

The Tower of Babel and its Relation to World Missions

1. Read Genesis 10:6-12 - Story of Nimrod

- a. Takes a break in the narrative

Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD." And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).

- b. Nimrod means "Let Us Revolt"
- c. Was a "Mighty One"
 - i. Negative Connotation – Tyrant, Infamous, Dictator
 - ii. Phrase related to Gen. 6 Nephilim

1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

*3 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." 4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. **Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.***

1. Demonic relation/origin
 - a. Control or Influence
2. Was a type of the "Anti-Christ" as we see later
- d. "Mighty Hunter before the LORD"
 - i. He led armies to conquer
 - ii. Jewish Talmud says "a hunter of the souls of men"
- e. Built the first Cities post-flood
 - i. Cain (the first murderer) built the first Cities pre-flood
- f. Conquered Assyria and built cities there (Nineveh)
- g. Nimrod built the first earthly Kingdom of men
 - i. A false kingdom of men in rebellion to God's Kingdom.
- h. United mankind in organized rebellion against God.

2. Read Gen. 11:1-4 – Tower of Babel

1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. 3 Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. 4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

- a. To unite the earth Nimrod addressed people's needs
 - i. Physical – Cities and Kingdom = networks of Commerce and government
 - ii. Emotional – Cities provided companionship and eased Loneliness
 - iii. Spiritual – The Tower
- b. The Tower was religious
 - i. Babel means “The Gate of God”:
 - 1. Baa = Gate
 - 2. El = God
 - ii. Also comes from “Balal” = “Confusion”
- c. Nimrod was the “Father of Religion”
 - i. Realized that man needed God
 - 1. Godless movements never last long – too barren and morally lacking
 - ii. Created a new Religion
 - 1. Probably a very close perversion of the truth.
 - a. Only a few hundred years after the flood – Noah was still alive
 - i. Had to be palatable (People could convince themselves they were serving/worshipping God)
 - b. Made their own god to suit themselves
 - c. The Devil perverts everything God makes
 - iii. Used it to Unite the people in Rebellion to God
 - iv. Beginning of Astrology
 - 1. A tower with it's top in the “Heavens”
 - a. Zodiac on Ziggurats
 - 2. Astrology originated in Babylon
 - 3. Perversion of God's message
 - a. Signs of zodiac and meanings may have been a revelation of God's plan of Redemption
 - i. Psalm 19:1-6 “The heavens declare the Glory of God”
 - ii. Josephus said that God gave the meanings to the sons of Seth.
 - v. Beginning of World Religions & Idolatry
 - 1. After Nimrod's death he became deified as the god “Marduk”
 - a. This is the origin of Baal whom the Israelites worshipped
 - 2. Mystery Babylon Religion
 - a. Many legends say that Nimrod had a wife named Semiramis, who had a virgin birth.
 - i. She birthed the gods associated with Nimrod
 - ii. This was the beginning of the Mother and Child cult, or Divine Feminine
 - b. This idea has been passed down through many religions
 - i. Jeremiah 13:18 – The Israelites worshipped the “Heavenly Queen”
 - ii. Osiris and Isis in Egypt
 - iii. Venus to the Greeks
 - iv. Diana of Ephesus

- v. Devaki and Krishna to Hindus
- vi. Shing Moo in China
- vii. Even the worship of Mary and Jesus as Co-redeemers. Mary the “Queen of Heaven”.
- vi. The Bible makes it clear that Babylon was the source of all idolatry and wickedness in the world. Rev. 17:5

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.^[a] 5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

- d. Trying to reach/relate to God
 - i. The tower symbolized the yearning to reach God
 - ii. You can see this manifested throughout the world
 - 1. Pyramids
 - 2. Temples
 - 3. High Places - Ezekiel 16:24
 - 4. Mosques
 - 5. Skyscrapers – to make a name
 - 6. Cathedrals
 - 7. Steeples

1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. 3 Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. 4 And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

- e. Pride and Humanism & the “Spirit of Religion”
 - i. “Let us make a name for ourselves” Gen. 11:4
 - ii. This is a natural urge of man, trying to find identity and meaning through human achievement
 - 1. Look at the 7 wonders of the world
 - 2. Tallest buildings, A-bomb, Space travel
 - iii. Look how buildings are dedicated to men – Plaque
- f. Building up instead of out
 - i. Command to Adam & Noah – Gen. 1:28, Gen. 9:1

1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

9:1 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

- 1. Purpose of the blessing
- ii. Nimrod united humanity in direct rebellion to this command

- iii. Mixing God and Pride together
 - 1. The essence of Religion
 - a. Gaining earthly honor/power/prestige through religious Authority
 - b. The way man attempts to share the glory of God
 - i. Using God for man's glory
 - ii. Making God available to us
 - 2. You can see this in Christian churches
 - a. Building projects
 - b. Programs/In-reaches

3. God's Response - Judgment of God on Babel - Gen. 11:5 – 9

5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. 9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

- a. "And the LORD came down" 11:5
 - i. Not literal – God knows all
 - ii. Meant to show how puny it was
 - 1. Look from above example
 - iii. All achievements of man are this way
 - 1. Religions
 - 2. Church buildings
 - 3. Scientific Achievements
- b. "Nothing they propose to do" 11:6
 - i. Nimrod created a unified force for evil, bringing the world under the dominion of the devil.
 - ii. Wickedness was growing exponentially
 - 1. Before flood - 1656 years
 - 2. Before Babel – a few hundred
 - iii. There is great power in unity – Deut. 32:30 – One could chase a thousand...
 - 1. What would happen if the Church united to obey the Great Commission
- c. God scattered them through language 11:7-9
 - i. It broke the unified religion
 - 1. Different idols, gods, and religions
 - 2. This one religion is reinstated by the anti-Christ in Rev. 17:3-5
 - a. That is why Nimrod is a first Anti-Christ
 - 3. Brought division in Satan's works
 - a. Religions competing and fighting each other.

- ii. Slowed the spread of wickedness
 - 1. Different cultures and isolation have helped to preserve mankind long enough for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.
- iii. Forced the fulfillment of His command to “fill the earth”
 - 1. God’s plan (Great Commission) will always be accomplished
 - 2. The creation of “Ethne” or People Groups
 - a. 70 families = 70 first Ethne/Languages
 - b. Today 13,000 – 16,000 peoples
 - c. This was the foundation for the Great Commission
 - i. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations (Ethne)
 - ii. Rev. 7:9-10 – every tribe and tongue
 - d. Example of the Bonda
 - i. Austro-Asiatic
 - 1. Only a small handful of India peoples share this lineage
 - ii. Descendants of Noah>Ham>Canaan (Cursed to be the slave of Shem & Japheth)
 - iii. Most India peoples are descendants of Noah>Japheth>Madai
 - 1. Dravidian – Tamil
 - 2. Indo-European – Hindi, Punjabi, Oriya
- 3. The result of Building Up instead of Out
 - a. Diaspora
 - i. Israelites had pride
 - ii. Worshipped idols instead of being a unique light to the nations
 - b. Church of Acts at Jerusalem
 - i. Told to wait for the Spirit, and then go to all the world.
 - ii. They stayed in Jerusalem
 - iii. God brought persecution through Saul
 - c. Churches today
 - i. Building projects/Programs
 - 1. Priority on themselves
 - 2. Opposition to God’s command
 - 3. “A church that is not sending and supporting missionaries is seriously quenching the Spirit of God, who is the Lord of the harvest. It is a costly and finely appointed vehicle without an engine. A local church of whatever personality, without significant outreach, should question whether or not she should continue to exist.” - Jim Sutherland
 - 4. One-tenth of one percent (ten cents per hundred dollars) of all Christian income went to global foreign missions, estimates David Barrett in his

annual “Status of Global Mission” report for 2005.

5. Ninety-five percent of graduates of evangelical seminaries, Bible colleges and similar institutions stay in the US, which has 5% of the world’s population. Guthrie, Stan. 2000. *Missions in the third millennium: 21 key trends for the 21st century*. ISBN: 1842270427, p. 22.

ii. Blessing to bless others principal

iii. Ultimate result

1. Loss of blessing
2. Staleness - lose their sense of purpose and accompanying zeal
 - a. Opens the door to false doctrines, compromise, fighting, and division.
 - b. Direct relationship between missions giving/mindset and the zeal/success of the church
 - i. Lukewarm church
 - ii. Revival or new church

4. Application

- a. This event set the stage for the Great Commission
- b. As unique cultures break down, man’s potential for wickedness increases
 - i. Leading to the end times
- c. Understanding it helps us better know our place in history and God’s unfolding plan for the world.
 - i. Example: Afghanistan
- d. Obedience to the Great Commission – Building out instead of up
 - i. Man cannot succeed at overturning God’s will