a) Just as God chose a woman's body to bring forth new life, He uses the Body of Christ to bring spiritual babies into the kingdom. How are you currently facilitating the birth of new babies into God's kingdom?

Children God's children are "born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever" (1 Peter 1:23). When they, in turn, are faithful to plant incorruptible seed and water it with God's Word, He "makes things grow.... For we are God's fellow workers" (1 Cor. 3:7, 9 NIV).

- b) Jesus' name will be remembered throughout the generations. List some of Jesus' names, titles, and descriptions found in Scripture. Then underscore the names you need most today.

