

# Psalm 45: Royal Wedding



Psalm 45 (44) (Mode 5. 5...6... 1 / 1...6 /6 ...5)

This psalm may have been composed for the wedding of a king (Ahab and Jezebel - 1Kings 16:31). In Christian reflection it is applied to Christ the king and the Church, his spouse.

*My heart overflows with a noble theme.*

*I dedicate my verses to the king.*

*My tongue as skilled as the pen of a scribe*

You are the most handsome of men.

How gracious is your speech.

How your God continues to bless you.

O mighty one, gird your sword upon your thigh.

In splendour and majesty ride on victorious,  
for the cause of truth and goodness and right.

In defence of justice

let your right hand show your dread deeds.

Your arrows are keen.

To you armies surrender.

The king's enemies lose heart.

Your throne is the throne of God.

Your reign endures for ever.

Hebrews 1:8-9

Your royal sceptre is a sceptre of equity.

You love [ahab] justice and hate what is evil.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with oil of gladness beyond your companions.

Your robes are fragrant with aloes and myrrh.

Myrrh is a bitter aromatic resin from Arabia and  
Somalia. Aloes is from the resin and heartwood of a tree  
in India. Cassia is from the bark of a tree in Sri Lanka.

From the ivory palace you are greeted with music.  
Daughters of kings are among your loved ones.  
On your right stands the queen mother in gold of Ophir.

Ophir - Arabia? East Africa? India?

Listen, O daughter, mark these words:

Leave your family behind,  
forget your father's house.

The king is infatuated with your beauty.

Since he is your lord,

You must bow to him.

The city of Tyre comes with gifts,  
seeking your favour.

The richest of the peoples honours you.

Jezebel was a princess from Tyre

The king's daughter is clothed with splendour;  
her robes embroidered with pearls set in gold.

They are leading her to the king.

She and her maiden companions  
are escorted amid gladness and joy  
into the palace of the king.

In the place of your ancestors you will have sons.  
They will be princes over all the land.  
Your name will be celebrated for ever.

The peoples will never cease thanking you  
from one generation to the next,  
giving praise to you through this song.