

God's Pattern for His Purposes

*"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples:
and they are written for our admonition" (1 Cor. 10:11)*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 10th

Reflection: The choices of the people of Ancient Israel serve as a type of allegory.

- Egypt represents the power and pull of the World ruled by *"the god of this world"*. 2 Cor 4:4
- Passover reveals the price required to redeem us from Satan's Power. Col. 1:13,14
- Red sea symbolizes a type of Baptism (1 Cor 10:1-2) representing a commitment to Leave "Egypt" (the world) behind and Learn to follow God by faith.
- Sinai (the Law) represents "Discipleship". At Sinai we learn about: *God's Holy standard; Our own sinfulness ; Our need for forgiveness through atonement; God's plan for a partnership with us and the power and pull of the world to cause us to back slide as well as the path back to restoration and fellowship with God*

Recovery (from Sin) and Restoration (to God) involves: Clarity (Reflect) → Conviction (Recognize) → Confession (Repent)

Shûb leb: Return with your heart! {1 Kings 8:47} Metanoe'o: reconsider {Mt. 4:17}

Repentance allows God to cleanse & transform our hearts producing Restoration!

Pr 23:26 *"My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe (be pleased with) my ways."*

- A few chose to do this producing genuine Transformation. Ex. 34:28-35; 2 Cor. 3:18
- Most refused and were content to "worship afar off". (Ex 34:7,10) As a result their sin was not dealt with *and* their hearts remained unchanged. (2 Cor. 3:14-16)

We face the same choice they did! Ro. 12:1,2 *"Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove (dokimazo: approve!) what is that Good (agathos: beneficial) and Acceptable (euar'estos: fully agreeable) and Perfect (telios: fully complete and mature) will of God" (thel'ēma: desire, determination) Ps. 37:4; Jer. 29:11; Rev 4:11*

God has a Plan! Ex. 25-31

The Tabernacle would be a place of Prayer, Pardon, and Partnership.

Ex 25:22 *"there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat..."*

Satan has a "Proposition". Ex. 32

He tried to sidetrack them with the pull of Egypt and the problems of the Golden Calf, hoping they would return to Egypt or that he could infiltrate/corrupt their worship.

God has a Pattern for His Purposes.

1. God's Revelation. Ex. 35:4 *"This is the thing which the LORD commanded"*

Şāwâ': appointed, enjoined, charged.

2. God's Invitation. Open to all! Ex 35:5 *"Take from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart let him bring it, an offering of the LORD..."*

A. Some brought their "stuff". Vs 21,22

B. Some brought their skill. Vs 10, 25 *"every wise hearted among you shall come, (hākām':skillful, intelligent, cunning) and make all that the LORD hath commanded"*

3. God's Provision (For the Tabernacle)

A. For the materials. Promised **500** years earlier! Gen. 15:13-14; Ex. 11:2-3; 36:3-7

B. For the Men (and Women) needed to build it. Ex. 35:30-35

After it was built *"The glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle..."* (Ex 40:34-38) and guided them on their journey toward the promised land.

Principles to Consider/Apply:

1) God always has a plan. Rev. 4:11 Jer. 29:11 *"I know the thoughts (plans) that I think toward you... of peace... to give you and expected end."*

2) God always provides for his plan.

- God told Eve how he would destroy Satan's power. (Gen. 3:15)
- The Tabernacle was part of this because it pointed to Jesus as the sacrificial lamb!
- He told Abram 500 years earlier (Gen. 15) how He would provide for the Tabernacle; and He kept his promise, enriching the Jews. Ex.11:2,3

3) God invites us to Partner with him. Ex. 35:5 *"whosoever is of a willing heart"*

- Not obligation, but **opportunity**! Not out of personal interests, but eternal **investments**.

Mt. 6:20 *"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..."*

- David understood this. 1 Chr29:12-14 *"riches and honor come of thee... of thine own have we given"*

Application: We, like they, have a choice in this matter.

- What eventually happened to all the wealth that generation brought out of Egypt?
What will eventually happen to all of ours?

Remember the Rich Young Ruler (Lk 18:18-25) and the Rich Fool? (Lk 12:16-21)

Some people give God their stuff, some their skills,

But God wants all to give "them **selves". 2 Cor 8:3-5**

"For to their power, ... and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; 4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."

This Pattern hasn't changed. 1 Cor 10:11

God still has a plan and still invites us to Partner with him!

Satan still has a proposition: That we take care of #1!

I suppose the real question is: *Who's really #1?*

Mt 6:33 *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God", and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."*