

UPWARD CALL

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but this is my one aim: to forget everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what lies ahead. I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God

IN KING JESUS.

(Philippians 3:13-14)

#14-2016

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December 1, 2020

Jesus—the Pattern Son

Occasionally, without much explanation, I refer to Jesus as the *Pattern Son*. It seems that now is a good time to further explain what is meant by this expression. My primary focus is on the word *pattern*, but before addressing this, we need to consider the word *son*.

His Son is the reflection of God's glory and the exact likeness of God's being. He holds everything together through his powerful words. After he had cleansed people from their sins, he received the highest position, the one next to the Father in heaven. **The Son** has become greater than the angels since **he has been given a name that is superior to theirs**. God never said to any of his angels, "You are **my Son**. Today I have become your Father." And God never said to any of his angels, "I will be his Father, and he will be **my Son**." When God was about to send his **firstborn Son** into the world, he said, "All of God's angels must worship him." (Hebrews 1:3-6 GW)

When Jesus walked the earth, He said He came to reveal the name of God, and the only name He ever used was *Father*. As He approached the cross, Jesus even prayed: ***Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You... I have manifested (revealed) Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world*** (John 17:1, 6). To His disciples, Jesus manifested His union with the Father as Son. In the gospel of John, Jesus is quoted as speaking of His Father well over one-hundred times. See [Father—the Name of the One True God](#).

Now, in Hebrews, the writer emphasized right from the start that Jesus was given a name that indicated He was (is) much greater than the angels, and that name is *Son*, which is superior to theirs. The Father declared to Jesus: ***You are My Son!*** This firmly established the union between God, the Father, and Jesus, the Son of God.

Hebrews further states that God has spoken *in Son*. I know this sounds awkward, but this is the way the Greek is worded. To make it flow more naturally, most translations word it *a Son, the Son, or His Son*. It might be a moot point, but it seems to me that *in Son* implies a concept called *son*. Yes, the Father spoke in or by His Son, a point emphasized many times, but in so doing, He was presenting a relational concept to the disciples and to us today. Through Jesus, God has established a relationship with all His people, and this relationship is as sons; just as Jesus is His son, so are we to be sons (both male and female). It's all about **sonship**. Thus, Hebrews (2:10) says that, through the Son, God is bringing many sons to glory. This is our hope, our guaranteed expectation, which leads to the concept of a *pattern son*.

What is a pattern? For our purpose, it is a form or model of something to be replicated or an image that is repeated. In some applications, a pattern is not the real thing. An example would be dressmaking. My grandmother was a seamstress and, as a child, I observed her taking paper that was a pattern of something she was making, like a dress. She would place the paper form or pattern over some cloth and cut it according to the pattern and then sew the cloth together to get the finished product. At this point, the pattern was no longer needed unless she wanted to make another dress just like it.

Jesus is not this type of pattern; we'll see why in a moment. There is another example of a pattern that comes closer to the proper meaning.

In the coin (numismatic) world, when a new coin is being planned, a pattern or several patterns are made in order to evaluate the design before going to production and general release. These are called *pattern coins*, some of which are highly sought after because of their mega rarity. For example, when Queen Victoria took the crown in 1837, only twenty pattern coins were produced for her review and these served as prototypes for coins to follow. As a result, Victoria's pattern coins are considered a very high-value rarity. In other words, the original coins far exceed the value of all the coins produced that follow that same pattern. Stated another way, the originals are the prize and the copies are a reflection of the prize.

One thing about coin reproduction is that it requires pressure to produce copies. Up until the 17th century, coins were hammered, and after that, they were milled or pressed; but either way, pressure was applied to a blank metal piece (planchet) to impress the image of the pattern (mold) into the metal.

This is a wonderful illustration of Jesus as the Pattern Son. The Father is the mold that formed His Son. As Paul tells us, Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of creation. The Father's full impress is on His Son. As Jesus declared: *I and the Father are one*. You see one, you see the other.

As the glorified Son of God, Jesus is *the* super-mega rarity of all rarities because He is one of a kind; there is no other like Him and no other pattern to follow. He is God's sole, unique pattern. He is so rare that no value can be placed on Him and no one can purchase Him. If you were to take all the wealth of the entire universe, you still would not have enough to purchase Him. He alone is God's unique pattern!

He alone went through God's winepress to be crushed so that He would be the mold for all humanity. *The Lord was pleased to crush Him* is tantamount to saying it was God's decision to press Him through suffering. He took all the pressure of the full onslaught of evil and sin and bore it on a cross, and through this selfless, sacrificial love, He defeated sin, death, the devil, and the world—all that came against Him. In so doing, He *was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the spirit of holiness* (Romans 1:4). Through His ascension and glorification, He became the pattern of a new creation. He is now the mold by which the one new man is being formed.

He is the super-mega rare pattern that the Father will ultimately impress on the human race as He makes all things new and brings forth a new humanity of glorified sons in the image of *the* Son of glory. It is for this reason Paul reminds us: *We eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ [to come from heaven]; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself* (Philippians 3:20-21).

In this day of great tumult and upheaval, we who belong to the Lord must realize that our way to glory is the way of being pressed. Suffering leads to glory. This is how we become more and more like our Lord Jesus while we continue to occupy bodies of death. Costly, precious gems are produced by pressure. Through these pressures, the mold of God's Son is impressed upon us until, finally, He presences Himself and transforms us into His image. The first-century ecclesia went through these pressures, and since then, many have done likewise. Are we to be exempt from these things? The days ahead may be days of great pressure, but let us not forget that *through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God*. Through it all, let us rejoice that Jesus is the Pattern Son and His new-creation impress is our destiny!

See [Love of the Pattern Son](#).