

Like All The Rest

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

1 Samuel 8 tells the story of the elders of Israel coming to Samuel and asking him to set a king over them. Samuel was old and his sons did not follow the Lord so they thought that a king would be good for the nation. This was another case of men trying to figure out what was best for them without considering what God's will was. Samuel was told to make them a king over them like all the other nations.

That was a lot of Israel's problem – too often they tried to imitate the other nations instead of being the nation that God called them to be. "And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine," **Leviticus 20:26**. They didn't want to be separate from the other nations and live by God's commands, they wanted to be like the people of the idol worshipping countries. Those people didn't have such a restrictive life and were free to follow the desires of their flesh. Even their religions catered to such desires with many of them involving fertility rituals and such so called worship.

Isn't it similar with so many folks today? Many want to be free to do as they wish and not be shackled with God's commands. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel

together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us," **Psalms 2:2-3**. Man wants to follow his own desires instead of following the leading of the Holy Spirit. Rather than being different he wants to fit in with the world. Yet, when troubles come, or death is near, mankind then calls on God and wishes to be saved. Until that happens there is usually little thought of God and eternity.

God has called for those who would be saved and live for him to live a different life than the sinners of the world. The believers who will go to heaven will live according to the will of God and not by the desires of the flesh. The Christian is to live a life that is a witness for the unbelievers of this world. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," **2 Corinthians 6:17**. Coming out from among the wicked and desiring to live for the Lord is a change of life. No longer is the believer to concern himself with trying to fit in with the expectations of the lost people, but to be transformed into the follower of Jesus. Those who follow the crowd here on earth will not want to follow them to hell. When death seems to be near then people think of the Lord and cry to be saved.

There is something in mankind that makes them fear to stand out and be different. Most everyone wants to fit in with the rest of the people because someone who is different from the majority

is often teased, mocked, and sometimes persecuted. Usually it is thought of as being something that effects the young people, but in reality it is the same in people of all ages. We want to be accepted by others and to feel that we are able to do as well as they are. However, in the spiritual life we had better be willing to step out from the crowd and to be pleasing to the Lord and not concern ourselves with what people think about us. Jesus died for us and will be our savior, or judge, not the people that we try to please.

When Israel started to be like the other nations they departed from obeying God. This still holds true for any nation, or individual. If anyone seeks to be like everyone else and leaves the word of God out of his life he will be like the world – lost. Every one of us has to make a choice in life about what we believe and what is important to us. We live our lives according to what we believe and what we value.

Remember Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the book of Daniel? They got in trouble because they refused to be like everyone else. Do you think it was tempting to go along with the crowd and to bow to the image of gold? They were men of God and had decided long ago to live for the Lord and they were committed to serve him. When ordered to worship an idol they didn't have to think about it and wonder what they should do. They had no problem saying, "No, we'll worship the God of heaven and him only."

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340 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

ABRAM IN EGYPT

PHARAOH HAS NOW HEARD FROM HIS PRINCES, OF THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN OF THE EAST, A SISTER, HE IS TOLD, OF ABRAM, TO WHOM HE MUST GIVE MANY GIFTS, IF HE IS TO POSSESS THIS RARE PRIZE

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FOR THE WOMAN, THIS BEAUTIFUL SISTER OF HIS, MUST BE MINE!

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... AS PHARAOH'S GIFTS COME TRUDGING INTO HIS CAMP! A SPLENDID CARAVAN OF ALL THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR WEALTH IN THESE ANCIENT TIMES – MORE POSSESSIONS THAN ABRAM HAS EVER SEEN!

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