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Psalm 45

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Bible
at Home**

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 45.

Topics.

- I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a scribe.
- In your majesty ride out victoriously for truth and righteousness.
- Your throne, O God, is forever, your scepter is a scepter of uprightness.
- At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
- The people of Tyre will seek your favour with the richest of the people.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK TWO (PSALM 42-72)

1

PSALM 45:1-2

To the Choirmaster: According to Lilies. A Maskil of the Sons of Korah;
A love Song.

I address my verses to the King, like the Pen of a Scribe.

- **Psalm 45:1-2:** My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe. ²You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever.

Verse twelve says, "The people of Tyre will seek the queen of Tyres' favour" so it is safe for us to suppose that the king in focus in this Psalm is the king of Tyre, but we will also see that the King echoes God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Tyre is most likely used for the following reasons:

- It was probably the most-wealthy and luxurious commercial town then existing at the time this Psalm was written.
- It not only embraces people of highest rank and of the greatest riches, but also all its aligned nations and the surrounding nations influenced by its affluence and luxury.
- The king, the noble, the rich and the citizens of Tyre were celebrated among the nations for their great wealth, trade and riches.
- Being a nation of great trade and celebrated by the nations for their great power and success they were a proud and self-conceited nation. (Ezekiel 27:3).

- For all these reason Tyre is a perfect symbol of the collective whole of all the Gentiles and a city that fitly represents the whole of all nations, especially the richest nations of the world. In the light of this compare the following verses:
- On many waters your (the ships of Tyre) revenue was the grain of Shihor, the harvest of the Nile; you were the merchant of the nations. (Isaiah 23:1-3).
- Tyre, the bestower of crowns (the crowning city in KJV) whose merchants were princes, whose traders were the honoured of the earth? (Isaiah 23:8).
- The coastlands shall hope for me (the LORD), the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your (Israel's) children from afar, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has made you, beautiful. (Isaiah 60:9).
- Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram always loved David. (1 Kings 5:1).
- Hiram (king of Tyre) sent with the fleet his servants, seamen who were familiar with the sea, together with the servants of Solomon. ²⁸And they went to Ophir and brought from there gold, 420 talents, and they brought it to King Solomon. (1 Kings 9:27-28).
- Hiram (king of Tyre) sent to him (Solomon) by the hand of his servants ships and servants familiar with the sea, and they went to Ophir together with the servants of Solomon and brought from there 450 talents of gold and brought it to King Solomon. (2 Chron. 8:18).
- Say to Tyre, who dwells at the entrances to the sea, merchant of the peoples to many coastlands, thus says the Lord GOD: "O Tyre, you have said," 'I am perfect in beauty.' (Ezekiel 27:3).

These verses show that Tyre had a great fleet of ships and traded with many nations. They had an abundance of produce to trade and the surrounding nations and those they traded with considered Tyre the crowning city and honoured their merchantmen as the traders of the earth. The king of Tyre was so rich he sent Solomon many of his servants; gave him a gift of 420 talents of the choicest gold and on a second occasion another gift of 450 talents of gold. Added to these it is prophesied that their ships will bring the LORD'S people back to Israel. Clearly Tyre is a perfect symbol of the Gentile nations and especially the rich and powerful.

In the New Testament it is written:

- Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. (Mark 3:8).
- From there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. (Mark 7:24).

Tyre is used as the symbol of the Gentile nations not only because it embraces people of highest rank, and of the greatest riches, and those who were surrounded most by affluence and luxury who would come to honour the king, but also because its citizens were among those who did accept the Lord Jesus Christ the ultimate, perfect and final King of the world.

Forever: the word forever comes from the Hebrew word (`owlam) and can mean any of the following, eternal, everlasting as in a place without beginning and without end a long or short season of time. The King James Bible uses 'everlasting' instead of 'forever' and the New King James Bible uses the word 'forever' instead of 'everlasting' but they all carry the same meaning. The words, "God has blessed you forever" (v2) when applied to the king of Tyre simply means God will bless him for as long as he is king, and when applied to Christ obviously means God has blessed him for all eternity.

In your Majesty Ride out Victoriously for Truth and Righteousness.

- **Psalm 45:3-5:** Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendor and majesty! ⁴In your majesty ride out victoriously for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; let your right hand teach you awesome deeds! ⁵Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; the peoples fall under you.

Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one: (v3) means prepare for war send forth his mighty armies for the cause of truth meekness and righteousness. Though the focus of this Psalm is most likely upon the king of Tyre we see here a faint echo of Christ who has written on his thigh the name "King of kings and Lord of lords" and is pictured riding a white horse leading his armies to victory over the nations of (Rev. 19:11-16).

In your splendour and majesty: (v3) means in the might and power of your royal kingdom.

Ride out victoriously for the cause of truth, meekness and righteousness: (v4) carried the idea that the king will be victorious over his enemies in battle and is fighting for what is right and good (the king of Tyre set God's people Israel free from the bondage of Babylon).

The right hand: (v4) speaks of power so the words, "let your right hand teach you awesome deeds!" means let your God given power and authority show you awesome deeds. The deeds in this context refer to triumphing with great victory over his enemies, especially the enemies of God.

Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies: (v5) meaning the king's authority and power, and the might of his armies produce enormous fear and terror in the heart of his enemies so much so that they fall even at hearing of his coming. Clearly this Psalm is full of echoes of Christ the final King to come. This is quite a common principle in Scripture, many prophecies and Psalms carry a meaning for the local people of the era the prophecy or Psalm is spoken in, but contained within the language is echoes of another person (mostly Christ) or a similar event to come in a future age on a much grander scale.

This is the beauty and wonder of Scripture and evidence of the inspiration of God upon His spoken and written word.

PSALM 45:6-7

Your Scepter O God, is a Scepter of Uprightness.

- **Psalm 45:6-7:** Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; ⁷you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.

The word God in this verse comes from the Hebrew word (*'elohiym*) and can apply to the supreme God or to gods in the ordinary sense it is occasionally applied to magistrates and judges, and sometimes to angels, goddesses or mighty men who are seen as gods. In the context of this Psalm the words, "God's throne is forever," can apply to the following two kings:

1. Cyrus the king of Persia who set God's people free (or to any king of the Psalmist generation who fought for God's people and not against them). The words forever as applied to Cyrus means he would be king for as long as he lived.
2. God's ultimate King the Lord Jesus Christ who came in righteousness and hated wickedness and who will come again in glory, but this time not as a Lamb to be slaughtered, but a King to conquer.

The sceptre of your kingdom is a sceptre of righteousness: (v6) the word sceptre comes from the Hebrew word (shebet) and can refer to a rod used for punishing or disciplining or to a tribe or clan of people. The word righteousness in its widest sense means doing what is right. It embraces showing justice to all people, seeking the way of peace, treating people with decency and respect and of course giving God the honour due to Him. The sceptre of God are the faithful who do all they can to live in this manner. It would be right and proper to say that the faithful who belong to Christ are the sceptre of Christ.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness: (v7) one of the greatest keys to happiness involves the following two attitudes of the heart and mind.

1. To love what is right, just, peaceful and good; to have a heart free of all forms of malice and that rejoices at others people's success, victories, gifts and talents and not feel envious or jealous; to love seeing God's name honoured and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ being exalted and the faithful who belong to him being spoken well off; to love seeing the helpless and the poor being helped and honest justice being carried out.
2. To hate what is wrong, corrupt, cruel, violent and unjust; to hate seeing the innocent cheated out of justice and the helpless and poor being oppressed for the gain of others; to hate all forms of violence (physical, verbal, sexual mental and spiritual) and seeing God's existence denied in the world and hearing the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the faithful who belong to him being mocked and scorned.

To sum it all up the key to happiness is to love everything that is right, just and good and hate everything that is not.

PSALM 45:8-10

4

At your Right Hand Stands the Queen in Gold of Ophir.

- **Psalm 45:8-10:** your (the kings) robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad. ⁹daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir. ¹⁰Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear: forget your people and your father's house, ¹¹and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him.

The king: is pictured as being arrayed in the most beautiful of garments and the richest of perfumes surrounded by joyful music. The symbolism of the beauty and fragrance of his garments is of the excellences of Christ's righteousness, grace mercy and love overflowing which are all fully sufficient for our salvation.

Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women: the word honour comes from the Hebrew word (yaqar) and in the context of this verse it carries the idea of rare, valuable and noble women of excellent and honourable reputation. These were women who attended the king and his queen (the bride).

The queen stands at the kings' right hand: (v9) the right hand is the most honourable place and the place where the queen was seated in in the highest position of the kingdom, yet below that of the king. Although the king exalts his queen above all others in his kingdom, she is also his subject to serve and obey him.

The following verses show the right hand is the most exalted position of honour:

- Jesus said, "I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." (Matt. 26:64).

- Jesus said, “You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” (Mark 14:62).
- The Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. (Mark 16:19).
- He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Heb. 1:3).
- But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. (Acts 7:55).

The symbolism of the queen standing at the kings’ right hand (v9) can be seen as a symbol of the faithful believer and collectively the faithful church. It is of the bride of the Son of God not only being exalted to the highest position of honour, but also having the place in his affections which the newly-married bride has in the affections of her husband.

The gold of Ophir: (v9) was the finest of gold and came from a gold region in the East it was used for the House of the LORD; the Kings House; wisdom is spoken of as being of greater value than the gold of Ophir; the queen is pictured as standing beside the king in the gold of Ophir and Eliphaz says, “lay up the LORD’S words in your heart and then you will lay the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks, meaning you will be abundantly blessed.

(1 Kings 9:27-28) (1 Kings 10:11) (1 Chron. 29:4) (2 Chron. 8:16-18)
(2 Chron. 9:10-11) (Job 22:23-24) (Job 28:16) (Psalm 45:9).

These verses show that the gold of Ophir was the choicest gold. During the Roman era a talent was equal to an average days wage so one talent was a lot of money.

The symbolism: the queen is pictured as being clothed in the gold of Ophir which means she is clothed in the richest garments, made of the choicest gold. It carries the idea that she was as precious as the gold of Ophir. The king is a symbol of God and by extension the Lord Jesus Christ who has betrothed to himself the queen (as symbol of Israel and all the faithful in Christ) who is the bride his wife. She is pictured as being adorned in the choicest gold which of course is a symbol of the Christ’s righteousness and grace which he clothes all those who come to him with. They are compared to the gold of Ophir because the high cost of the garment the faithful are clothed in was the life of the Son of God.

All the faithful in the global Kingdom of God owe their redemption and their adorning to the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The queen has the title, “The Queen” not of herself or her own right, but because of her relationship to the king and because of this relationship she shares all she has with him and he shares all he has with her. There is none closer to the king than the queen. Likewise, it is with the faithful believer and Christ their king, there is none closer to him than those who by faith walk with him. They share all with him and he shares all with them and when he returns in glory will sit them at his right hand as a king’s queen upon his own throne to rule and reign with him.

PSALM 45:12-17

People of Tyre will Seek your Favour with the Richest of People.

- **Psalm 45:12-17:** The people of Tyre (the daughter of Tyre in KJV) will seek your (the queens) favour with gifts, the richest of the people. ¹³All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold. ¹⁴In many-colored robes she (the queen) is led to the king, with her virgin companions following behind her. ¹⁵With joy and gladness they (the queen and her companions) are led along as they enter the palace of

the king. ¹⁶In place of your fathers shall be your sons; you (the king) will make them princes in all the earth. ¹⁷I (the LORD) will cause your (kings) name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

The queen of Tyre is so valued that all the people of Tyre and the richest in the land favour her with gifts. The queen is a symbol of the faithful church (the body of Christ) those who bring her gifts and her honourable women and virgin companions can be seen as those spoken of in the following two Scriptures.

- The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. (2 Chron. 16:9).
- Praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:47).

The queens' honourable women and virgin companions can be seen as those who have a right heart attitude and who are being saved and added to the church daily. Those who faithfully follow God are His precious ones in the earth they are His delight, His treasured possession, and the apple of His eye. They are counted as virgin companions and as righteous and honourable because:

- They are spiritually born again into the global family of Christ and by faith espoused to him in marriage.
- They have become God's children by adoption and by this adoption are made brothers and sisters of Christ arrayed in the rich robe of his righteousness and garments of salvation.

The great prophet Isaiah wrote:

- I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. (Isaiah 61:10).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
