

# Psalms 45:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.

## Analysis

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**Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.** This verse directly addresses the king (ultimately the Messiah), celebrating his surpassing beauty and gracious speech. The shift from third-person description (v.1) to second-person address creates intimacy, as the psalmist speaks directly to the king he celebrates.

"Thou art fairer" (תִּפְיָפִיתָ/yafyafita) uses an intensive form of the root meaning beautiful, handsome, excellent. This transcends mere physical appearance—it encompasses moral beauty, character excellence, and spiritual glory. While an earthly king might possess physical attractiveness, the ultimate fulfillment is Christ, "the fairest of ten thousand" (Song of Solomon 5:10), whose beauty is moral perfection and divine glory veiled in human flesh.

"Than the children of men" (מִבְּנֵי אָדָם/mibne adam) establishes the comparison: this king surpasses all humanity in excellence. No human monarch, however impressive, could fulfill this absolutely. Christ alone is "fairer than the children of men"—the God-man who combines divine perfection with sinless humanity, possessing beauty no mere human could attain.

"Grace is poured into thy lips" describes speech characterized by grace—charm, eloquence, truth spoken in love, words of life and wisdom. Luke 4:22 testifies that "gracious words proceeded out of his mouth" when Jesus taught. His Sermon on the Mount, His parables, His conversations reveal grace perpetually flowing from

His lips. This isn't learned eloquence but intrinsic divine wisdom and love expressed in human speech.

"Therefore God hath blessed thee for ever" (לְעוֹלָם בֵּרַכְךָ אֱלֹהִים/al-ken berachkha Elohim le'olam) declares eternal divine blessing as the consequence of this excellence. The blessing isn't temporary or conditional but eternal—le'olam means forever, perpetually, without end. This points beyond any earthly king to Christ, eternally blessed, exalted to God's right hand, given the name above every name (Philippians 2:9-11).

## Historical Context

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The ancient world valued eloquence highly. Kings needed rhetorical skill for diplomacy, law, and leadership. Israel's ideal king combined wisdom with gracious speech—Solomon's wisdom and eloquent judgments made him famous (1 Kings 3:16-28; 4:29-34). Yet even Solomon failed morally, his beauty marred by compromise and idolatry.

The phrase 'grace poured into thy lips' evokes anointing imagery—oil poured abundantly. Just as priests and kings were anointed with oil, the Messiah ('Anointed One') would be anointed with the Spirit without measure (John 3:34). Isaiah 61:1-3, which Jesus applied to Himself (Luke 4:18-21), describes this anointing: proclaiming good news, liberty, comfort—all functions of gracious speech.

Jewish interpretation struggled with this psalm's extravagant praise of a human king. Some rabbis applied it to the Messiah; others to historical figures like David or Solomon. The language clearly transcends any historical king, requiring messianic fulfillment.

Early Christians saw Christ as this beautiful king. His physical appearance is never described in Scripture (deliberately, perhaps, so all peoples could identify with Him), but His moral beauty shines throughout the Gospels: compassion for outcasts, patience with failures, zeal for truth, courage before enemies, gentleness with children, authority over nature. His gracious words brought life, hope, and

salvation. No one spoke like Him (John 7:46).

The eternal blessing reflects Christ's exaltation. After His resurrection and ascension, God gave Him 'a name which is above every name' (Philippians 2:9). He sits at the Father's right hand, crowned with glory and honor, blessed eternally. All authority in heaven and earth belongs to Him (Matthew 28:18).

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's beauty differ from worldly standards of attractiveness, and why is moral/spiritual beauty superior to physical appearance?
2. What examples from the Gospels demonstrate 'grace poured into' Jesus's lips in His teaching, conversations, and confrontations?
3. How should understanding Christ as 'fairer than the children of men' affect our worship, affection, and devotion to Him?
4. In what ways are believers called to reflect Christ's gracious speech, and how can we cultivate words characterized by grace?

## Interlinear Text

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יְפִי־יָתִיד	מִבְּנֵי י	אֲדָם	הַ וְצִקָּה	חַן	בְּשִׁפְתֹתָיִךְ	עַל
Thou art fairer	than the children	of men	is poured	grace	into thy lips	H5921
H3302	H1121	H120	H3332	H2580	H8193	
יְיָ	בְּרַכְךָ	אֱלֹהֵי יִם	לְעוֹלָם:			
H3651	hath blessed	therefore God	thee for ever			
	H1288	H430	H5769			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 4:22** (Grace): And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

**Hebrews 7:26** (Parallel theme): For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

**Psalms 21:6** (Blessing): For thou hast made him most blessed for ever: thou hast made him exceeding glad with thy countenance.

**John 7:46** (Parallel theme): The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

**John 1:14** (Grace): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**Song of Solomon 2:3**: As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

**Proverbs 22:11** (Grace): He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.

**Zechariah 9:17** (Parallel theme): For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.

**Matthew 17:2** (Parallel theme): And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

**Isaiah 61:1** (References God): The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

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