

M. Pavliuk

Research supervisor: O. Maksimov,

Candidate of Historical Sciences

Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University

Language tutor: S. S. Kukharyonok

INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY IN KYIVAN RUS

Introduction of Christianity by Volodymyr the Great became one of the main events in the history of Kyivan Rus in 988. This religious reform of Prince defined the subsequent vector of the development of the Rus state for future. The principal reasons of introduction of Christianity named by the researchers were that the keeping of paganism would brake the external relationships of Kyivan Rus with the neighbouring states. Only a new monotheistic religion could become a support for the power of Prince.

The intensive searches of new religion began. In “The Tale of Past Years” it was told about representatives of different religions having arrived to Kyiv: Muslims from Bulgaria, Germans from Rome, Greeks and Jews from Khozariya. It was decided to make Christianity the state religion on the Byzantine model. As researchers consider decisive role was a circumstance that in the Barbarian leaders’ minds of those days the Byzantine model of Christianity related to the images of high society. This model corresponded to the system of political order of Kyivan Rus best of all, as in that time it was a young feudal monarchist state. Besides the acceptance of Orthodox Christianity was politically more advantageous for Rus. In fact, in the 10th century Byzantine was more developed than the Holy Roman Empire. It was named the Second Rome [1, p. 59-63].

The First Prince in Rus, who adopted Christianity, was Askold. Princess Olga was also a Christian. However, Nestor the Chronicler paid more attention to Volodymyr the Great’s actions. He told about an invasion of Korsun by Prince and

adopting Christianity by him and his marriage with the Byzantine Princess. The Byzantine sources didn't mention such an event, as baptizing of Rus [2, p. 88-91].

However, large pride for Rus rulers was that Rus as the state wasn't influenced by ideological and economic power of other countries. An Academician Grekov marked that Christianity had been adopted in Rus state not following the Byzantine or Roman model, but Rus model. It is important to mention that from the early beginning the Christianity reminded a combination of Rus and Byzantine faith [2].

Nowadays such Ukrainian researchers as P. Tolochko, A. Kolodniy, O. Rychka, O. Motsya and others continue to study this question. Researches on this subject remains to be essential up to now. To sum up, the introduction of Christianity as state religion, had the greatest value for the subsequent evolution of Kyivan Rus as a state.

References

1. Моця О., Ричка В. Київська Русь: від язичництва до християнства. – К., Глобус, 1996.
2. Колодний А. М. Історія релігії в Україні: Навч. посібник. – К., Знання, 1999.