

## LIKE THE NATIONS

### INTRODUCTION

- I. Read 1 Sam. 8:1-5
  - A. During the time of the nation of Israel in Canaan, there was undue pressure to conform to ways around them.
  - B. The early church was faced with pressure to conform to the ways of the world. Rom. 12:1-2
    1. The first century church was admonished to hold to the doctrinal teaching given .
    2. The warning was given that some would depart from the faith and the word of God. 1 Tim. 4:1-3 (Briefly explain the “apostasy” and rise of “protestantism” into denominations and their appeal to the lost world).
- II. There are 3 points (all beginning with the letter **R** that we need to consider about Israel in the long ago that we need to examine in view of OUR desire to be like many of the denomi-**nations** around us.

### DISCUSSION

#### 1. 1<sup>st</sup>, listen to their REQUEST. 1 Sam. 8:5

- A. WHEN did this occur?
  1. During the time of the Judges—when they did not yet have kings. v. 8
  2. leadership would fail, and the people would do evil.
- B. WHAT did they say?
  1. They began by reminding Samuel of his age. v. 1, 5-6
    - a. They apparently thought that youth had all the answers.
    - b. This reminds us of how the youth caused the kingdom to be divided upon the death of Solomon.
  2. They then spoke of the abuses of Samuel’s sons. v. 5

#### II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, look at the REACTION.

- A. Samuel was displeased and saw only evil in their request, and he went to God about it. v. 6
- B. God declared that they were **rejecting Him** by making such a request. v. 7
- C. It was a SIGN THAT IN their idolatry, they had already forsaken God. v. 8
  1. Samuel warned Israel of what would happen. (vs. 9-18)
  2. Yet, the people **refused** to listen, and renewed their request. vs.19-22

#### III. 3<sup>rd</sup>, look at the RESULTS OF THEIR REQUEST.

- A. They did *much evil* LIKE the nations around them, in making altars and wooden images in the land, and even practiced homosexuality. 1 Kings 14:21-24
- B. They caused the nations to form a new kind of idolatry—one MIXED with a concept of the true God. 2 Kings 17:23-24
  1. Just here we are reminded that Catholicism is a mixture of idolatry, Judaism, with a little bit of Christianity mixed it.
  2. Many Protestant bodies (springing FROM the Catholic Church) **also** have characteristics of the Catholic Church in their organization and worship.

- a. If you have EVER been to a Catholic assembly, and then attended a Lutheran, Episcopalian or Nazarene assembly, you would see very little difference.
- b. In a Catholic assembly, you might sense an allegiance to Rome and the Pope, and the “catholic church” while the Protestant churches refuse to honor the Pope himself, but the presence of idols and statues in all these bodies is basically that of idolatry, with a little bit of Christianity involved.

C. Then, Israel brought idolatry INTO the house of the Lord. (2 Kings 21:1-9)

1. Some today **want** to bring the doctrines of denomi-NATIONS into the house of God. Matt. 15:9; 2 John 9
2. Some today want to bring instruments of music into spiritual worship—like David did in Judaism.
  - a. David is given “credit” for introducing instruments of music into Jewish worship. Amos 6:3-5; 2 Chr. 29;25-27
  - b. David then made a mess of Judaism, by also introducing naked dancing into HIS worship before the Lord, but the Lord never sanctioned such. (2 Sam. 6:5, 16, 20-22)

#### **CONCLUSION**

- I. Can WE please the Lord today when WE succumb to the pressures placed on us by the spiritual world around us?
  - A. Let us be true to the Lord and His word.
  - B. Not bowing to pressure will do much to help keep the church pure and strong in the sight of the Lord.
- II. Are you a Christian?

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