

Palmetto Baptist Church – March 10, 2019
Anticipating the Royal Wedding – Psalm 45

Background:

To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Maskil^[a] of the Sons of Korah; a love song.

- **According to the Lilies** – either a poetical title given to this noblest of songs after the Oriental manner, or it may relate to the tune to which it was set, or to the instrument which was meant to accompany it. (Treasury of the Psalms – Charles Spurgeon)
- **Of the Sons of Korah** – a specific collection of song writers; ironically connected to the man who challenged Moses' authority in the wilderness and was swallowed alive by the earth (Numbers 16). These Sons of Korah must have disagreed with their father and his friends, Dathan and Abiram, because they ("the sons of Korah") did not die. [Numbers 26:9-11]

⁹The sons of Eliab: Nemuel, Dathan, and Abiram. These are the Dathan and Abiram, chosen from the congregation, who contended against Moses and Aaron in the company of Korah, when they contended against the LORD ¹⁰and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up together with Korah, when that company died, when the fire devoured 250 men, and they became a warning. **11 But the sons of Korah did not die.**

Question: "Who were the sons of Korah in the Old Testament?"

<https://www.gotquestions.org/sons-of-Korah.html>

Answer: The story of the sons of Korah in the Old Testament is truly a tale of two fathers and two destinies. The story begins with the Israelites of Moses' time as they journeyed through the wilderness just after leaving Egypt. In **Numbers 3**, God set aside the **Levites**, out of the tribes of Israel, for full time service to Him. They were ordained to take care of the tabernacle and all of its implements, as well as the Ark of the Covenant. **Only the descendants of Aaron, however, were allowed to serve as priests.**

The three sons of Levi were Gershon, Merari, and Kohath (Numbers 3:17). The Gershonites were responsible for the care of the tabernacle and tent, its coverings, the curtain at the entrance to the tent of meeting, the curtains of the courtyard, the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard surrounding the tabernacle and altar, and the ropes—and everything related to their use. The Merarites were appointed to take care of the frames of the tabernacle, its crossbars, posts, bases, all its equipment, and everything related to their use, as well as the posts of the surrounding courtyard with their bases, tent pegs, and ropes. The Kohathites were responsible for the care of the sanctuary. They were responsible for the care of the ark, the table, the lamp stand, the altars, the articles of the sanctuary used in ministering, the curtain, and everything related to their use. They were under the direct supervision of **Eleazar**, son of Aaron.

Unlike the Gershonites and the Merarites, who were allowed to transport the items under their care on carts, the Kohathites had to carry their items, the holy things of the tabernacle, on their shoulders. They had the arduous burden of transporting these items from place to place as the camp moved, but they were not allowed to actually touch the items or they would die. The priests had to wrap the sacred objects in special coverings before they were transported (Numbers 4:15). Many of the Kohathites began to disdain this task and to covet the role of the priests.

Korah was the grandson of Kohath, and he began to run with another group of Reubenite malcontents, namely, Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On, son of Peleth. In pride, they roused a group of 250 men together to challenge the right of Moses and Aaron to the priesthood (Numbers 16). Moses summoned the rebellious men to stand before God and burn incense. God warned Moses to let the assembly know to get away from Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, their households, and the other rebels. Then a remarkable and terrifying event happened.

“Moses said, ‘This is how you will know that the LORD has sent me to do all these things and that it was not my idea: If these men die a natural death and suffer the fate of all mankind, then the LORD has not sent me. But if the LORD brings about something totally new, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them, with everything that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the realm of the dead, then you will know that these men have treated the LORD with contempt.’ As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households, and all those associated with Korah, together with their possessions. They went down alive into the realm of the dead, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community. At their cries, all the Israelites around them fled, shouting, ‘The earth is going to swallow us too!’ And fire came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense” (Numbers 16:28-35).

Although this clearly marked the end of Korah, we discover that Korah’s sons, perhaps too young to understand their father’s uprising or maybe too cognizant of God’s authority to join in the revolt, were spared (Numbers 26:9-11). God judged those who turned against Him in active rebellion and purified His people, but He still had a purpose and plan for even the line of Korah. After seven successive generations, the prophet Samuel arose from the line of Korah, the genealogy of which is recorded in 1 Chronicles 6:31-38 and 1 Samuel 1:1, 20. The Korahites became doorkeepers and custodians for the tabernacle (1 Chronicles 9:19-21; 1 Chronicles 2.) One group of Korahites (1 Chronicles 12:6) joined King David in various military exploits and won the reputation of being expert warriors. However, the most remarkable thing to note about the sons of Korah is that during the time of King David, they became the great leaders in choral and orchestral music in the tabernacle. Heman the Korahite had a place of great importance as a singer, along with Asaph (a Gershonite) and Ethan or Jeduthan (a Merarite). These individuals played an important role in the thanksgiving services and pageantry when the

Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem. David formed an elaborate organization for song, instrumental music, and prophesying through these men.

Of all of the psalms in the Bible, eleven are attributed to the sons of Korah. These beautiful psalms express a spirit of great gratitude and humility to an awesome, mighty God. They express a longing for God and deep devotion. These poetic songs include Psalms 42, 44–49, 84–85, and 87–88. Psalm 42:1 contains the beautiful line, “As the deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.” Psalm 84:1 states, “How lovely is your dwelling place, O God.” Psalm 46:1-3 conveys the powerful message, “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.”

One wonders if the poet who penned these lyrics was remembering his ignoble beginnings, his distant ancestor who perished in an earthquake for his pride and rebellion. Perhaps it was that reflection that prompted the following words of the same psalm: “He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth’” (Psalm 46:10). For each of us, our own songs of renewed purpose and redemption should flow out of a heart of humility as we remember the fallen state from which He raised us and the redemption that we experience through His grace. This was certainly the case for the sons of Korah.

- **A love song** – a song about the ROYAL romance between a bride and groom

Illustration of the “royal wedding” between Prince Williams and Princess Kate. Picture taken by Hans...

- **The reflections of the psalmist. (1)**
- **The intentions of the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21)**
- **The lessons about King Jesus. (2-17)**

I. The reflections of the psalmist. (1)

A. He was sincere. “my heart overflows with a pleasing theme...”

B. He was specific. “I address my verses to the king (not the queen)...”

C. He was selective. “my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.”

- He took the time to write down his thoughts... contemplatively.

II. The intentions of the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21)

2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

A. He instructs us about the customs of an Ancient Near Eastern wedding ceremony. (Easter [groom-centric] vs. Western [bride-centric])

- **Western [bride-centric]**
 - The reflections of the bride (2-9)
 - The reassurance of the bride (10-12)
 - The presentation of the bride (13-17)
- **Easter [groom-centric]**
 - The splendor of the King (2-5)
 - The sovereignty of the King (6-9)
 - The selection of the King (10-17)

“Some here see Solomon and Pharaoh’s daughters only – they are short-sighted; others see both Solomon and Christ – they are cross-eyed; well-focused spiritual eyes see here Jesus only, or if Solomon be present at all, it must be like those hazy shadows of passers-by which cross the face of the camera, and therefore are dimly traceable upon a photographic landscape.” [Treasury of Scripture by Charles Spurgeon] – **Contextualized: the commercial with two mothers talking about the iPhones XR’s ability to “BOKEH” photos (blur out aspects).**

B. He reminds us of God’s promise to David. (v. 6; 2 Samuel 7:16-17)

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me.^[a] Your throne shall be established forever.”¹⁷In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

C. He points us to King Jesus. (2-5, 6, 13-14)

1. Psalm 45 is one of the Messianic Psalms.

Question: "Which psalms predict the coming of Jesus Christ?" <https://www.gotquestions.org/Psalms-Jesus-Christ.html>

Answer: The book of Psalms is a collection of inspired songs used in worship of God, and many of them foretell the coming of the Messiah and predict events that were fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ. **In total, twenty-five different psalms (one out of every six psalms) include at least one messianic prophecy.** Messianic psalms are quoted in eleven New Testament books, especially the gospels and the book of Acts. Below are nearly seventy specific references to Christ in the Psalms fulfilled in the New Testament. Some scholars see additional allusions, but we’ve only included those with the clearest connections to Jesus. The following list provides the reference(s) in Psalms where each prophecy is found and the New Testament fulfillment:

(Concerning the Messiah’s birth, nature and name, ministry, betrayal and death, & resurrection and exaltation.)

[Psalm 45:6 (Hebrews 1:8-9) / Psalm 45:2-5 (King prepared for battle), 45:13-14 (bride’s clothing) - Rev. 19]

Road to Emmaus (Luke 24)

Concerning the Messiah's birth:

1. The Messiah will come from the lineage of David (Psalm 89:3-4, 29-36; 132:11-17; Matthew 1:1).
2. The Messiah will come for all people (Psalm 18:49; Ephesians 3:4-6).
3. The Messiah will know His Father from childhood (Psalm 22:9; Luke 2:40).
4. The Messiah will be called by God while still in the womb (Psalm 22:10; Luke 1:30-33).

Concerning the Messiah's nature and name:

5. The Messiah will be called King of the Jews (Psalm 2:6; John 12:12-13; 18:32).
6. The Messiah will be the Son of God (Psalm 2:7; Luke 1:31-35; Matthew 3:16-17; Hebrews 1:5-6).
7. The Messiah is God (Psalm 45:6-7b; Hebrews 1:8-9).
8. The Messiah will call God His Father (Psalm 89:26; Matthew 11:27).
9. The Messiah will be God's only "begotten" Son (Psalm 89:27; Mark 16:6; Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5).
10. The Messiah will be eternal (Psalm 102:25-27a; Revelation 1:8; Hebrews 1:10-12).
11. The Messiah is the creator of all things (Psalm 102:25-27b; John 1:3; Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 1:10-12).
12. The Messiah will be Lord and King (Psalm 110:1a; Matthew 22:41-45).
13. The Messiah will be a Priest after the order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 6:17-20).
14. The Messiah will be the "Stone" rejected by the builders (Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:42-43).

Concerning the Messiah's ministry:

15. Infants will give praise to the Messiah (Psalm 8:2; Matthew 21:15-16).
16. The Messiah will reveal that the Hebrew Scriptures were written of Him (Psalm 40:6-8b; Luke 24:44; John 5:39-40).
17. The Messiah will do God's (His Father's) will (Psalm 40:7-8; John 5:30).
18. The Messiah will not conceal His mission from believing people (Psalm 40:9-10; Luke 4:16-21).
19. The Messiah will communicate a message of mercy (Psalm 45:2; 55:12-14; Luke 4:22).
20. The Messiah will be angered by unethical practices by the Jews in the temple (Psalm 69:9a; John 2:13-17).
21. The Messiah will teach in parables (Psalm 78:2; Matthew 13:34-35).
22. The Messiah will calm the stormy sea (Psalm 107:28-29; Matthew 8:24-26).
23. The Messiah will act with righteousness (Psalm 45:6-7c; John 5:30).
24. The Messiah will come in the name of the Lord (Psalm 118:26; Matthew 21:9).

Concerning the Messiah's betrayal and death:

25. Political/religious leaders will conspire against the Messiah (Psalm 2:1-3; Matthew 26:3-4; Mark 3:6).
26. The Messiah will feel forsaken by God at His crucifixion (Psalm 22:1b; Mark 15:34).
27. The Messiah will pray without ceasing before His death (Psalm 22:2; Matthew 26:38-39).
28. The Messiah will be despised and rejected by His own (Psalm 22:6; Luke 23:21-23).
29. The Messiah will be mocked (Psalm 22:7; 109:25; Matthew 27:39).
30. Unbelievers will say to the Messiah, "He trusted in God, let Him now deliver Him" (Psalm 22:8; Matthew 27:41-43).
31. The Messiah will be abandoned by His disciples (Psalm 22:11; 69:20; Mark 14:50).
32. The Messiah will be encompassed by wicked beings (Psalm 22:12-13; Colossians 2:15).
33. From the Messiah's body will flow blood and water (Psalm 22:14a; John 19:34).
34. The Messiah will be crucified (Psalm 22:14b; Matthew 27:35).
35. The Messiah will thirst while dying (Psalm 22:15; 69:21; John 19:28).
36. The Messiah will be observed by Gentiles at His crucifixion (Psalm 22:16a; Luke 23:36).
37. The Messiah will be observed by Jews at His crucifixion (Psalm 22:16b; Matthew 27:41-43).
38. The Messiah's hands and feet will be pierced (Psalm 22:16c; Matthew 27:38).
39. The Messiah's garments will be parted among the soldiers through the casting of lots (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23-24).
40. The Messiah will be accused by false witnesses (Psalm 27:12; 35:11; 109:2; Matthew 26:59-61).
41. The Messiah will cry out to God, "Into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Psalm 31:5; Luke 23:46).
42. There will be many attempts to kill the Messiah (Psalm 31:13; Matthew 27:1).
43. The Messiah will have no bones broken (Psalm 34:20; John 19:32-33).
44. The Messiah will be hated without cause (Psalm 35:19; John 18:19-23; 15:24-25).
45. The Messiah will be silent as a lamb before His accusers (Psalm 38:13-14; Matthew 26:62-63).
46. The Messiah will be God's sacrificial lamb for redemption of all mankind (Psalm 40:6-8a; Hebrews 10:10-13).

47. The Messiah will be betrayed by one of His own disciples (Psalm 41:9; Mark 14:17-18).
48. The Messiah will be hated and rejected without cause (Psalm 69:4; Luke 23:13-22; John 15:24-25).
49. The Messiah will be condemned for God's sake (Psalm 69:7, 9; Matthew 26:65-67; Romans 15:3).
50. The Messiah will be rejected by the Jews (Psalm 69:8a; John 1:11).
51. The Messiah's very own brothers will reject Him (Psalm 69:8b; John 7:3-5).
52. The Messiah's heart will be broken (Psalm 69:20a; John 19:34).
53. The Messiah will be offered gall mingled with vinegar while dying (Psalm 69:21a; Matthew 27:34).
54. The Messiah will offer up prayer for His enemies (Psalm 109:4; Luke 23:34).
55. The Messiah's betrayer will have a short life (Psalm 109:8a; Acts 1:16-18; John 17:12).
56. The Messiah's betrayer will be replaced by a more faithful man (Psalm 109:8b; Acts 1:20-26).

Concerning the Messiah's resurrection and exaltation:

57. The Messiah will be resurrected (Psalm 16:8-10a; Matthew 28:6; Acts 2:25-32).
58. The Messiah's body will not see corruption (natural decay) (Psalm 16:8-10b; Acts 13:35-37).
59. The Messiah will be glorified into the presence of God (Psalm 16:11; Acts 2:25-33).
60. The Messiah will ask God for His inheritance (Psalm 2:8a; John 17:4-24).
61. The Messiah will have complete authority over all things (Psalm 2:8b-9; 8:6; Matthew 28:18; Hebrews 1:1-2).
62. The Messiah will destroy those who do not honor Him (Psalm 2:12; John 3:36).
63. The Messiah will bring many people into the family of God (Psalm 22:22; Hebrews 2:10-12; Matthew 12:50; John 20:14).
64. The Messiah's enemies will stumble and fall (Psalm 27:2; John 18:3-6).
65. The Messiah's throne will be eternal (Psalm 45:6-7a; Luke 1:31-33; Hebrews 1:8-9).
66. The Messiah will ascend back into heaven (Psalm 68:18a; Luke 24:51; Ephesians 4:8).
67. The Messiah will give good gifts unto believing men (Psalm 68:18b; Matthew 10:1; Ephesians 4:7-11).
68. The Messiah will be exalted to the right hand of God (Psalm 80:17; 110:1, 5; Acts 5:31).

(Adapted with permission from Shalach.org) **Recommended Resource:** Psalms, Volume 1 - NIV Application Commentary by Gerald Wilson

Psalm 45:6 – Hebrews 1:8-9

ªBut of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

ªYou have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

- Psalm 45:2-5: the king prepared for battle
- Psalm 45:13-14: the garments of the bride
 - Revelation 19

Story of Jesus on the ROAD TO EMMAUS. (Luke 24)

- I. *The reflections of the psalmist. (1)*
- II. *The intentions of the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21)*
- III. **Lessons about King Jesus (Psalm 45:2-17)**
 - A. **He is marvelous to behold. (2-5)**
 1. He is attractive. (2)
 2. He is majestic. (3)
 3. He is persuasive. (4-5)
 - B. **He is enjoyable to follow. (6-9)**
 1. He offers security. (6a – “an eternal kingdom”)
 2. He offers stability. (6b-9) [*Romans 14:17*]
 - a. Righteousness upheld (6b-7a)
 - b. Joy manifested (7b-8)
 - c. Peace experienced (9)
 - C. **He is easy to love. (10-17)**
 1. He desires his bride. (10-12)
 2. He clothes his bride. (13-14)
 3. He receives his bride. (15-17)
 - a. Demonstrated through the fruit of intimacy. (15-16)
 - b. Demonstrated through the promise of a legacy. (17)

Application:

- **Stand up for Jesus.**
 - Follow the example of the sons of Korah who chose to stand up for Jesus even when their family didn't.
- **Look for Jesus.**
 - **Read the Bible carefully**
 - Ask a simple question: “Who said what to whom and why... and what does it mean to me?”
 - Make connections between your passage and the rest of the Bible (footnotes with cross references).
- **Meditate on Jesus.**
 - Hebrews 1:1-9 (Prophet [1-2]; Priest [3a]; and King [3b-9])
 - Philippians 2: the mind of Christ
 - The Gospel of John: (1) Who is Jesus? (2) What does he mean to me?
- **Enjoy a relationship with Jesus.**
 - Behold Him (2-5; Revelation 1:19)
 - Follow Him (6-9; Matthew 4:19)
 - Love Him (10-17; John 4:19)