

Psalms 45:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear;
forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;

Analysis

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house; This verse shifts focus from the king (vv.1-9) to the bride (vv.10-15), addressing her directly with counsel for entering this royal marriage. The language evokes both historical royal weddings and the spiritual reality of the church as Christ's bride.

"Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear" (שְׁמַעְיְּבָת וְרָאֵי וְפָטֵי אֶזְנָה) uses three imperatives commanding attentive listening. Shema (hear/hearken) implies not mere auditory reception but obedient response. Ra'ah (consider/see) indicates thoughtful reflection. Natah (incline) suggests actively turning toward wisdom. Together they call for wholehearted attention to vital truth.

This language echoes Deuteronomy 6:4's Shema: 'Hear, O Israel.' Just as Israel was called to attentive obedience to God's covenant, the bride is called to hear counsel essential for her new relationship. The spiritual application is clear: believers (the church, Christ's bride) must listen carefully to God's word, considering its truth, inclined toward obedience.

"Forget also thine own people, and thy father's house" appears harsh until we understand ancient marriage customs and spiritual symbolism. In ancient Near Eastern culture, a bride left her birth family to join her husband's household. She transferred primary loyalty from father to husband, from birth family to new

family. This wasn't rejecting heritage but reordering priorities—husband comes first.

Spiritually, this calls believers to relinquish former allegiances for Christ. Just as Ruth told Naomi, 'thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God' (Ruth 1:16), believers must forsake old identities, loyalties, and ways for new life in Christ. Jesus said, 'He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me' (Matthew 10:37). Following Christ requires leaving behind what competes with wholehearted devotion to Him (Luke 14:26-27, Philippians 3:7-8).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern royal marriages often involved foreign princesses marrying kings for diplomatic alliances. These brides literally left their people, language, culture, and religion to join the king's household and adopt his faith. The most famous Old Testament example is Ruth, the Moabitess who left her people to join Boaz and Israel's God.

In Israel's history, foreign marriages sometimes led kings astray (Solomon's foreign wives turned his heart to idols, 1 Kings 11:1-8). Yet when foreign brides embraced Yahweh (like Ruth or Rahab), they became part of Israel and even ancestors of the Messiah (Matthew 1:5). The key was forsaking former gods for the true God.

For the church as Christ's bride, this verse calls for radical conversion. Believers are called out from the world system, from former identities and allegiances, to belong wholly to Christ. Paul describes this transformation: 'If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new' (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Early Gentile converts literally 'forgot their father's house' by leaving pagan religions, polytheistic cultures, and ancestral traditions to follow Christ. This often cost them family relationships, social standing, and economic opportunity. Hebrews 11:8-16 describes Abraham's similar call: he left his country and kindred, seeking a better country, a heavenly one. Believers are spiritual Abraham's

descendants, called to the same pilgrim life.

The Reformation doctrine of conversion emphasizes this radical break with the past. Salvation isn't gradual improvement but death and resurrection—dying to the old self, rising to new life in Christ (Romans 6:3-11). We 'forget our father's house' (the old life in sin) to embrace our new identity as Christ's beloved bride.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to 'forget your own people and your father's house' in following Christ, and what must believers forsake?
2. How does understanding the church as Christ's bride deepen appreciation for the exclusive devotion and loyalty He requires?
3. What are some 'former allegiances' (cultural, familial, personal) that might compete with wholehearted devotion to Christ?
4. How does Ruth's choice to leave her people for Naomi's God illustrate the spiritual truth of this verse?

Interlinear Text

שׁׁמְעֵי אָזַנְתָּ בְּתָךְ וְרָאֵי וְפָטֵת שׁׁמְעֵי
Hearken O daughter and consider and incline thine ear forget

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עַמְּךָ יִתְּבָרֵךְ אָבִיךָ
also thine own people house and thy father's

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Additional Cross-References

Genesis 12:1 (Parallel theme): Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Matthew 10:37 (Parallel theme): He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Matthew 19:29 (Parallel theme): And 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.

Deuteronomy 21:13 (Parallel theme): And she shall put the raiment of her captivity from off her, and shall remain in thine house, and bewail her father and her mother a full month: and after that thou shalt go in unto her, and be her husband, and she shall be thy wife.

2 Corinthians 5:16 (Parallel theme): Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

Genesis 2:24 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Deuteronomy 33:9 (Parallel theme): Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant.

Luke 14:26 (Parallel theme): If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.