

Genesis - Lesson 11

Genesis Chapter 11

Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies

Email: mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com

Website: www.KjvBibleStudies.net

Memory verses for this week: Col 2:5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. Col 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Introduction: We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as study about the origin of the many languages in the world.

I. Man's Effort to Achieve Unification

Gen 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

Gen 11:2 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.

There are many today who advocate a one world language, a one world government, a one world race and a one world religion, but they are wrong according to the Bible. Their efforts to unify races and religion, was a direct disobedience of Gen. 9:1-7.

Gen 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

Gen 9:2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

Gen 9:3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

Gen 9:4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

Gen 9:5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man.

Gen 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

Gen 9:7 And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.

They were not to stay in one area, but to spread out and replenish the whole earth.

There was one who was the leader of this unification movement.

Gen 10:8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

Gen 10:9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.

Gen 10:10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Gen 10:11 Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah,

Nimrod was the mighty hunter. We mentioned last week that his reference does not mean that God approved of Nimrod. The name Nimrod means rebel. The beginning of his kingdom was Babel where we will study this week about the building of the high tower. Later we shall note that he is a type of the Anti-Christ.

Verses 1 and 2 show that they had sufficient unity, if they would but use it right. They had one language and one speech. They journeyed together. Unity is fine, if it is based on truth, and not against God. As a matter of fact, unity in the church is one of the greatest blessings we can experience.

Psa 133:1 A Song of degrees of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psa 133:2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

Psa 133:3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

1Co 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Gen 11:3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

Gen 11:4 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.

The people come together and plan out their Folly of unification. It was a movement of self will. Note "us" and "we", in these verses. When all we speak of is I and us or we, you can be sure that God is not on our minds. The people of Babel left God entirely out of their plans. Their unity was against God and His Word. They wanted a city and wanted a name for themselves. They wanted to stay together and determined what they perceived was a way to reach heaven their way. False religion was founded at Babylon. Man has always wanted a way to get to God by their works, but there is no such way.

Joh 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

Joh 10:8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

Joh 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Joh 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Joh 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Jesus and Jesus alone is the only way to the Father.

Matthew Henry said this about how the nations were divided in the earth after the flood.

The close of the foregoing chapter tells us that *by the sons of Noah, or among the sons of Noah, the nations were divided in the earth after the flood*, that is, were distinguished into several tribes or colonies; and, the places having grown too strait for them, it was either appointed by Noah, or agreed upon among his sons, which way each several tribe or colony should steer its course, beginning with the countries that were next them, and designing to proceed further and further, and to remove to a greater distance from each other, as the increase of their several companies should require. Thus was the matter well settled, one hundred years after the flood, about the time of Peleg's birth; but the sons of men, it should seem, were loth to disperse into distant places; they thought the more the merrier and the safer, and therefore they contrived to keep together, and were *slack to go to possess the land which the Lord God of their fathers had given them (Jos 18:3)*, thinking themselves wiser than either God or Noah.

II. God's Answer To Their Unification

Gen 11:5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

Gen 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Gen 11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

The peoples big plans did not catch God by surprise. God saw what they were doing and knew exactly what the result would be. The people of Babel had a plan that was destined to fail, but God had a plan that would succeed. God knows all things, therefore He always has a plan.

When Paul wrote the Philippian church of his bonds of being imprisoned, he realized that God has a bigger plan for our lives than what we may realize.

Php 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

Php 1:13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

Php 1:14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Php 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

Php 1:16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

Php 1:17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

Php 1:18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

He went on to say that he desired to go on to be with Christ, but knew it was God's plan for him to stay for now to encourage the saints to serve the Lord.

Php 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Php 1:22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

Php 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

Php 1:24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

III. The Results Of De-Unification

Gen 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

Gen 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

God moved upon the people and confounded their language where the people could not communicate with one another. When God moved upon the people of Babel, their language changed and with that, their residence changed. And having to move to a new area, it caused their plans to change.

Adam Clarke said this about the reason the people decided to build the tower of Babel.

Therefore is the name of it called Babel - בבל babel, from בל bal, to mingle, confound, destroy; hence Babel, from the mingling together and confounding of the projects and language of these descendants of Noah; and this confounding did not so much imply the producing new languages, as giving them a different method of pronouncing the same words, and leading them to affix different ideas to them.

Besides Mr. Hutchinson's opinion, (see on Gen 11:4 (note)), there have been various conjectures concerning the purpose for which this tower was built. Some suppose it was intended to prevent the effects of another flood, by affording an asylum to the builders and their families in case of another general deluge. Others think that it was designed to be a grand city, the seat of government, in order to prevent a general dispersion. This God would not permit, as he had purposed that men should be dispersed over the earth, and therefore caused the means which they were using to prevent it to become the grand instrument of its accomplishment. Humanly speaking, the earth could not have so speedily peopled, had it not been for this very circumstance which the counsel of man had devised to prevent it. Some say that these builders were divided into seventy-two nations, with seventy-two different languages; but this is an idle, unfounded tale.

IV. Several Spiritual Lessons Came from Babel

God is the author of separation and segregation. This may not have been necessary, had it not been for sin. God separated or divided the descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Gen 10:5 By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.

Gen 10:20 These are the sons of Ham, after their families, after their tongues, in their countries, and in their nations.

Gen 10:31 These are the sons of Shem, after their families, after their tongues, in their lands, after their nations.

Gen 10:32 These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.

Act 17:24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

Act 17:25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

Act 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

Act 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

Nothing in the Scriptures suggests that God wanted these families to mix and intermarry. God separated the continents, which resulted in the oceans standing as barriers against man mixing races and religions. God set up the language barrier to separate and segregate still further as we read in verse 9 of our text.

Nothing in the Scriptures even suggests that God divided their languages in such a way as to cause the descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth to mix. Yet, it would have been so easy for God to have done so.

Nimrod Was A Type Of The Anti-Christ. Here are 8 similar attributes of Nimrod and the Anti-Christ.

1. Nimrod and the anti-christ are both lawless and rebellious.

Gen 10:8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

Gen 10:9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.

2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2Th 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2Th 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

2Th 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2. They both lead rebellions against God.

Dan 11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

Dan 11:37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

Dan 11:38 But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.

3. They both are mighty and powerful. We read this verse earlier.

2Th 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

4. They both are hunters and bloody and deceitful.

Psa 5:6 Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.

5. They both are kings.

Gen 10:10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Dan 11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

6. They both are associated with Babylon.

Isa 14:4 That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

7. They both are filled with pride. "Let us make a name."

Gen 11:4 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.

2Th 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

8. They both are defeated by God.

Gen 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Rev 18:1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Rev 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

V. The Ancestry of Abram

The Generations of Shem are listed in verses 10-26.

Gen 11:10 These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood:

Gen 11:11 And Shem lived after he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen 11:12 And Arphaxad lived five and thirty years, and begat Salah:

Gen 11:13 And Arphaxad lived after he begat Salah four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen 11:14 And Salah lived thirty years, and begat Eber:

Gen 11:15 And Salah lived after he begat Eber four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen 11:16 And Eber lived four and thirty years, and begat Peleg:

Gen 11:17 And Eber lived after he begat Peleg four hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen 11:18 And Peleg lived thirty years, and begat Reu:

Gen 11:19 And Peleg lived after he begat Reu two hundred and nine years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen 11:20 And Reu lived two and thirty years, and begat Serug:

Gen 11:21 And Reu lived after he begat Serug two hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen 11:22 And Serug lived thirty years, and begat Nahor:

Gen 11:23 And Serug lived after he begat Nahor two hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen 11:24 And Nahor lived nine and twenty years, and begat Terah:

Gen 11:25 And Nahor lived after he begat Terah an hundred and nineteen years, and begat sons and daughters.

Gen 11:26 And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

Remember that Shem did not die until Abraham was 150 years old. So Shem and Noah were both living at the time of Babel. The Bible is silent on what part they may have played in all of this.

VI. The Generations Of Terah

Verses 27-32 show the generations of Terah while verse 31-32 gives us the record of their stay in Haran.

Gen 11:27 Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot.

Gen 11:28 And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees.

Gen 11:29 And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah.

Gen 11:30 But Sarai was barren; she had no child.

Gen 11:31 And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran,

and dwelt there.

Gen 11:32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who was the man that probably was the leader in the building of the Tower of Babel?

Nimrod

2. State the reasons why that they wanted to build a tower.

Gen 11:4 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.

3. What did God do to stop it?

He came down upon them and confounded their languages where they could not understand one another.

4. What was the result?

Gen 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

5. What has God done to effect the separation and segregation of the human race?

God separated the continents, which resulted in the oceans standing as barriers against man mixing races and religions. God set up the language barrier to separate and segregate still further as we read in verse 9 of our text.

6. Which one of the three sons of Noah did Abraham descend from? Shem, Ham, or Japheth?

Shem

Gen 11:26 And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

7. Who was the father of Abraham?

Terah

8. Where did Abram's father die?

Haran.

Gen 11:32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.