

**Aim:** Look at warnings to other nations. To consider how we treat other people.

**Refer:** The Great Controversy chapters 9-10

Luthers disappearance had caused a lot of excitement and the church leaders soon found that more and more people were joining reformation Luther had started. So Satan changed tactics.

A group of men came to Melanchthon – Luthers co-worker at Wittenberg. They were excitement by the reformation and one even claimed to have instructions from the angel Gabriel. But Melanchthon wasn't sure if they were led by God.

Matthew 7:26<sup>NLT</sup> says, "You can identify them by their fruit... by the way they act." And it soon became apparent that this new group was not from God as people forget their Bible study, and confusion soon reigned in the schools. When Luther heard, he decided he must leave the safety of Wartburg castle, trusting in God for protection. Word spread that Luther had returned and the church was packed. Every day for a whole week, Luther preached and the power of Satan was broken.

In 1521 Luther had been declared an outlaw but then the Emperor was too busy fighting other enemies to do anything further. Now in 1529, the princes met in the city of Spires and the Emperor and church leaders called for the reformation to be stopped saying all people must bow to the authority of the official church. But the princes where the reformation had taken root did not agree. So the church leaders came back with a compromise: The reformation would be banned in all new area, no further reforms must be made and no one new would be allowed to join.

The princes supporting the reformation discussed this new proposal which would give freedom in their towns; but they came to the conclusion that they could not support it - that *all* people should have the right to religious freedom. They wrote up an official protest stating that before God, they must follow the teachings of the Holy Scriptures and would not support the proposed decree.

The reformation became known as the Protestant Reformation because the princes had protested.

Some of the princes suggested forming an aliance and declaring war on the Emperor but Luther declared that their only weapon should be "the sword of the Spirit."

The Emperor called them to meet again in Augsburg in the following year so the princes supporting the reformation had Luther and Melanchthon write up a document stating their views with Bible evidence which they signed and read before the council.

---

The Old Testament was written by the Israelites, but not all of the Old Testament books were written for or about the Israelites. Today we will have a quick look at some that were about other nations.

Read the first few verses of each of these books and determin who they were written for or who they were written about:

- Amos (Aram, Philistines, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, Moab, Israel and Judah)
- Obadiah (Edom)
- Jonah (Nineveh)
- Nahum (Nineveh)
- Zephaniah (Philistines, Moab, Ammon, Cush, Assyria including Nineveh)

---

**Discuss:** The Jews were Gods special chosen people and they knew that, and they came to feel that everyone else was inferier or beneath them – not as important as them. But is that how God sees other people?

God loves everyone but most people rejected and forgot about God so He chose the Israelites to teach them first and have them teach everyone else about God. But because they kept marrying idol worshippers who taught their children to worship idols – it didn't work out they way God had planned.

**Discuss:** How did Jesus treat people who weren't his disciples?  
(He healed them, He fed them, He told them stories, He ate with them)

Jesus talked in parables because everone could relate to them – then those who were ready to learn could learn the deeper spiritual meaning and those who weren't took them at face value and weren't offended.

**Discuss:** How should we treat people who don't go to church?

Do like Jesus did: become friends, help them, eat with them then share Jesus with them

**Discuss:** How should we treat people who go to a different church?

When you talk to people who don't believe like you do, find common ground – things that you have in common or both like. Don't talk about your differences, at least not at first, especially if people get upset about it.

---

**Discuss:** How should we treat people who are different to us – for example. someone who might have a physical or mental disability?

- Think: if the person was not obviously disabled, how would you treat them?
  - Even if the person has a carer, smile and talk directly to the disabled person; don't talk loudly or extra slow unless the person or their carer asks you to. Note: Some people might not be able to respond as you expect but their brain is working perfectly and they understand everything you say.
  - If the person has a wheel chair or crutches or something else to help them it is rude to touch it or ask to try it. Treat it as you would part of the person's body.
  - Don't apologise if you think you have said the wrong thing to them; for example if you said, "let's take a walk" to someone who can't walk or "I see" to someone who is blind. Changes are they know what you meant and apologising just draws attention to their disability.
- 

**Discuss:** How should we treat someone from another culture?

- It's rude to laugh – be respectful
- Most people are happy to answer questions about their culture but be sensitive
- Do some study about their culture
- Learn some of their language