

Hebrews 8.5

The Pattern Shown

We live in a time when human ingenuity is at its peak. The advent of AI, of all manner of technology have left us all a little dizzied... every last one of us holds more computing power in the phone in our pockets than the most advanced military computers of just 4 decades ago... we love to invent and God has made us creative and given us wisdom and ability to do so. But He has not granted us permission to invent new ways to worship. He has not given us license to ignore His instructions about how we are to approach Him, or how we are worship Him. From the beginning of His relationship with man, God has instructed us in how to worship Him in a manner that is acceptable.

I. GOD ESTABLISHED THE PATTERNS

A. He showed men the patterns

Genesis 4.1-7

The Second commandment –

Exodus 20.4-6

1. This is the "therefore do this instead... "

B. He taught them what was to be done

1. God does not leave us to our own devices

Exodus 25:9 According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.

Exodus 26:30 And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.

1 Chronicles 28:19 "All this," said David, "the Lord made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans."

2. He tells us what He requires of us

a. The tabernacle was called the tabernacle of witness...

Acts 7:44 "Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as He appointed, instructing Moses to make it according to the pattern that he had seen,

3. He still teaches us to obey

a. With the Spirit

b. By the Word

c. Through the brethren

d. In our consciences

C. He instructed them to obey

1. Knowing and doing are two different things

2. We can know the right and refuse, or be unable to comply
 3. The first leaves us guilty
 4. The second leaves us frustrated... and so
- D. He provided the ability to obey
1. Craftsmen & Artisans

Exodus 35.30-35

2. Musicians

“Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the Lord with the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.” (Psalm 33:1–3, NKJV)

- E. He provided the materials with which they could obey

1. In the wilderness He provided the wealth of the wilderness and the plunder of Egypt

“Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.” (Exodus 12:35–36, NKJV)

Exodus 25.1-7

2. In the first temple, the wealth of Solomon was brought in by the nations who came to honor him for his wisdom.

“Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. Each man brought his present: articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year.” (1 Kings 10:24–25, NKJV)

“Then Hiram sent to Solomon, saying: I have considered the message which you sent me, and I will do all you desire concerning the cedar and cypress logs. My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon to the sea; I will float them in rafts by sea to the place you indicate to me, and will have them broken apart there; then you can take them away. And you shall fulfill my desire by giving food for my household.” (1 Kings 5:8–9)

F. We can use what God has given for true worship or false

1. In the wilderness they first used the plunder of Egypt to make the golden calves

Exodus 32.1-5

2. God still made sure they had more than enough to construct the tabernacle

II. THE PATTERNS HAVE MEANING

- A. These things are important
 - 1. God says "see to it"
 - 2. They are the basis for a right relationship with God. He tells us exactly what He required for proper worship.
 - 3. They form a pattern for our modern understanding of how we worship.
 - a. Normative VS. Regulative
 - b. NT worship defined by the teaching and instruction of the Scripture
 - c. God does NOT permit us to be like the heathen.

“take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.’” (Deuteronomy 12:30, NKJV)

- B. They are revelation
 - 1. God has revealed Himself to us through His Word and the patterns it displays... for instance

- the specific quotation in Heb 8 references
Exodus 25.40

“You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it. And its wick-trimmers and their trays shall be of pure gold. It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.” (Exodus 25:37–40, NKJV)

a. When Jesus appeared to John on the isle of Patmos He stood in the midst of 7 golden lampstands...

*“Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.”
(Revelation 1:12–13, NKJV)*

b. And we also know that in the Heavenly throne room there are 7 lamps before the throne...

“And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were

burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.” (Revelation 4:5, NKJV)

C. They are protecting

1. God protects us from our sinful inclinations by NOT leaving us to our own imagination and devices
2. He guards us against our wayward hearts by revealing what He requires -
3. He shelters us from deceit and evil schemers by giving us clear and plain instruction in the Word

D. They are inviting

1. His patterns and instructions call us to a better and deeper relationship with Him as we obey His commands and seek to please Him.
2. False worship does not please God

E. They are inspiring

1. As we see and think on what God has revealed we desire to know Him more, we hunger to honor Him more, we press after the knowledge of God and find our hope in Him.

III. THESE PATTERNS ARE EXCLUSIVE

- A. God does not allow invention where He has spoken
 - 1. Remember - do not inquire about the heathens... do not inquire OF them either...
 - 2. He is determined that His worshipers worship in Spirit and truth

John 4.21-24

- B. God creates our patterns of worship
 - 1. The OT patterns have ended for they pointed to Jesus
 - 2. But God still shows us patterns of worship today.
 - 3. We worship and carry on our church practice according to what we see in the NT church. That which is defined and described in the New Testament is our pattern and authority for worship.

- C. God is not neutral on our worship
 - 1. What He has given, He expects us to obey

- D. He does not bless where He is not honored

“Therefore the Lord God of Israel says: ‘I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.’ But now the Lord says: ‘Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and

those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.”
(1Samuel 2:30, NKJV)

E. Where He is honored rich blessing follows

IV. GOD'S PATTERNS DISPLAY GOD

A. The Cross is central

1 Corinthians 2.1-5

B. Salvation is highlighted

Acts 2.36-39

C. The gospel is proclaimed

1Corinthians 15.1-8

D. The Glory of God is magnified

1Corinthians 2.6-12