

Sermon Notes

Providence Community Church

1-11-15 Ken Carlton

Title: SKELETAL STRUCTURE OF PS 44

Main Text: Psalm 44

Sermon Description: It is often the case in remote corners of scripture such as Ps 44, that our blurry modern eyes need to be rubbed by the Holy Spirit’s transcendent power to illumine. Prayer, meditation, and careful study in context of wider revelation are normative means to open our understanding to the otherwise obscure. Ps 44 may seem shrouded in caustic tenor and self-incriminating candor at first glance, but some diligent digging will reveal priceless and timeless treasures for tortured souls of every age. The historical context and authorship may remain somewhat ambiguous, but in light of further New Covenant revelation, its prophetic context becomes strikingly clear. Ambrose insightfully noted of this Psalm that former chapters in the Psalter have prophesied Christ's passion, resurrection, and ascension... it is only fitting, therefore, that Ps 44 should anticipate the church’s call to suffer under persecution and embrace all witnessing opportunities, even martyrdom. This message considers the framework of Ps 44. A second sermon will consider the martyr's estate more specifically.

HEADING: POINTS OF REFERENCE FOR PSALM 44

1. COVENANTAL ELEMENT – IMPLICATIONS OF PROVIDENTIAL HISTORY (1-8, 26)

- a. Education (1)
- b. Election (2-5)
- c. Specification (3, 6-8)
- c.Foundation (23-26)

2. ELEMENT OF SURPRISE – COMPOSITION VS. THE EAR (9-22)

- a. Missing to the modern ear
- b. Missing to the contemporaneous ear (Rom 8:31-38)

3. 1ST PERSON APPLICATION – RELATIONSHIP OF REPROACH AND BLASPHEMY

- A call for repentance, fasting, and prayer

Close: Are we standing with Christ such that reproach of us is tantamount to of blasphemy of Him? Matthew Henry: “...(Ps 44) is a Psalm calculated for a day of fasting, and humiliation upon occasion of some public calamity either pressing or threatening.”

FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Theme: Education	Theme: Election	Theme: Covenant foundations	Theme: Surprising worship	Theme: N.T. Clarity	Theme: Fasting & prayer
Verses: Ps 44:1-8	Verses: 44:2-5	Verses: 44:23-26	Verses: 44:9-22	Verses: Rom 8:31-38	Verses: Ps 44