

## Finding Christ in the Psalms and Proverbs 8

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Psalms 2, 22, 45, 72, 110, 118; Proverbs 8

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**How do we find Christ?** Whether you are a believer in Christ or still seeking, how **do** we find Christ? Our posturing is key—is it toward Him, the hands-on-the-hips or walking away from Him, or against.

Perhaps, as we journey together for these very few moments of our life together, you can observe your personal reactions as we intersect with what The Word Himself tells us of Himself. As He reveals HIMSELF, observe yourself and your responses—no “right” or “wrong” responses... simply acknowledge what is.

Four of our Psalms portray The King. Psalm 2 is a picture of the King in his Authority. Psalm 72 is a beautiful depiction of Messiah as King, as is Psalm 110. Psalm 45 looks at the King in His Beauty. Psalm 22 takes us inside the King who gave up His Glory and became The Suffering One. Psalm 118 is full of responsiveness to Christ, the King. And, Proverbs 8 is simply another incredible drawing of Christ, called Wisdom.

I'll focus on "The Wedding: The King in His Beauty" from Psalm 45.

Weddings cause me to stop and “stare.” I was like glue stuck to the pavement watching wedding party after party arrive, leave their rented stretch limos, take photographs, toast to the moment and move onto to the next historical site. We learned this was part of The Wedding Day and a marriage ritual, at least for some, in Russia. It was grand to watch so I toasted blessings, praying they'd be as happy, and more sober, in their tomorrows.

The wedding of Psalm 45 goes far beyond the particular earthly wedding service for which this Psalm was written. Might have been King Solomon's wedding to the daughter of the king of Tyre. Not too often have I considered the King's beauty, in fact most of Christ's appearance statements that stick with me have been his horrible, painful appearance at the time of his crucifixion. But this passage describes him as more fair than any other person, with graciousness flowing from him. The pen that writes does so through a love song. Perhaps Fairest Lord Jesus... Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, --than all the angels heaven can boast. This anonymous German hymn seems to capture His loveliness.

But, the fair One is also portrayed as a warrior king--fighting and destroying all his enemies. It's not a fight with flesh and blood. He's destroying evil power, wicked beings forced to loosen their grasp, dark powers driven back and people are set free...to be all God intended. The enemies are destroyed by means of the truth and humble righteousness, taught & lived out by Jesus. So captives are freed from iron clad grips on their mind and hearts. "If behavior changes without a change of heart, you have no genuine change." What matters is change in the heart. Psalm 118:7 says: The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies. And, sometimes those enemies are greatest from within.

Recently I was reintroduced to an interchange that C.S. Lewis in The Chronicles of Narnia describes between the children and the Beaver family about Aslan. Aslan, the Christ-figure, is a lion. Lucy asks, "Is he safe?" Mrs. Beaver laughs and says, "for heaven's safe, dear child, of course he's not safe, but He is Good."

This skillful song or poem then addresses the king as God, Your throne, O God... Here is One who is both God, and yet has a God, God and man! So, here, 1,000 years before he appeared on earth, the secret of Jesus' incarnation is recorded. Jesus, born in Bethlehem and called Emmanuel. ... Emmanuel. His Name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel. The relationship is deepening between your Lord and you when HE is revealed in you... You might still lie about how you really are; but when you say, it's hard to tell you the truth, but I'm not doing as well as I want you to think. Now...He is becoming revealed in you.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows: the oil of gladness in the human heart. ... the very presence of the Holy Spirit. Wow. I want you to take in this fresh cup of "gladness oil" poured out in Mark Batterson's blog last night: He writes,

Got to tour the **Birmingham Dream Center (in Washington DC)** this afternoon and met one of the staff. Amazing lady! She shared **one of the most amazing Holy Spirit prompting stories I've ever heard**. One morning she felt like the Holy Spirit was prompting her to take her **woolly socks** to work. She thought she was losing her mind. She got to the Dream Center and one of the prostitutes that they minister to literally collapsed inside the door. She held her, fed her, and then asked her: **if you could have anything what would it be?** She said her feet were freezing and all she wanted was a pair of **woolly socks**. Not only did she give her the woolly socks. They matched her outfit. Is anything **more exciting or more scary than the prompting of the Holy Spirit?**

The mystery deepens. What is all this about? Why this story of One who is fairer than the sons of men, whose lips are filled with gracious words, who is able to snap the shackles of slavery from people and set them free, who combines in his own being the character of God and man in a marvelous mystery of union? What's he after? What does he want? The Psalmist tells us. . . He's come to get married, to get a bride.

All the preparations are made. He prepares himself – with robes fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. But, we say...these are burial spices. Why are they being

used at the wedding? Out of death, Christ's death, comes this fragrant incense which makes the glorious the scene of the wedding. Ephesians 5:25 says Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. He died -- for us. We got the gruesomeness of His suffering in Psalm 22, a more pronounced description than all the gospels put together. Why? Why did he do it? So he could present to himself a beautiful bride, with no stains, no blemish. **That's what he's after!**

**Finally...** "Here comes the bride" ... at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir. In Oriental custom, this golden dress was always presented to the queen by the bridegroom himself. He paid for her golden dress.

And, if we belong to his bride, the church of Jesus Christ, He has clothed us also. Our golden robe is clothed with his own righteousness. Gold, in Scripture, always is the picture of deity. Jesus Christ is blending our lives with his, and giving us all his position and all his privileges and all his power and all his interests. All that belongs to him belongs to us. How would our lives be different if we truly grasped this ALL that belongs to him belongs to us?

*In Moments like these...I sing out a song...I sing out a love song to Jesus. In moments like these, I lift up my voice. I lift up my voice to the Lord. Singing I love You, Lord. Singing I love You, Lord. [1]Singing I love You, Lord. I love you.*

Some important input is given to the Bride.

Consider and incline your ear; forget your people and your father's house.

What might this mean? Forget pumping up your original, flesh nature. Stop being self-centered like when you were a toddler. Give up your "I'm capable; I don't need you; I'm big!" Reject all this "I can do it myself...thank you very much!" and notice what happens: The king will desire your beauty. This is pretty different thinking than I'd have. Generally I look at the rules, admonitions as what I should do to clean up my act. Jesus taught generosity, kindness, patience, self-control, love, peace-making to increase a desire and a hunger in his heart **for you ... for me?** ...because he **desires** our beauty? Wow! Then he says to the queen, Since he's your lord, worship and acknowledge his Lordship. As a result, the people of Tyre will sue your favor with gifts, even the riches of the people.

Tyre represents a picture of the world. God is prompting the Bride, the Church, to worship her Lord...not programs, filled pews, not worldly or world like performance and achievement criteria. When we studied the book of Numbers a few seasons back, God's goal wasn't numbers, it was obedience to HIM and Him alone! WHEN the worship is right, HE is King in our hearts... at that point... our world will truly come to our door asking for help.

Would any of us have imagined that bringing "woolly socks" to work was an act of worship? Several months ago I was waiting to be seated at Marie Calendar's. A lady walked in alone and gave her name. I fully expected her husband or a friend to join her, but no one did. As we were called for a table, I said, are you eating with anyone? She said, "no." Well, join us, I said, not believing I just invited a person I didn't know

to eat with us. She talked “nonstop.” Nonstop about the 20ish brother in law who was mentally disabled who she was caring for 24/7. This lady couldn’t have sat at a table with more understanding people than us. I marveled. I helped make the invisible God visible that afternoon. And, that’s what it’s all about.

The oil of gladness with which the Lord Jesus was anointed, poured over me...and my family. And, then... they too shall “fall in love with Him.” There was a song sung at our wedding reception: I keep falling in love with Him, over and over again. He gets sweeter and sweeter as the days go by...oh what a walk between my Lord and I... I keep falling in love with Him, over and over, and over & over again....

The beauty of the wedding is that the inner life and the outer life is right! The bride of Christ will be claimed openly for what she is, having been fashioned through this period of time. This is what God is doing now. What’s important now isn’t what’s in the news, the recession, ...but what’s taking place right now in our hearts that impacts eternity—changes of attitude, deliverance from all kinds of bad habits, freedom to be what we ought to be, the fact that love is beginning to fill our homes, and that we react less frequently in resentment and bitterness toward one another. These are the important things.

Whereby WHO He is as Savior and Messiah influences everything you and I do. ... how I behave, how I think, every attitude I have, how I talk, what I do as Christ approaches me outside the ATM and says through a human man, can you give me some money; “I need gas for my car, my account is frozen.” Or how Jesus listens through your ears to a Mom who talks and talks about all that concerns her and it never crosses her radar screen to say “nice to have you back. I missed you” and you continue to be patiently interested in her.

I’m here! In the middle of the doorways of your life **Wisdom** (ask Me and I’ve fill **you with it**)... right here in the city’s gates...**Wealth** (like nothing you ever imagined in any kind of bank account) I’m on the way **Bread** (I’ll tell you **HOW** save so you’ll have enough year round )... wherever you walk, run, sit, slouch **DILIGENCE** (I’ll be in your hands so you don’t become **lazy or idle**), stand, sleep, live and even wherever you die I’m “HERE!” I’m in the intersection of every step you go. **My Name is Wisdom – from before the world began and I never stop being!** **Lean into, rely, on My Goodness, Power, and Wisdom.** You can’t go wrong. Just ask and trust Me. I’ve got an answer and response to anything that you can test Me about.

Perhaps some of you live in this truth. I’m ... slow. I’m still... learning to lean, learning to lean, I’m learning to lean on Jesus. Finding more power than I’ve ever known...I’m learning to lean on Jesus. **To recognize Him in the intersections and everywhere I am. “Is that You, Lord? ”**

We all slip and fall—maybe mentally or emotionally even spiritually... we lose our grip...perhaps you do it physically as my Mom did in our backyard in the winter of 2000...HE SAYS, I’m here ... tending EVEN to your last hours. You don’t slip into coldness, but into My designated appointment time and place...My design for your life.

Isn't that what Psalm 118:5 says? "In my anguish I cried to the Lord, and he answered by setting me free. The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

That's what God wants us to know... to not be afraid what man can do to me... to run and take refuge in Him...not in man, not in princes...not in your supervisors...not in all the nations that surround me...who scare me and threaten me... but "in Him" "calling on Him now...if you forget or are afraid to do it now...that's okay...for His Word says in Psalm 118:13 I was pushed back and about to fall, but the Lord helped me. The LORD is my Strength and my song...he has become my salvation.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares...I have already come. Tis grace that brought me safe thus far. And, grace will lead me home.