

# The Seeds of Apostasy

1 Sam. 8:6-7

## Introduction:

- A. Israel was God's chosen nation.
  - 1. God, alone, was her king.
  - 2. God used judges when needed.
  - 3. Israel rejected God's order.
  - 4. Israel suffered consequences (vv. 10-18)
- B. Israel's mistakes serve as a warning to the church today (cf. 1 Cor. 10:1-13)
- C. The church (or kingdom) of Christ is God's chosen nation today.
  - 1. Christ is the king.
  - 2. Church can reject God's order, but not without consequences.
- D. Israel's demand for a king illustrates small seeds that can grow into great apostasies.

## Discussion:

### I. The Mishandling of Real Problems (vv. 1-5)

- A. God's order was imperfectly executed
  - 1. A perfect plan imperfectly executed, better than imperfect plan.
  - 2. Needed to improve the execution, not abandon the plan.
- B. Abuse or neglect of God's order often forms a pretext for apostasy.
  - 1. Poor singing is no excuse for instrumental music.
  - 2. Neglecting the work of the church is no excuse for human societies.
  - 3. Ineffective leadership is not excuse for usurpation of authority.
  - 4. Leadership Vacuum is no excuse for unscriptural leaders.
  - 5. Misapplication of Bible doctrine is no excuse for changing the doctrine.
- C. Human solutions are worse than the problem.

### II. The Use of the World for a Standard (vv. 5, 20; cf. Rom. 12:1-2)

- A. Israel did not want to king to please God, but "that we also may be like all the nations."
  - 1. Even if a king had been right, they wanted him for the wrong reasons.
  - 2. In effect, the nations became their God.
  - 3. King not wrong just because world had them, but God did not want one.
- B. When church lets the world become its standard, it is in trouble.
  - 1. Often do things that we may be like the denomi-nations.
  - 2. A thing is not wrong simply because the denominations have it.
    - a. Neither right nor wrong because denominations may have it.
    - b. Right or wrong because of what God's will is.
- C. Do not blindly accept or reject a practice in world – put it the test of God's word.
  - 1. Many adopt the latest fashions and fads without question.
  - 2. Some reject modern things just because they are modern – mennonites.

### III. The Rejection of Divine Authority (vv. 7, 19)

- A. No matter what God says, "We will have a king over us."
- B. A contest between our will and God's will.

### IV. The Misunderstanding of Real Strength (v. 7, 19)

- A. A church's real strength is not in numbers, dynamic leaders, facilities – but God's favor.
- B. A strong church or strong Christian is one that obeys God.

## Conclusion:

- A. Departures from truth usually begin with small things that grow with time.
- B. Let us avoid the mistakes that Israel made (restate briefly the major points)