

Psalms 45:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which
I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a
ready writer.

Analysis

My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. This opening verse introduces one of Scripture's most explicitly messianic psalms, celebrating a royal wedding that ultimately points to Christ and His bride, the church. The psalmist (possibly one of the Sons of Korah, according to the superscription) describes divine inspiration compelling him to compose this extraordinary poem.

"My heart is inditing" (שָׂרַח/rachash) literally means "boils over" or "stirs" with emotion—the heart so full of inspired truth it overflows into speech. This isn't cold academic theology but passionate, Spirit-inspired proclamation. The "good matter" (דָּבָר טוֹב/davar tov) refers to an excellent theme or beautiful subject—the king's glory, virtue, and wedding.

"I speak of the things which I have made" indicates the psalmist's composition, yet the inspiration is clearly divine. Like all Scripture, this psalm is simultaneously human composition and divine revelation (2 Peter 1:21). The prophet's tongue becomes "the pen of a ready writer"—a scribe's pen moving swiftly, skillfully, under divine direction.

"Touching the king" establishes the psalm's subject: an Israelite king, possibly Solomon or another Davidic monarch, whose wedding celebration becomes the vehicle for prophesying the ultimate King, the Messiah. Hebrews 1:8-9 quotes

verses 6-7 as referring directly to Christ, confirming the psalm's messianic character. The earthly king foreshadows the heavenly King; the royal wedding prefigures Christ's union with His church (Ephesians 5:25-32, Revelation 19:7-9).

Historical Context

Psalm 45 is a 'maskil' of the Sons of Korah set to 'Shoshannim' (lilies), indicating its liturgical use and possibly its melody. The Sons of Korah, descended from the rebel who perished in judgment (Numbers 16), became faithful Levitical worship leaders—a testimony to God's redemptive grace across generations.

Scholars debate which royal wedding occasioned this psalm. Possibilities include Solomon marrying Pharaoh's daughter (1 Kings 3:1), Ahab marrying Jezebel (unlikely given the psalm's praise), or Joram marrying Athaliah. However, the psalm's language transcends any single historical wedding, pointing to an ideal king who exceeds all earthly monarchs.

Ancient Near Eastern royal wedding songs were common literary forms, celebrating monarchs with elaborate praise. Yet this psalm's language exceeds typical court flattery. Verse 6 addresses the king as 'God' (Elohim), language inappropriate for any mere human but perfectly fitting for the divine Messiah. The psalm moves from human king to divine King, from earthly wedding to eschatological union.

The New Testament's use of this psalm confirms its messianic interpretation. Hebrews 1:8-9 applies verses 6-7 to Christ's deity and exaltation above angels. Early church fathers universally recognized Christ as the psalm's true subject, with the church as His bride. The earthly king's wedding becomes a prophetic shadow of Christ's eternal union with His redeemed people.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the psalmist's description of his heart 'inditing' (overflowing) with a good matter model Spirit-inspired proclamation of divine truth?
2. What does it mean that the psalmist's tongue is 'the pen of a ready writer,' and how does this illustrate the dual authorship of Scripture (human and divine)?
3. How does understanding Psalm 45 as ultimately about Christ and the church transform our reading of its celebration of beauty, love, and marriage?
4. In what ways do earthly marriages between believers foreshadow and point toward Christ's relationship with His church?

Interlinear Text

אֶנִּי	אֵלֹהִים	טוֹב	דָּבָר	לִבִּי	כִּי	שׁ
I speak	a good	matter	My heart	is inditing		
H559	H2896	H1697	H3820	H7370		
סוֹפֵר	עֵט	לְשׁוֹנִי	לְמַלְכִּי	מַעֲשֵׂי		
writer	is the pen	my tongue	touching the king	of the things which I have made		
H5608	H5842	H3956	H4428	H4639		
				מְהִירָה		
				of a ready		
				H4106		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 49:3 (Parallel theme): My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

2 Samuel 23:2 (Parallel theme): The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.

Job 33:3 (Parallel theme): My words shall be of the uprightness of my heart: and my lips shall utter knowledge clearly.

Proverbs 16:23 (Parallel theme): The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

Isaiah 5:1 (Parallel theme): Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:

2 Peter 1:21 (Parallel theme): For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Psalms 69:1 (Parallel theme): Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul.

Psalms 2:6 (Kingdom): Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

Job 34:4 (Good): Let us choose to us judgment: let us know among ourselves what is good.

Ephesians 5:32 (Parallel theme): This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

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