



“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?”

(Psalm 137:1-4)

“How Shall We Sing The Lord's Song In A Strange Land?” - Article On Page Two

Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue #10 - February 10, 2014

When Baptism Became Bigotry



When our fundamental movement was organized by a group of Anglicans, Presbyterians, some no-name Christians and a few Baptists, they all concluded that they agreed on “the weightier matters.”

Their goal was, “to keep the unity” and anyone who would suggest anything contrary to their creed would be guilty of, “denominational bigotry.”

Bigotry?

For the sake of unity, R. A. Torrey, A. C. Dixon, W. B. Riley, Lewis Sperry Shafer, C. I. Scofield and other “fundamentalists” agreed to reduce the doctrine of baptism to a “denominational bigotry.”

Nothing is mentioned in all of their writings, including their “Fundamentals” concerning the local church or baptism, as these two important Bible doctrines could not be a part of our new para-church movement if we were going “to keep the unity.”

For the first time in two thousand years, God's pastors and God's local churches were pushed aside for our new “movement” and although baptism takes up one-third of the great commission, to cause division about it was considered to be a “denominational bigotry.”



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How Shall We Sing The Lord's Song In A Strange Land?

God's Plan For Israel

God's plan for Israel was very plain and it was very simple. Israel was divided into twelve tribes. God had ordained priests to teach, and in turn parents were to lead their families in the way of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:4-8,

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes."

Directions Were Plain And Simple

Numbers 30:1,

"Moses spake unto the heads of the tribes...saying, This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded."

Psalm 78:55,

"He...made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents."

Numbers 24:5,6,

"How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel! As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters."

God's Promise of Protection

When Israel trusted God, God took care of His people.

Zechariah 12:9,

"I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem."

When the Philistines became a threat to Israel the elders of Israel regarded God's plan as insufficient to handle their problem. Samuel gave them a simple solution. He said, "Prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines" (First Samuel 7:3).

"The People Refused To Obey"
(First Samuel 10:19)

Israel Had A Her Own Plan

First Samuel 8:4,

"Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel and said unto him... make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

Samuel pleaded with the people to keep doing things God's way; however, we read,

First Samuel 8:19,

"Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us."

Samuel continued to warn them, but they refused to listen. Finally Samuel said,

First Samuel 10:19,

"And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set a king over us."

Israel Fights The Philistines

Both Saul and David had battle after battle with the Philistines and other enemies of Israel. Things seemed to go well at the beginning.

First Samuel 14:52,

"And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him."

So Much For Their Mighty Men

Second Kings 24:14,

*"And he **carried away** all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and **all the mighty men** of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land."*

Psalm 137:1-4,

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?"

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Israel's kings and Israel's mighty men failed. Israel did not trust God's plan and refused to stay with it. As a result they paid a serious price.

We Also Had A Plan of Our Own

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, our leaders gathered together because they were concerned about the advancement of modernism and liberalism. They decided something needed to be done to combat *our* Philistines.

God's Plan Is Plain And Simple

First Timothy 3:14,15,

"The church of the living God, (is) the pillar and ground of the truth."

The word church and churches is in the Bible over 100 times. The local church is God's plan for our present age. Like Israel, we refused to stay with God's plan. Like Israel, we dumped God's plan as untrustworthy and decided we needed a *movement* with some mighty men to lead us. Like Israel we would do it *"like all the nations."*

First Samuel 8:20,

"That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles."

God's local churches and their pastors were pushed into the background and our *movement* and our new *mighty men* took control. Our movement was also organized like *"all the nations."*

The World Has Colleges

We organized colleges.

The World Gives Doctors Degrees

We give Doctors Degrees

The World Has Newspapers

We started newspapers.

The World Has Magazines

We published magazines.

The World Has Seminars

We organized seminars.

The World Has Associations

Baptists alone have over 300 different Associations.

The World Has a Board of Directors

Our para-church ministries have their Board of Directors.

Scores of ministries, with no Scriptural foundation are still springing up around the world. There are now thousands of *"fundamental"* para-church ministries on the internet doing that which is right in their own eyes.

God's Mercy Was Greater Than Israel's Mistrust

First Samuel 12:13,

"Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you. If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God."

Samuel Continued To Minister To Israel.

First Samuel 12:20-25,

"And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people."

It was in the context of Israel's rejection of God's perfect will that Samuel

said,

First Samuel 12:23,

"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way: Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king."

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"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46)

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In Our Local Church Age God's Mercy Was Also Greater Than Our Mistrust.

God in His mercy, regardless of the fact that we, like Israel have *"done all this wickedness"* as long as we *"turn not aside...the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake."*

No Compromise of Doctrine

In the early days of our *movement* our leaders did not compromise concerning Bible doctrine. Men like Gipsy Smith were mightily used of God in spite of the fact that they were not operating under the authority of the local church. God blessed their ministry because of His mercy and because their doctrine was pure, and they were separated from any whose doctrine was corrupt. Today, men like Jack Van Impe and Billy Graham promote a doctrinally corrupt message and fellowship with anyone who will help them get a crowd.

God's Word And God's Way

We need to teach the next generation to follow God's simple plan. Ephesians 4:11,12 says God gave pastors, *"For the perfecting of the saints."* We made a mistake when we said, *"Nay, but we will have our kings."*

Like Israel of old, we have rejected God's way for our way. We have rejected His plan and like Israel, we are paying dearly for it."



Article

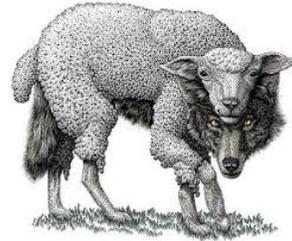
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Points To Ponder

What They Don't Know Won't Hurt Them???



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"Judgment (Discernment) Must Begin At The House of God."
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