

Another Love Song
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Psa 45:12 (BHS)

וְיִתְאַוּ הַמֶּלֶךְ יָפְנֵה
כִּי־הוּא אֱלֹהֶיךָ
וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִי־לָוּ:

Psa 45:11 (NASB)

Then the King **will crave** your beauty.
Because He is your Lord,
bow down to Him.

Note the different versification. “King” is readily identifiable with a first-year background in Hebrew. “Lord” is not in all caps, so it is not Yahweh, but rather *'adonai*. “Crave” is from *'awah* in the *hithpael*, “to crave for, to wish for.”

Go ahead now and read Psalm 45. I'll wait.

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Psalm 45 is identified as a love song in its notation of genre (verse 0 in English, verse 1 in Hebrew). First, the king is described (v2 – 9). He is a warrior, riding for the cause of truth and righteousness. Apparently, it is his wedding day. He is resplendent as he stands near the queen.

Then the poet speaks of the queen (v10 – 15). She is glorious. She and her entourage (bridesmaids?) draw near to the king. How he feels about her is stated in our verse, 45:11. Then the poem ends with the expectation of future beatitude and blessing.

Okay. Let's make this interesting. The Book of Hebrews quotes this psalm right at the beginning (1:8 – 9), to help make its case for Christ.

But regarding the Son He says,
“Your throne, God, is forever and ever,
And the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of His kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
With the oil of joy above Your companions.”

Psa 45:6 seems to call this king, “God.” This mysterious blending of divine and human in the language of the verse is cited in Hebrews and applied to Jesus. So we can say that, according to the New Testament, this psalm is about Christ and his church.

Christ and his church. The psalm is about them. So far, so good. But the thing that really stands out to me, what really sends shivers down my spine, is how the psalm describes his feelings for his bride. That is what our verse speaks about. It says that he *craves* (from *'awah*) her beauty. KJV, “greatly desire.” NIV, “enthralled by.” NCV, “loves.” NLT, “delights in.” Passion Translation, “ravished by.”

But these translations don't really get the idea across. To really hear what is being said, you must see how the root word is used in other contexts. Here are some examples:

The woman saw that the forbidden fruit was a *delight* to the eyes, so she ate (Gen 3: ... do you really need the verse?). The rabble among the Israelites in the wilderness *craved a craving* for meat, and so grumbled against God (Num 11:4; Psa 78:29). Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife—nor *desire* anything else of his (the 10th commandment, Deut 5:21). Here the verb is parallel to lusting after a woman. David *longed* for a drink of water (2 Sam 23:15). The prophet's soul *yearns* for God (Isa 26:8). A wild donkey in heat is full of *lust* (Jer 2:24). The *desire* of the wicked will perish (Psa 112:10).

Are you catching the meaning? In various contexts, the word denotes lusting, coveting, craving after a physical pleasure, and also a deep yearning of the soul. When fallen human beings experience this sort of craving, we often

sin to satiate it. And here it is: Jesus feels this way about his church. He *yearns* for us. He *craves* us. He sinlessly *lusts* for us. He *desires* us. He *longs* for us. He is *delighted* in the attractiveness of the glorified church.

And, my friends, you are included in that feeling of his. *You* are one he loves. He desires *you*. He longs for *you*. *You* are one he craves. *You* are one he wants. He went to the cross for you! Is it any surprise that the Bible uses this word for his feeling toward you?

Knowing this changes everything. When tempted to doubt his good purposes toward you, remember this verse and bow to him. When things get really hard, and you struggle in ways you never anticipated, remember this verse and submit to him. "Not my will but thine be done." He loves you and wants you. He really does. So choose to be his when times are tough.

His longing for you will bring him back, you know. When you breathe your last and are laid to rest, it is not over for you. He will return, call your name, and you will live again. What joy will be yours on that day!

Do you doubt this? Then read our verse once again!