

THE PATTERN OF PATTERNS

(2 Cor. 5:14-20)

Introduction:

1. In our study of Aubrey Johnson's book "Renewing Your Spiritual Life", we discussed how God used familiar covenant precepts to interact with Israel. We noticed the world pattern for covenants: a preamble identifying the king; a brief history reminding the people of why the king is the king (motivation); the terms of the covenant (how to be on good terms with the king); Consequences of not being on good terms with the king; and the witnesses involved.
2. This morning I want to highlight the fact that God does this in all His interactions with mankind, from the garden to today. We will focus in on the main aspects of the covenant: the reminder (motivation); the terms; and the consequences. We will consider God's pattern of Love (exhibition), Truth (education), and Choice (empowered election).

Discussion:

I. In the Garden of Eden.

- A. Exhibition of Love.
 1. Creation and provision (Gen. 1:26-31).
 2. Endowment and elevation.
 - a. Created in God's image, unlike the rest of creation.
 - b. Given dominion over all of God's creation, as a son, an heir.
 3. Relationship and responsibility (Gen. 2:15-17; 3:8).
- B. Education in Truth.
 1. Much of the education of Adam and Eve is implied, but is rightly inferred.
 2. The main education was with regards to the terms of continued enjoyment of the relationship with God, and life itself (Gen. 2:17).
- C. Choice, the Empowering of Election.
 1. They were allowed the freedom to choose, which entails the ability to be tempted.
 2. They chose poorly, and God's love and mercy provided a future they did not deserve.

II. The Nation of Israel.

- A. Exhibition of Love.
 1. He was the God of their fathers (Ex. 3:16) and all that that entailed (3:9, 16, 17).
 2. He brought them out of Egypt and not empty handed (Ex. 12:31-36).
 3. God led them and fed them for 40 years despite their unfaithfulness (Ex. 13:21, 22; 16:4; Josh. 5:11).
 4. God gave them the promised land (Josh. 21:43-45) and peace when they were faithful.
- B. Education in Truth.
 1. At Mount Sinai they were given the Law of Moses (Ex. 34; Lev.; et al).
 2. Day by day, year by year, they were given examples of the Law of Moses.
- C. Choice, the Empowering of Election.
 1. Israel was given the Law of Moses to keep for their good always, but they were not forced to do so.
 2. Israel chose poorly, and God's love and mercy provided a future for them they did not deserve (2 Chron. 36:13-21).

III. The Christian Age.

- A. Exhibition of Love.
 1. The love of God is made manifest in the cross of Christ (Rom. 5:8).
 2. The love of Christ is made manifest in His cross (John 15:13; 10:11).
 3. The love of Christ/God motivates Christians (2 Cor. 5:14; Gal. 2:20).
- B. Education in Truth.

1. All authority has been given to Christ and He has commanded baptism into discipleship, and salvation via faithful obedience (Matt. 28:18-20; Jas. 2:10-12).
 2. Eternal fate of all has been revealed clearly (Matt. 25; Rev. 20:11-15).
- C. Choice, the Empowering of Election.
1. Jesus invited all to come to Him and be saved (Matt. 11:28-30; John 6:54).
 2. The apostles of Jesus did the same (Acts 2:40; Rom. 8:29; 1 John 1:5-10; Rev. 2, 3).

Conclusion:

1. The pattern is clear and pervasive = God loves us and exhibits it to us; God teaches us (if we will learn) the truth of our reality; and God invites us to choose what is best for us with our lives.
2. From the beginning until the end, that is the pattern of pattern. Thus, the question of questions: what will you choose?
3. Invitation.

2017 SPIRITUAL MENU: HELP YOURSELVES!!				
YEAR	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
2017	Apr. 23-26	SEIBS Lectureship	Knoxville, TN	
2017	Apr. 23-26	OVU Lectureship	Vienna, WV	
2017	June	Jamestown Church Picnic	TBA	
2017	June 18-23	Virginia Christian Camp	Christiansburg, VA	
2017	July 21-23	Eric Lyons Gospel Meeting	Jamestown, NY	Is the Bible Reliable?
2017	Aug. 18-24	Polishing The Pulpit	Seveirville, TN	
2017	TBA	Ladies Retreat	Franklinville, NY	
2017	TBA	Men's Retreat	Franklinville, NY	
2017	Oct. 22-26	WVSOP Lectureship	Moundsville, WV	
2017	Nov.	CBI Retreat	Columbia, TN	
More Items to come as they become known				