

Man's Religious Nature By Greg Rangel

Ever since man has walked on this earth he has been a religious creature. Regardless of the place where man has dwelt in, man has always felt the need to worship something or someone. That is why religion exists even in the most secluded places where Indian tribes have no idea that another world outside of theirs exist.

Man made religion first appears on the scene in Genesis chapter ten and eleven. Genesis 10:8-10 says; *“And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And the beginning of kingdom was Babel...”*

The name Nimrod actually means rebel. And in Genesis 11 we see that he is living up to his name. Genesis 11:4 says; *“And they said, go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”*

Nimrod began to create his kingdom under the banner of religion. He began to rule men's lives through religion. Since he was a mighty hunter, that is, since he was a mighty ruler, it became so easily for him to influence people to follow him and his rebellious ways. And since man has it in his heart to follow someone and worship something, Nimrod became someone among them.

It has become so easy for man like Nimrod to rule men's lives through religion. And since then many men have created many religions for that purpose.

In Matthew 23 Jesus exposes the purpose of man's religion. He says in verse 2; *“...the scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat.”* And a better translation of that is, *“...the scribes and the Pharisees have sitted themselves in Moses' seat.”* And based on the attitude that the Scribes and Pharisees had portrayed, I'd say that Jesus was right. The Scribes and the Pharisees had placed themselves in such a powerful position to be someone and to rule over men.

Both groups required from their students a great amount of respect. A respect which surpassed the honor and respect that their pupils had for their parents. The word Pharisee means “seperatists.” They viewed themselves as separated from the rest of the Jewish nation because they did not want to be affected with the uncleanness of the heathens that dwelled within the nation. They acted like if they were better than the rest. They wanted people to know that they were Pharisees. And so they even dressed themselves in religious clothing to identify themselves as being different than the rest.

According to Jesus, they have given themselves such authority. It is interesting to see that man throughout the ages has always wanted to have authority. And many times they will do anything to have such an authority.

In Matthew 23 Jesus shows the intent of the heart of the religious man. In verse 5 he says that they even dress in religious clothing to be seen by man; *“But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments.”* In verse 6 Jesus shows that man becomes religious with the intent to have preeminence in everything. He says; *“And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the market, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.”*

We see this same thing taking place ever since. As you study religious history, you will clearly see that religious man has dressed himself in religious clothing to be identified as someone different. And through that it has become much more easier for religious man to rule over the common folk, and to be first in everything as Jesus stated.

You see religious man today and it is the same thing that is taking place. Let me point out thought that even though religious man dresses and acts in such a way, it does not mean in no way at all that whatever they do is God’s will. On the contrary, man does such things because of the mere fact that they are not doing God’s will. Such men have created a false religious system and through that are even today ruling over people’s lives by teaching them their false religious ways.