

A Messianic Love Story

I. Introduction

A. Inspired writing

1. Prophetic

- a. Special inspiration:

"My heart overflows with inspired words."(Herman Gunkel, quoted by Boice 382)

Words fit for royalty; suitably flattering for an earthly king, but gloriously true for King Jesus.

2. Double fulfillment

- a. Earthly King

Royal wedding of an historic king in Davidic line, most likely Solomon's marriage to Egyptian.

- b. Heaven's King

The marriage of Christ to His bride, the church.

II. Ancient Jewish Weddings

A. The Betrothal -

1. Oath bound promise

- a. A legal procedure

Performed before witnesses bound the couple in a covenantal union, although physical union didn't take place until after the wedding. The betrothal could only be dissolved by a divorce.

- b. *"I will betroth you to me forever...in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and compassion."*
(Hos. 2:19)

2. Commitment of the Groom

- a. Bride price

The groom's family provided the dowry.

Our bridegroom redeemed us not *"with perishable things like silver or gold...but with [His] precious blood"* (1 Pet. 1:18-20)

- b. Preparation

After the betrothal the groom would go to his family's home to make arrangements for the wedding. After an undisclosed time, he would return to bring her to his home.

Jesus said: *"I go to prepare a place for you. And...I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."* (John 14:1-4)

3. Anticipation of the Bride

- a. She eagerly awaits the bridegroom's return.

"My beloved! Behold, he is coming, climbing on the mountains, leaping on the hills." (Song 2:8)

B. The Wedding

1. The processions

- a. The groom comes to fetch his bride with his attendants

"Arise, my darling, my beautiful one and come along. For behold, the winter is past."(Song 2:10)

- b. The groom brings her to his home as the wedding party joyfully follows.

"With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king." (v. 15)

2. The Feast

"He brought me to His banqueting table; His banner over me is love. (Song 2:4)

II. The Glory of the King

A. Unsurpassed in stature

"Fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips, therefore God has blessed You forever. (v. 3)

1. Excellent character

Righteous: *"for the cause of truth, meekness and righteousness."* (v. 4)

Humble: *"Come to me... I am meek and lowly in heart; you shall find rest for your souls."* (Matt. 11:29)

2. Gracious speech

"No man one ever spoke like this man!" (John 7:46). "You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)

"When He was on earth, the words of Jesus had the power to still the storm, send demons from those who were possessed, restrain enemies, and draw men and women who were trapped by sin to faith. They still do."(Boice,383)

B. Mighty in Battle

"Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendor and majesty...ride out victoriously. (vv. 3,4)

1. For Justice and truth: *"He who sat on [the white horse] is called faithful and true and in righteousness He judges and wages war." (Rev. 19:11)*

2. He fights for you: *"Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies." (v. 5)*
He has defeated our enemies, Satan, sin and death.

C. An Eternal throne

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of Thy kingdom is a scepter of uprightness...therefore God, Thy God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness." (vv. 6,7).

1. The king is addressed as God. This verse is quoted in Hebrews 1:8, making the case that Jesus is God.

"This paradox is consistent with the incarnation, but mystifying in any other context. It is an example of Old Testament language bursting its banks, to demand a more than human fulfillment."(Kidner, 189)

III. The Worth of the Bride

"An excellent wife who can find? For her worth is far above jewels." (Prov. 31:10)

A. Royal Calling

1. Fitting advice

a. New Allegiance

"Forget your people and your father's house" (v.10)

The bride is to form a new primary loyalty with her husband, corresponding with a husband's duty to *"leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife"* as instructed in Genesis 2:24.

Jesus promises great reward if we hold fast to Him:

"Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother...for My name's sake, will receive many times as much and will inherit eternal life." (Matt19:29)

b. Honor and respect

"Because he is your Lord, bow down to him."(v.11

Submission is "precious in God's sight...Holy women who hoped in God adorned themselves by submitting to their own husbands...doing good without fear." (1 Pet 3:6), as to the Lord Eph 5

"The bride's submission to her partner as both husband and king goes hand in hand with the dignity she also derives from him... she is the gainer, not the loser by her homage." (Kidner, 190)

B. Royal Splendor

1. Royal Status

"At your right hand stands the queen." (v. 9)

It is a glorious, assumed status that is given to her as an outcome of her union with king.

"He has raised us up and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Eph 2:6)

"And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one just as We are one." (John 17:22)

2. Royal clothing

"All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold." (v. 13)

a. You don't provide your wedding dress. The bridegroom does. *"It's His delight to dress you in garments that befit your calling as the bride of the Lord of Lords." (Fitzpatrick, 24)*

"He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels." (Isa. 61:10)

3. Unwavering love

"The king will desire your beauty." (v. 11) "I am my beloved's and his desire is for me." (Song 7:10)

a. He chases you down

He is a pursuing lover, jealously protecting us from other, lesser loves that inflame our hearts.

"She will go after her lovers... [so] I will hedge up her way with thorns... Then she will say, 'I will go back to my first husband, for it was better for me than now!'... I will allure her." (Hos 2:6,14)

b. He gives himself up

"Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."(Eph. 5:25-27)

"As you face ...all of the disappointment and failures of living life in this defiled world, think: [Jesus] won't fail to present me to Himself 'in splendor' because it has, in fact, already been accomplished. I feel inadequate, dirty, ashamed. He sees me as being honorable, glorious, noble, magnificently beautiful; filled with splendor through and through because of what he's done." (Fitzpatrick, 25)

IV. Return of the King

A. The King's Legacy

1. Many heirs

Prophetic words to the king:

"In the place of your fathers will be your sons you will make them princes in all the earth. I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore the nations shall praise you forever and ever." (vv.16, 17)

2. Fulfillment

- a. Davidic line: *"I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom...forever." (2 Sam 7:11-13)*
- b. In Christ: *"for whom and by whom all things exist, is bringing many sons to glory, and [will make] them a kingdom and priests to our God to reign on earth." (Heb 2:10, Rev. 5:10)*
- c. Cosmic: *"For all the nations will come and worship before You, for your righteous acts have been revealed." (Rev. 15:4)*

B. Climax of history

1. We'll be led to the King

"The escorting of the bride, in her finest attire while the [King] awaits her in full state, is no superfluous formality; it is the acted equivalent of Paul's phrase 'to present you as a pure bride to her one husband' and brings out the emphasis of the first wedding, in which God 'brought the woman to the man, and of the last, in which the church comes 'prepared' as a bride 'adorned' for her husband." (Kidner, 191)

2. His return is certain

- a. Jesus promises to return seven times in the book of Revelation.
- b. *"I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star...I am coming quickly." (Rev. 22:16, 20).*

Questions for Discussion

1. Zeph. 3:17 says, *"The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy."* How would really believing this truth make a difference in your life?
2. Did this psalm inspire you to worship? Describe.
3. Does the anticipation of Jesus return excite you? Does it impact the way that you live?

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