

The following sermon was preached at Redemption Baptist Church on Sunday, 9 January 2022. We encourage you to look up the Scriptures that are referenced, and see the context for yourself. May the Lord speak to your heart as you study His Word.

The Coming King

Psalm 45:9-17

In the 38 years that I have known the Lord as my Saviour, I have often heard testimonies of people who, before they were saved, went through a time of intense fear about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Some Christians have told me stories of how, before their salvation, they had walked into a house, or into a room of a house, where they expected to see a saved friend or loved one; but when that loved one was not there (and they saw evidence that they had just been there), they feared that the Rapture had happened, and that they had been left behind to face the Tribulation; and in panic, they began to run all over the house or property, and to look for their loved one, and cry out to him.

On the other hand, I have heard stories of Christians who, for a brief moment, thought that the Lord was just about to come; and they were filled with joy. I myself can tell such a story. On 19 January, 1994, when I was 17, we had some extremely cold temperatures in the Mansfield, Ohio area, where my family lived. That night the temperature dropped to -57 F (about -50 C)! Sometime in the middle of that night, I suddenly awoke to the loud sound of a horn. For about five dazed, confused seconds, as I heard the loud horn, I thought that it was the trumpet of the Lord, and that I was about to go up to meet Christ; and I was filled with an intense joy and excitement! However, as the horn continued on the same note, I began to realise that it was the sound of our car horn. It was so cold outside, that the wires in the car horn had contracted and touched, and caused it to go off! After fiddling with the wires, my dad turned it off.

Now, some of you have heard my “horn story” before; but it bears repeating. What my little story shows is that for those who are truly saved, and “in Christ,” the thought Christ’s coming doesn’t inspire fear or dread; it fills them with joy! This is natural, because we who are saved are Christ’s bride, and He is our Bridegroom. Just as a bride is filled with joy at the thought of uniting with her husband, so Christ’s people should be filled with joy at the thought of uniting with Him for eternity!

Over the past month we have been studying **Psalm 45**. In **verses 1-7**, we saw Christ portrayed as King, Warrior, Messiah, and God. In **verse 8**, we examined the spices in the fabric of His royal garments. The **myrrh and aloes** in His garments speak of His atoning death. Both these spices were used to embalm Jesus’ body; and they remind us that Christ died for our sins. The **cassia** in Christ’s garments speaks of the fact that He is our High Priest. Cassia was the main ingredient in the anointing oil, which was used to anoint the Old Testament priests; and thus, it reminds us that Jesus is our true High Priest, who reconciles us to God, and heals us of the deadly disease of sin. Jesus came “*out of the ivory palaces*” so that He might save us; and the myrrh, aloes, and cassia in His garments remind us of that mission.

Now, this morning, we will look at the last part of **Psalm 45**. In this part of the psalm, Christ is portrayed as our *coming King*. Particularly, He is portrayed as a royal Bridegroom coming to collect His bride. If you know Christ as Saviour, this message will be joyful and encouraging to you; but it will also be challenging and convicting. If you don’t know Christ as Saviour, it is my prayer that you will come to Him today for salvation, and become part of His bride. The title of this message is ***The Coming King***.

Psalm 45:1-17

In **verses 1-8**, the focus has been on the Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, in **verses 9-17**, the focus turns to Christ’s bride.

I. The bride (vv. 9-17)

Who is the “bride” that we read about in these verses? Who is this beautiful young woman who is wearing garments woven with tapestries of gold? Well, let’s begin our search for the bride’s identity by looking again at **verses 9 and 13. (Read verses 9 and 13.)**

In these verses, the bride is called “*the queen*”; yet, she is also called “*the king’s daughter*.” Now, on the surface, this may seem confusing, and strange. Why is the bride called the “*king’s daughter*,” when she is also His “bride”? Surely this passage isn’t implying that it is all right for a man to marry his daughter, is it? No, it is not! God solemnly forbids such a thing in **Leviticus 18**. What does David mean, then, by calling the King’s bride His “daughter”? In order to answer to this question, let’s compare Scripture to Scripture.

Song of Solomon 4:7-9

Once again, we see something that, at first glance, seems strange. Solomon is addressing his bride as “*my sister, my spouse*.” In this case, we are not looking at an allegory; this is Solomon speaking to his actual bride, and calling her “sister.” Why? Was his wife *actually* his sister? No. (This, too, is forbidden in **Leviticus 18**!) Solomon calls his bride “sister” for the same reason that the King in **Psalms 45** calls His bride His “daughter.”

You see, in Bible times, the Hebrews often used family terms like “sister” and “daughter” to refer to a new wife, in order to show that she was, in fact, a *member of their family*, and not mere property. Also, it was not uncommon for a Jewish man to be a good deal older than his bride; and for this reason, the young bride really was like a “daughter” to him, in terms of age and wisdom. In such a marriage, the husband was much older, and wiser; and it was therefore natural for the bride to think of her husband as being like a “father.” That is the kind of relationship that Boaz and Ruth had. Boaz was years older than Ruth. In fact, it is recorded in Scripture that Boaz addressed his soon-to-be bride, Ruth as “*my daughter*” (**Ruth 3:10**)!

Now, let’s get back to our question. We know that the King in **Psalms 45** is the Lord Jesus Christ; but who is Christ’s “bride”? Well, there are several groups of people in Scripture who are called God’s “bride,” or His “wife”; and we need to understand who they are.

First of all, the nation of Israel is called the “wife” of Jehovah. In **Isaiah 54:5**, the LORD said to Israel, “*For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.*” As a nation, the Jewish people are called the LORD’s “wife.” Now, this certainly does not mean that all Jewish people are *saved*. In fact, most Jewish people, both in Old Testament and New Testament times, were *not* saved. Again and again, they rebelled against their own God. That is why Israel, as a nation, is now in a relationship with God that is much like that of a divorcee. It’s not that God has utterly abandoned Israel; rather, Israel has abandoned God. In Old Testament times, most of the nation was unfaithful to God, and went after idols; and in this New Testament age, most Jewish people have rejected their own God and Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why God has, for now, set the *nation* of Israel aside. *Individual* Jews can be saved (and, in fact, are still being saved to this day); but the nation has been set aside, like an unfaithful spouse. However, this situation won’t last forever. In **Isaiah 54** God promised Israel, “*For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from*

thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee.” God is not done with Israel, my friends. (This is why we must love them, and pray for their salvation!) During the Tribulation period, Israel will begin to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ in great numbers; and when Christ returns to earth after the Tribulation to set up His Kingdom, *only* believing Jews will enter the 1,000-year Kingdom. Literally **“All Israel shall be saved.”** Now, who else is called Christ’s “bride”? All believers of all ages! In **Revelation 21**, God makes it clear that *all* true believers of all times, both Jew and Gentile, are His bride.

Revelation 21:9-14

Did you notice what was written on the twelve gates of the city? The names of the twelve tribes of Israel. Israel’s identity is forever engraved into the city of New Jerusalem! Yet, whose names were engraved on the twelve *foundations* of the city? The twelve Apostles’. And whom do the Apostles represent? The institution called “the church.” And who makes up the church? Both Jew *and* Gentile believers in Jesus Christ, in this present church age. In **Galatians 3:26-28**, Paul says to the members of the church of Galatia, **“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”**

So, if the church be made up of Jew *and* Gentile, what does this mean? This means that Christ’s “bride” in **Revelation 21** is not made up only of believing Jews; it is made up of *all* believers of all times, whether they be Jew or Gentile. Is this, then, the “bride” that we read about in **Psalm 45**? Is this bride “all believers of all times”? Actually...it isn’t!

You see, there is one more entity that is called the Lord’s “bride.” That entity is called “the church.” Believers from this New Testament church age are *part* of the great bride that we read about in **Revelation 21**; yet, at the same time, the church is Christ’s “bride” in her *own* right. Let’s see what Paul says about this bride.

Ephesians 5:22-33

This is the bride that we are reading about in **Psalm 45**! We who know Christ as Saviour in this New Testament church age are the “bride” who is dressed in the **“gold of Ophir.”** Now, perhaps you are wondering, “How we can be sure that this “bride” is not Israel, or all believers of all ages?” Well, there is an important clue here in **Psalm 45** which shows us that this bride is made up of *New Testament age* saints. What is this clue? The clue is that the bride is **pictured as a Gentile!** Take a look again at **verse 10.** (Read **Psalm 45:10.**)

What did the King entreat His bride to do? He entreated her to **“forget also thine own people, and thy father’s house.”** This statement clearly implies that the bride is a Gentile. Why? Because the Lord commanded her to leave her **“own people”** (in other words, a people other than the Jews). This reminds us of what Ruth said to her mother-in-law Naomi, when Naomi urged her to go back to her own people in Moab, and back to her old gods. Ruth passionately said to Naomi, **“Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.”** When Ruth married Naomi’s daughter Mahlon, she didn’t merely give lip service to the God of Israel, so that she could marry Mahlon; she had truly

believed on the God of Israel in her heart. That is why she was determined to live among the Hebrews, even after her husband Mahlon had died. Later, when she re-married to Boaz, she was grafted not only into a Jewish family, but into the *land and inheritance* of the Jews. She left her father's house and her own people to follow the God of Israel.

So it is with us Gentiles in this New Testament age. As a people, we have left our fathers' gods, and their heathen ways, and have come to trust in the God of Israel, and have been grafted into the "olive tree" of Israel, by faith. Oftentimes, the decision to own Jesus Christ as your King and Lord demands that you *literally* be willing to be cut off from your "father's house." By the way, the false gods of our fathers weren't merely in ancient times, when our ancestors worshipped stocks, and stones, and trees. There are still plenty of false gods to this day (such as money, possessions, power, parties, careers, drink, drugs, porn, immorality, false religions, godless philosophies, pride, and fear of others' disapproval): and anyone who would come to Christ for salvation must forsake those gods. This is why Christ divides houses. Christ demands that we leave our old gods, and follow Him; and there is usually a price to be paid for doing so. Many of you have known this from experience from the time you were saved. You have been rejected by family and loved ones because of your faith in Jesus. Take comfort, Christian! Jesus promises, "***Every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life***" (Matthew 19:29).

We see, then, that the "bride" of **Psalm 45** is pictured as a Gentile leaving her own people. Should we really be surprised by this? We know that the church is made up of Jews *and* Gentiles, and that they are one body; yet, throughout the last 2,000 years, Christ's churches have been made up overwhelmingly of Gentiles. God chose to picture His New Testament bride as a *Gentile* in order to show that the Gentiles are in His mind and heart. It was always His purpose to call out from among the Gentiles a people for His name. If you be a Gentile, let that sink into your heart! God loves you, just as He loves His covenant people, the Jews; and He has a special purpose for you! He considers you to be part of His "bride"!

Now, every bride has bride's maids; and the New Testament bride that we read about here in **Psalm 45** has bride's maids, too. They are called her "***honourable women.***" Let's look at the Scripture again. (Read **Psalm 45:9-15.**)

Who are these "***kings' daughters***" who are among the king's "***honourable women***"? We know that they are Gentiles, because one of them is the "***daughter of Tyre.***" Now, obviously, these Gentile women are not heathen idol worshippers, or else they wouldn't be "bride's maids"! These are *believing* Gentiles. Yet, if these believers be not part of the New Testament bride, who are they? I believe we can find some good candidates in **Matthew 25.**

Matthew 25:31-46

Now, before I explain this passage, we need to go over some coming events on God's prophetic calendar. One day, all believers who were saved during this New Testament age will be caught up together in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. This event is what we call "**the Rapture.**" However, immediately after the Rapture, there will be seven terrible years of Tribulation on earth. During **the Tribulation**, many people on earth will believe on Christ, and be saved; but many of these believers will be hunted down by the Antichrist, and will be

martyred for their faith: and their spirits will go to Heaven. However, at the end of those seven years, Christ will descend to earth with all His angels, and with all the saints from the Old Testament age, the New Testament age, and with those who died during the Tribulation; and He will slaughter the Antichrist and his armies at **the Battle of Armageddon**.

What will happen next? **The judgment of the nations.** This is what we read about here in **Matthew 25**. All the people on earth who survived through the horrors of the Tribulation will stand before Christ shortly after the Battle of Armageddon. Those who rejected Christ, and took the Antichrist's mark, will be cast into hell, to await the final judgment at the end of the world; but those who believed on Jesus, and demonstrated their faith in Him by helping and aiding fellow believers, will enter the glorious 1,000-year Kingdom of Christ on earth.

These are the **"companions"** of the bride. The believers who survived through the Tribulation will still be in their mortal bodies during the Millennial Kingdom; and during that 1,000 years, they will fellowship with the resurrected New Testament age saints. This is why they are called the **"honourable women"** and the **"companions"** of the bride.

By the way, you may have noticed that these **"king's daughters"** will bring "gifts" to the King. Let's look again. (**Read Psalm 45:12.**) What does this mean? In what sense will **"kings' daughters"** bring "gifts" to the Messiah? Well, we know that during the Kingdom age, the believers who survived through the Tribulation will have children, and will repopulate the earth, and establish nations again; and these nations will send ambassadors to Jerusalem to worship the King, and to bring Him gifts, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. Many of the descendants of the Tribulation survivors will bring gifts to the Messiah only because it is mandatory; but there will also be many who will personally believe on Christ, and be saved.

Zechariah 14:9, 16

A glorious age is coming, my friends! Things are *not* going to continue the way they are right now. Christ will one day "turn the tables." He will overthrow the wicked kingdoms of this world, and establish His righteous Kingdom here on earth; and we who are His New Testament bride will be in our resurrected bodies, and will rule and reign with Him during that 1,000 years. This brings us to our second point.

II. The King's reign (vv. 16-17)

(**Read Psalm 45:16.**) In **verse 16**, David is speaking to the King. In **verses 9-15** David was speaking to the King's Gentile bride; but now, in **verse 16**, He is once again speaking to the King. We know that He is speaking to the King because in Hebrew, the pronoun **"thy"** is masculine. David is speaking to His own Descendant, Jesus the Messiah!

Now, look at what David says to the Messiah. He says, **"Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children."** What does this mean? It sounds as though Christ's own fathers (His human ancestors) will be rejected. Is that what David is saying? Yes! Remember, many of Jesus' ancestors rejected God! Many of the people in the kingly line of David (such as Rehoboam, Abijam, Ahaz, Manasseh, and Jehoiakim) were wicked, ungodly idol worshippers. These men, along with many other of Jesus' forefathers, rejected God; and they will not enter the Kingdom. They will remain in outer darkness, and will weep and wail as they peer into the

realm of the living, and see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the prophets, sitting down to the marriage feast in the Kingdom--yet they themselves are cast out!

Tragically, many of Christ's Jewish forefathers will be barred from the Millennial Kingdom. Yet, who are the Messiah's "**children**," who will be *accepted* in the Kingdom? Those who are adopted into His family! We who are saved by faith are His "**seed**"! In **Isaiah 53**, Isaiah prophesied that as the Messiah would be hanging on the cross, and suffering the wrath of God for our sins, He would "**see his seed.**" We who have repented of our sin and believed on Jesus are His "**seed.**" We are His children. And, as David says here in **Psalm 45**, we will be made "**princes in the earth.**" Do you see the irony in what David is saying? While many of Christ's own Jewish ancestors will be barred from the Kingdom, countless *Gentiles*, who were adopted into His family by faith, will *reign with Him*! Christ has "**redeemed us to God**" by His own blood "**out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation,**" and has "**made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.**"

Now, let's look again at **verse 17. (Read Psalm 45:17 again.)** In this last verse, God the Father is the Speaker. He is speaking to His Son, the Messiah. He says, "**I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations.**" All the generations of people who will be born until the end of Kingdom Age will "**praise**" the Lord Jesus Christ "**for ever and ever.**" His name will be exalted. This is what **Psalm 45** is all about! Christ's New Testament bride has a prominent place in this prophecy; but the glory goes to the Bridegroom! As the ages of the Millennium roll on, and as billions of people are born, they will praise His name. Many of those who are born during the Kingdom will praise Christ with their lips, yet inwardly reject Him; but there will also be many who will look upon the risen, glorified Saviour, and see the wounds in His hands, and consider the animal sacrifices in the Temple, which illustrate Christ's sacrifice on the cross; and their hearts will be drawn to Him in repentance and faith.

Before we finish this message, there is one more truth I would like to point out:

III. The marriage of the King to His bride

(Read Psalm 45:9-15 again.) We have seen who **the King** is. He is the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. He is the anointed One of God. Christ is the second Person of the Godhead, whose throne is forever and ever. He is the mighty Warrior who will put down His enemies at the Battle of Armageddon. He is also the Bridegroom, who greatly desires His bride. We have also seen who **the bride** is. The "bride" of **Revelation 21** is made up of all believers of all times; yet, the bride that we read about in **Psalm 45** is a particular *part* of that great bride. The bride of **Psalm 45** is made up of all New Testament saints. The New Testament bride is pictured as a Gentile, because most believers of this church age *have* been Gentiles. Yet, what is **the wedding**? When and how will the marriage take place? Let's look at what Jesus said to His disciples on the night of the Last Supper, and see what we can learn.

John 14:1-6

In Jewish marriages, there were three stages. First, there was betrothal. **Betrothal** was arranged by the parents. The marriage was official in every way, except that physical union hadn't taken place yet. The second part of marriage was **consummation**. At an unexpected hour (usually during the night), the groom would go forth from his house, quickly collect his

bride, and secret her back to his house, and shut the door; and physical union began. The third part of a wedding was the **celebration**--the gathering of friends and family to celebrate.

What we have read here in **John 14** is Jesus' description of *our* consummation with Christ, as New Testament saints. One day, at an hour we know not, Jesus will go forth from His heavenly house; and in the *"twinkling of an eye, at the last trump,"* He will snatch us out of this earth, and secret us away to *"the king's palace"* in Heaven, to dwell with Him forever. The resurrection of our bodies, and our gathering to Him, will be our consummation with Him.

Of course, Christ will not forget His first bride, believing Israel. All the Old Testament saints will be resurrected just *after* the Tribulation, as Christ is descending to earth to fight against His enemies at the Battle of Armageddon. We know that Israel's resurrection will be *after* the Tribulation, because Daniel prophesied that Israel will awaken from their graves *just after* the *"time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation"* (in other words, the Tribulation). We also know, from **Revelation 20:1-6**, that all the saints who died during the Tribulation will receive their resurrected bodies at the time of Christ's descent to earth. Christ's New Testament bride *and* His Old Testament bride will now be "made ready," in robes clean and white; and the last part of the wedding will finally take place. The last part of the marriage is the *celebration!* The entire thousand-year Kingdom age will be the "Marriage Feast of the Lamb"! Isaiah prophesied that during the Kingdom age, in Mount Zion, God will *"make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined...[and] He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces."*

Revelation 19:1-9

Conclusion: In closing, I would like to point out one more thing about the bride, and about her relationship with the King. (**Read Psalm 45:9, 13-14.**) Why does the King desire our "beauty"? What makes us "beautiful" to Him? Were we beautiful to begin with? No, we were dirty, rotten sinners, clothed in the *"filthy rags"* of our pitiful self-righteousness. Yet, Christ now views His bride as *"glorious within."* Our *"raiment of needlework,"* interwoven with *"gold of Ophir,"* is merely a symbol of our *inward beauty.* Yet, if we be nothing but dirty, rotten sinners, where does this inward beauty come from? It comes from our Bridegroom! He is the one who has washed us with His own blood. *He* has given us the power to live holy lives; and as we await the Resurrection Day (when we will be *completely* free from sin), we should be preparing ourselves to meet Him. Every day, we should be putting on the *"ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."* In speaking of the Rapture, John wrote, *"We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath his hope in him purifieth himself, even as he (Christ) is pure."*

As we await the Rapture, we should also be *worshipping* our Lord. As David wrote, *"So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him."* In human marriage, a wife is not to *worship* her husband; but in our marriage with Christ, we are to *worship* Him, because He is God! "Worship" is not merely singing hymns, or going through outward motions of praise on Sunday. "Worship" should be 24/7. Real worship is *"in spirit and in truth."* Every word that comes out of your mouth, Christian, should be godly and wholesome, and not crude, filthy, foolish, angry, caustic, or bitter. The motivation of your heart should be to glorify *Christ*, not self. Your spirit should be one of gentleness and meekness, just like the Lord's. This is real worship! Christian, are you worshipping your Lord?

In closing, I would ask: **“Are you saved?”** Are you part of Christ’s bride? When the trumpet sounds, will you be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord? Or will you be left behind? If you have never received Christ as Saviour, I urge you to do so! Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation!