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Announcing the Great Wedding; Psalm 45
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Introduction – Weddings are wonderful, joyful occasions. The wedding is such a momentous event in life that it is one of only two dates that stay with you, your birthday and your anniversary. Family, friends, and the church gathers with bride and groom to mark the beginning of a new life. The wedding is the official, sacred ceremony recognizing that two separate individuals will now become one. It has upon it a divine stamp because God instituted marriage between a man and woman and he instituted the wedding ceremony when he brought Eve and presented her to Adam. That, by the way, is why the groom is standing at the front of the church awaiting his bride, and the bride is brought to the groom.

And yet the wonder and joy and sacredness of the wedding and marriage does not end with the joining of the bride and groom, but what gives the wedding and marriage of man and woman glorious meaning is that it is meant to point to something far beyond this man and woman, far beyond this wedding, and far beyond this marriage. It all points to Christ and His Church. When we come to Christ by faith we are mysteriously and eternally joined to Him and are said to be in union with Christ, much like the mystery of two becoming one in marriage. And upon the return of Christ, His people anxiously await the great wedding where Christ is the Groom and we are His Bride. Paul says in Ephesians 5:31-32, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”

What I believe we find in Psalm 45 is the OT version of the great wedding announcement between Christ and His church. While historically, Psalm 45 was probably written in the context of Solomon and his wife of Song of Solomon, it definitely finds its complete and prophetic fulfillment in Christ and His Bride, the church.

- I. Praise to the Glorious Bridegroom (vv1-9)
 - a. What we immediately observe in this wedding announcement is that all of the attention and focus is on the Groom, and that’s different than our weddings of today. In our weddings, the attention is on the Bride. Everyone takes notice of her wedding

dress. When she enters, everyone stands and honors her presence. No one hardly notices when the groom is in place or what he is wearing. He hardly notices these things. His attention and focus is on his bride. He's just glad to be there!

- i. Our weddings are meant to mimic the first wedding of Adam and Eve, when all the attention was on the presentation of Adam's perfect companion and helper.
 - ii. But this wedding is going to be different because this wedding is that to which all other weddings point.
 - iii. In this wedding attention is on the Groom because without Him this wedding would not exist. In this wedding, it's not the groom anxiously awaiting the arrival of the bride, it's the Bride anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Groom.
- b. Vv1-9 then we read the awe-filled description of the Bridegroom.
- i. First, we note the loving, heartfelt anticipation. V1. The very thought of this Bridegroom fills the psalmist with wonder and joy. 1 Peter 1:8 says, "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory." How we resonate with the psalmist when we think of Christ, our hearts overflow with a pleasing theme.
 - ii. Second, note how lovely He is. V2. He is handsome because he is gracious. We don't deserve his favor, but we constantly have it. Titus 2:13-14 says we are "waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."
 - iii. Third, we note this Bridegroom is the royal King who conquers all his foes. Vv3-5. Now the apostle John must have had Psalm 45 in mind when he wrote of his vision of Christ's return in Revelation 19:11-16.
 - iv. The Fourth and final thing we note about this Bridegroom is that not only is he lovely and gracious, not only is he king and conqueror, but he is all of those things because first and foremost, He is God. Vv6-9.
 1. He is not a king, He is the king, and therefore His throne is forever. This Bridegroom is God.
 2. V7 – Trinity – Phil 2

3. Consequently, secondary themes of today's message are that we are seeing the marvelous unity of Scripture and how it all points to the glory of Christ.
- c. Yes, dear friends, the attention and the focus of this wedding is all on the Groom because He is so lovely, because He is the King of kings, and mostly because He is God, and when God shows up all eyes are on Him and all praise and honor is given to Him.
- d. But that's not to say there is no attention given to the Bride.

II. The Favored Bride (vv10-12)

- a. What is this about forgetting your people and your father's house? That's the leaving and cleaving that occurs in marriage. This is conversion. Jesus said to His disciples, "leave everything and follow me." That's what we do when we come to Christ, we count everything as second and cherish and treasure Him as first!
- b. Then v11 says the king will desire your beauty. What is the beauty of the Bride? The beauty of the Bride is that she cherishes the king above all. What makes her face shine is that her gaze is fixed upon the Lord. God takes great pleasure in the worship of His people.
- c. The attention of this wedding is on the Groom but that takes nothing away from the favor upon the Bride. We are just glad to be there with Him!
- d. It's almost like there is a complete role reversal in our earthly weddings and this eternal wedding.
 - i. As I said earlier, in our earthly weddings, the groom is just glad to be there. In the eternal wedding, the Bride is just glad and thankful and honored and favored to be there.
 - ii. In our earthly weddings, we tell the Bride how lovely she is. In the eternal wedding, we tell the Groom how lovely He is.
 - iii. In our earthly weddings, we tell the Groom how lucky he is to have this woman for his bride. In the eternal wedding, it is we, the Bride, who are favored in having this Groom.
 - iv. In our earthly weddings, we tell the Groom he definitely married up. In the eternal wedding, in every sense of the word, we the church, are married up. The favored Bride.
- e. For weddings today, you first receive a Save the Date notice, and in a few more weeks you receive an official wedding announcement. Psalm 45 is a save the date for the wedding of the

Church and Christ on the date of His return, and guess what, if you are in Christ, your name is on the card!

III. The Future Glory of the Church (vv13-16)

- a. Vv13-15 – picture of the church broadly speaking, certainly directly applicable to all the daughters of God.
 - i. Ladies, that wedding dress is important, isn't it? Whatever you face in this life, always remember the dress that God has prepared for you! The perfect righteousness of Christ will be your robe, and it is beautiful, without blemish.
 - ii. And filled with joy – v15. Daughters of God and the church as a whole are headed for unimaginable joy. We simply can't fathom the joy of being united with our Lord and brought into His palace, the heaven of heavens. Ill. Just imagine, standing on shore and finding it heaven, of touching a hand and finding it God's, of breathing the air and finding it celestial, of waking up in glory and finding it home.
- b. V16 – sons of God – princes – picturing that we will reign with Christ as His people.
- c. Let's pause for just a moment and get this in right perspective. Our world is seemingly turning upside down. Turmoil abounds. Our political world is chaos. Racial tensions are constantly on edge. Everyone gets offended at everything. Senseless killing happens every day. Terrorism keeps popping up. In the middle of all the chaos and turmoil, always remember church, this is where you are headed. This is your destiny. Dressed in the righteousness of Christ. Basking in His glorious presence. Reigning forever with Him. Overflowing with joy and gladness. Yes, this world is filled with trouble, but this will soon pass away – eternity is forever!

IV. The Everlasting Praise of the King (v17)

- a. We rejoice at weddings, don't we? Often when the minister pronounces the bride and groom husband and wife, and they kiss, we break into clapping, we break into praise.
- b. That's what will happen at this wedding too, but the praise will never end. We just won't ever get over how glorious He is and how favored we are.

Conclusion – Rev 21:1-6