

In the Beginning

Genesis 11:1-32

- Last week we saw how God had Noah and his sons repopulate the earth after the flood, and through God's grace nations are established, cities are built, customs are developed, but just like before even though everyone knew that because of man's sin God judged the world and brought devastation that wiped out everyone who wasn't protected by entering into the Ark, man begins to exalt himself above the Lord by doing things apart from what God said.

V1-32

- **V1-4** at this time humanity only spoke one language instead of the hundreds of different dialects on the earth today. Shinar is another term used for Babylon which is modern day "**Iraq**". Last week we looked at a man named "Nimrod" who began to be great upon the earth and make a name for himself by being a great warrior who was quite adapt at hunting men and taking lives.
- He had a wife named "Semiramis" and she became known as the "**queen of heaven**" because she read the stars, this is where astrology originated from, and she encouraged a whole generation of people to falsely worship her and their family proving that not only could Nimrod take your life but through he and his families false worship they would steal your soul as well.
- Through the encouragement of Nimrod and his false worship man attempts to revolt against God again, as he tries to build and make a name for himself apart from God > **Ps 127:1**. Building and trying to better ourselves in life there is nothing wrong with that, but when the motive for having success is to prove that what God has said is wrong and what I think and believe is right well that's when we get ourselves into trouble, because it reveals the pride that I think I don't need God and that I can do whatever I set my mind on without any help from Him.
- **Is 14:12-15**- we see Satan had a serious "**I**" problem, and it led to him being thrown out of God's presence and ultimately will land him into the Lake of fire. Notice their goal was to not be "scattered", God had told them to be fruitful and multiply and scatter across the earth, but they decide to move to Nimrod's city of Babylon and listen to his commands instead of the Lord's truth. Satan is always going to present an alternative to what God has said in an effort to get us to follow in the opposite direction of His will for us and we see this happening here in chapter 11
- Notice the tower its intended to be an observation point for the people to look into the heavens, false worship will deceive us into thinking we can reach the stars but inevitably we end up falling and crumbling to the ground, because **Jn 14:6** says "**Jesus is the way the truth and the life** and apart from Him no one will come to the Father except through Him" you cannot reach God without first going through the proper channels and that's through His Son (Jesus).

- **V5-7** God unlike man is never surprised or perplexed at what man does, God's answer to man trying "to come up" is for "Him to come down", notice God says "let us come down" another reference to the trinity "The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit". To protect man the first thing He does is "confuse their language" cause them not to be able to communicate. He does this because if they come together in such a sinful state things would not get better but become worse and maybe even past the point of return just as it will once Jesus returns.
- The potential of fallen man is so horrific that if it wasn't for God intervening we would long ago have destroyed ourselves > **2 Thess 2:3-7**- God's Holy Spirit is restraining or holding back Satan from having complete control of fallen sinful man and once He doesn't and lets him loose the whole world is going to quickly disintegrate into a world of utter chaos and destruction.
- **V8-9** the forced separation was more God's grace and mercy than His judgment, for in dividing them both linguistically and geographically it put into check man's propensity for chaos and destruction. Once they couldn't communicate they stop rebelling and did what God commanded them which was go and scatter themselves on the face of the earth. This is what it takes for us to be obedient to God, unless He intervenes, stops our plans cold, and brings confusion and no other choices but to listen to Him, we won't follow > **Prov 19:21**- man propose but God disposes
- **V10-26** this is the genealogy of the Jews from Shem to Terah who is the father of Abraham who is first called "**Abram**" means "**exalted father**" later when God promises Abram to be a father of many nations He changes it to "**Abraham**" which means "**father of a multitude**". Genesis covers more than **2,000** yrs of history and more than **20** generations and it spends almost a third of its text on the life of one man "Abraham". His name is mentioned **312** times and is arguably the most famous man of the OT and certainly one of the most influential men in history.
- **V28-32** as Terah begins to migrate he takes his son Abram with him not knowing how the Lord is going to use him, as three times he is called a friend of God > **Jam 2:23, 2Chron 20:7, Is 41:8**, but he didn't come from a family who made themselves friendly to God > **Josh 24:2**- says Abraham's family didn't follow the Lord worshipping false gods so God separated him in order to use him.