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**Nimrod, The Rebel**  
**Gen. 10:6-12, 11:1-9**

There have been many rebels against God, the first of which was Lucifer, son of the morning, the anointed cherub who was the music director in heaven till he was lifted up in pride and threatened God to dethrone Him. He led an angelic rebellion that caused one third of the angelic beings to follow after him. Is. 14, Ezk. 28, Rev. 12:4

Then followed Adam and Eve, the entire world of Noah and now the man Nimrod who is made to stand out by the very description that is given to him in the midst of table of nations that descended from Noah and his sons.

We want to look at Nimrod from three lenses. Gen. 10:6-12, 11:1-9

- I. The person of Nimrod. Gen. 10:6-8
- II. The power of Nimrod. Gen. 10:9-12
- III. The perversion of Nimrod. Gen. 11:1-9

**I. The person of Nimrod. Gen. 10:6-8**

A. Nimrod was the great-grandson of Noah.  
Gen. 10:6-7

- 1. His grandfather was Ham, the second son of Noah. Vs. 1

- 2. His father was Cush, the first son of Ham, the area of Ethiopia. Vs. 6a
- 3. His uncles were Mizraim, which is Egypt, Put is Libya or Somalia and Canaan, the promised land. Vs. 6b-d
- 4. His brothers were five and two nephews, occupying the region of Arabia and Sudan in Northern Africa, south of the Sahara, north of the equator. Vs. 7
- 5. His lineage was of the curse line of Ham through prophesy of character not by pre-determinism of God! Gen. 9:25

**B. Nimrod's name is interesting. Gen. 10:8a**

- 1. The origin of the name is uncertain.
- 2. The Hebrew origin means "to rebel".
- 3. The Mesopotamian origin means "ninurta" referring to a war-god who is also called "the arrow, the mighty hero" a Babylonian deity, whose cult assumed widespread importance in Mesopotamia during the late second millennium B.C.
- 4. The form of "Ninurta" served as a prototype for the composite Greek hero Minus, associated with Nineveh according to E. A. Speiser, In Search of Nimrod". (The Interpret. Dict of Bible, Vol. 3:551)
- 5. The name appears only three times in Scripture.
  - a. In Genesis to his identity.

- b. In Chronicles in a genealogy. 1Chron. 1:10
- c. In Micah, to the land of Nimrod, associated with Assyria's judgment. Mic. 5:6
- d. He was the younger son by the order.

C. Nimrod began to be a mighty one on the earth. Gen. 10:8b

1. The reference without doubt has to do with the change after the flood.
  - a. The animals prior to the flood did not have the fear or dread of man in them. Gen. 9:2
  - b. The animals were not given as food till after the flood. Gen. 9:3
2. The reference without doubt had to do with the hunting of animals.
  - a. Some believe that it was to protect the life of man.
  - b. Others believe it was the slaughter of the animals against the Lord's will?
  - c. The problem of animal over-population that endangered the people is found in other parts of the Scriptures. Ex. 23:29, Lev. 26:22
3. The man Nimrod gained himself a reputation.
  - a. The man began to be a mighty one on the earth.

- b. The outcome was that of a hero of the people.
- c. The benefit was life saving.
- d. The dependency was appealing.
- e. The occasion led towards deception and spiritual blindness without his realizing it.

### **Illustration**

True humility is not to think low of oneself but to think rightly, truthfully of oneself. # 2315

### **Application**

1. The man Nimrod is a type of the Anti-christ who will equally be hailed and embraced by all the world.
  - a. He is the little horn in Daniel's prophecy. Dan. 7:8
  - b. He is the profane wicked Prince of Israel. Ezk. 21:25
  - c. He is the Price of Tyre in type. Ezk. 28:2
  - d. He is the Idle Shepherd. Zach. 11:7
  - e. He is the Man of Sin, the Son of perdition. 2Thess. 2:3
  - f. He is the Mystery of Iniquity. 2Thess. 2:7
  - g. He is the Lawless One. 2Thess. 2:8
  - h. He is the Liar and Anti-christ. 1Jn. 2:18, 22, 4:3, 2Jn. 7
  - i. He is a type of the Anti-christ as much as Antiochus Epiphany, Nero and even Hitler.

- 2.** The person of the Anti-christ will gain great reputation and confirms a covenant with the Jews for one week or seven years. Dan. 9:24-27
- a.** The world is constantly at war with Israel particular the Arab nations. The on going treaties that have taken place since 1948, 1967, 1973.
  - b.** Even the latest over Jericho with the West bank on the negotiating table and the present “map to peace” are but shadows of the treaty of Daniel’s 70th week.
    - \* The giving of Jericho and Hebron have not appeased the radical Muslims but only revealed them to be more vicious and evil in their jihad, killing innocent civilians.
  - c.** The context identifies the Jews and Jerusalem by the phrases “your people”, “many” and “your holy city”,. Vs. 24a, 27a Jerusalem. Vs. 24a
  - d.** The first 69 weeks have been fulfilled.
    - 1)** The seven weeks multiplied by seven is forty-nine years which marked the close of the old Testament canon, Nehemiah to Malachi.
    - 2)** The sixty-two weeks multiplied by seven is four-hundred and thirty-four years added to the forty-nine equaled 483 years which marked the triumphal entry of Jesus to Jerusalem on the donkey.

- 3)** Since the 69 weeks God’s prophetic clock has stopped, marking the church age and leaving only one week or seven years.
  - e.** The church, the bride of Christ is being called out from the world. Acts 15:37-39
  - f.** The church is being prepared for her removal from this world in the rapture. 1Thess. 4:13-18
- 3.** The time remaining is one week, the 70th week which marks the final seven years of Tribulation and Great Tribulation.
  - a.** The period is referred to by Jesus in all three synoptic Gospels. Math. 24, Mk. 13, Lk. 21
    - 1)** Some believe that this event of ceasing the sacrifice has already occurred, yet Jesus said it was still in the future, a time such as never has been nor ever will be. Math. 24:21
    - 2)** Others believe that the church will go through the seven years of tribulation, yet it is clear that God has not appointed us the believer to wrath or the time when He pours out His wrath on the ungodly world. Rom. 5:9, 1Thess. 5:9, Rev. 3:10
  - b.** The definite increments of time are unmistakable regarding the 70th week.
    - 1)** There is the measure of seven years, the 70th week.
    - 2)** There is the measure of times and times and half a time.
    - 3)** There is the measure of 42 months.

- 4) There is the measure of 1260 days.  
 \* The period is described by John. Rev. 6-19

*The person of Nimrod had a seeming humble beginning, as will the Anti-christ!*

## II. The power of Nimrod. Vs. 9-12

- A. Nimrod became a mighty hunter before the Lord. Gen. 10:9a
1. Some commentators take this to mean that Nimrod was doing this before God.
    - a. But the context does not agree and the adjective “mighty” is for emphasis.
    - b. The majority of commentators interpret this to mean that he had gone from hunting animals to men’s soul’s from the Lord.
  2. The word for hunter “tsayid” basically means to lie in wait in order to hunt wild beasts or catch birds.
    - a. The word appears nineteen times in the Old Testament in various forms.
    - b. The AV translates the word venison 8 times, hunter 3 times, victuals 2 times, provision 2 times, hunting 1 time, catch 1 times, food 1 time and hunting 1 time.
    - c. The word is used for one who is hunted, persecuted by a tyrant such

as Saul towards David. 1Sam. 24:11, 26:20

- d. The word is used also for an adulterous woman, “For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will **prey** upon his precious life”. Prov. 6:26
- b. The indication is “before the Lord” Yahweh.
  - 1) The word before “paniyim” means face or presence.
  - 2) The idea is against Yahweh.
3. The general consensus and indication is that the context refers to Nimrod’s evil character before the Lord towards the hunting of men’s souls away from God.
  - a. Jerusalem targum says, “He was powerful in hunting and in wickedness before the Lord, for he was a hunter of the sons of men, and he said to them, “depart from the judgment of the Lord, and adhere to the judgment of Nimrod!” Therefore it is said: “As Nimrod the strong one, strong in hunting, and in wickedness before the Lord.” (Genesis Record: Morrison: 252)
  - b. Matthew Henry said, “No Doubt Nimrod did great good by his hunting instincts at the beginning of his

career. He would put his people under deep obligation by ridding them of the wild beasts that infested those early lands. But then as time went on, and as Nimrod's ambition grew, he would seem to have taken to hunting men instead of beasts." (Bible Characters: Alexander white:93)

- c. The Targum of Jonathan Ben Uzziel says: "From the foundation of the world none was ever found like Nimrod, powerful in hunting, and in rebellions against the Lord." The Syriac calls him a **warlike giant**. The word dyu "tsayid", which is rendered **hunter**, signifies **prey**; and is applied in the Scriptures to the **hunting of men** by persecution, oppression, and tyranny. Hence it is likely that Nimrod, having acquired power, used it in tyranny and oppression; and by rapine and violence founded that domination which was the first distinguished by the name of a **kingdom** on the face of the earth.(Clarke)

**B.** Nimrod became a proverb. Gen. 10:9b-c

- 1. The proverb is recorded for us, therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD."

- a. Perhaps in attempt to thwart the prophecy of Noah, that his brother Canaan would be servants to his brothers. Gen. 9:25
- b. Temporary seeming success does not alter God's ultimate decrees.
- 2. The man had made himself an obstacle to eclipse God from the eyes of the people.
  - a. He perhaps even had many of people of Ham and Japheth under his command.
  - b. He was attempting to prove God wrong.
- 3. The man Nimrod began to be a mighty one on the earth but ended up being a mighty hunter against the Lord.
- 4. The problem with becoming popular is that people don't really know the real man and he or she begins to do and act as the people expect them to, in order to gain the support of the people.
- 5. The process of popularity can be dangerous, a self exaltation which is arrogant and blinding.
- 6. There product of popularity is power which has a tendency to corrupt man and the consequences is two-fold.
  - a. The idolizing of the man which opens up evil and immoral doors to his carnal desires to abuse, manipulate and exploit people.

- b. The compulsion to control people, even to the point of a tyrant.

C. Nimrod established his own kingdom. Gen. 10:10-12

1. The kingdom of Nimrod began in the land of Shinar and it had four cities. Gen. 10:10
  - a. The word “Shinar” means country of two river and is the ancient name for the territory later known as Babylonia or Chaldea.
    - \* This is the first world empire that would one day reach the highest imperial glory under Nebuchadnezzar.
  - b. The first city mentioned is Babel which without doubt became the capital city of Nimrod’s kingdom located on the Euphrates River
  - c. The second was Erech also called Uruk which is one hundred miles southeast of Shinar.
    - 1) Erech was the legendary home of Gilgamesh, hero of the Babylonian flood story.
    - 2) Excavations of Erech resulted in very ancient writings antedating the time of Abraham by many years.

- d. The third city was Accad which was immediately north of Babylon. also spelled “Addad” and “Agade” in the monuments.

- 1) The city gave it’s name to the Akkadian empire.
- 2) The Sumerian empire is synonymous with the Akkadian empire.

- e. The fourth city was Calneh which has not yet been identified.

- 1) The logical assumption is that it would be in the general area.
- 2) The process of time may unearth it as God sends out an archeologist to dig.

2. The kingdom of Nimrod extended to the land of Assyria and it also had four cities. Gen. 10:11-12

- a. The first was Nineveh situated on the upper Tigris River. Vs. 11a
  - 1) The city was roughly 200 miles north of Babylon, which later became the capital of the Assyrian empire and the city to which Jonah was sent.
  - 2) The origin and founding of both Babylon and Assyria are due to Nimrod.

- 3) The Assyrian legend speaks of “Ninus’ as the founder of Nineveh, an evident form of “Nimrod”.
- b. The second Rehoboth Ir has not been found. Vs. 11b
- c. The third city Calah has been excavated on the Tigris about twenty miles South of Nineveh. Vs. 11c
  - 1) The city is still called “Nimrud” after it’s founder Nimrod.
  - 2) The entire number of cities was and is considered to of been a large metropolis called “a great city”.
- d. The fourth city is Resen and it also has not been found. Vs. 12
  - 1) The location is said to be between Nineveh and Calah.
  - 2) The city of Calah is identified as a principle city.
  - 3) The process of time will perhaps yield it’s remains.

### Illustration

It has been said that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely, without exception!

### Application

1. The 70th week or seven years will be interrupted by the Anti-christ or Man of Sin, having absolute power.

- a. He will arise on the seem as the man of peace riding a white horse with a bow but no arrows, he will conquer though diplomacy, delivering false peace and safety. Rev. 6:1-2
- b. He will have all seeming solutions for the world problems. Dan. 11:21
- c. He will help the Jews to build their temple for clearly our text mentions sacrifices. Rev. 11:1-2
  - \* There is presently no temple or sacrifices but preparations are being made in Jerusalem.
- d. He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel’s prophecy in two ways.
  - 1) He will very clearly as Daniel declares, cause sacrifice and offerings to cease. Dan. 9:27b
  - 2) Jesus on the Olivet discourse proclaimed it to be yet future in the holy place. Math. 24:15
  - 3) Jesus was not thinking of Titus for he only destroyed the temple.
  - 4) He will declare himself to be God. Dan. 11:36-37, 2Thess. 2:4, Rev. 13:3-6
    - \* He is the Anti-type, the fulfillment of the type of Antiochus Epiphany who attempted to wipe out the Jewish religion and Hellenize them by slaughtered a pig on the alter, desecrating the temple and causing the priest to eat the meat. Dan. 11:31

- d. He will Persecute the woman Israel and she will flee into the wilderness where God has prepared a place for her believed to be Petra in Jordan for three and one half years, 1260 days. Is:16:1-4, Rev. 12:1-6, 13-17
  - e. He will have his source from Satan's to work miraculous signs and wonders. 2Thess. 2:9, Rev. 11:7
2. The Man of Sin will have absolute authority over all. Dan. 11:36-39
- a. He will do according to his will. Dan. 11:36a
  - b. He shall exalt and magnify himself above every god. Dan. 11:36b
  - c. He shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods. Dan. 11:36c
  - d. He shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished. Dan. 11:36d-e
  - e. He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of woman nor regard any god. Dan. 11:37a-b
  - f. He shall magnify himself above them all. Dan. 11:37c
  - g. He shall honor the god of forces, military power. Dan. 11:38a
  - h. He shall advance all who acknowledge him and cause them to rule over many. Dan. 11:39
  - i. He causes all take his mark. Rev. 13:15-18
  - j. He shall divide the land of Israel for gain.
  - k. He is given authority by Satan. Rev. 13:2

- l. He is given a time to be manifested. Dan. 9:27, Rev. 6-19
- m. He is given a Kingdom through the religious system that opposes God, the Mother of Harlots. Rev. 17
- n. He is given power to make war against the saint of the tribulation and over come them. Rev. 12:17, 13:7
- o. He is given a promoter , the false prophet who is able to do miracles. Rev. 13:11-14
- p. He will be cast into the lake of fire with the false prophet. Rev. 19:20

*The power of Nimrod was used to turn man from God, as will the Anti-christ!*

### III. The perversion of Nimrod. Gen. 11:1-9

- A. Nimrod began his own religion. Gen. 11:1-4
  - 1. The entire earth was of one language and speech, literally lip. Vs. 1
    - a. The language could very well be Hebrew, there is no reason to dismiss it for all the name and places pre-Babel have Hebrew meaning.
    - b. This section is still part of chapter ten.
    - c. It fits probably in verse twenty-five in the days of Peleg, when the earth was divided. Gen. 10:25



- d. Chapter ten declared the genealogies “according to their language”. Vs. 5, 20, 31
  - e. Chapter eleven continues to give us the genealogy of Shem’s descendants leading to Terah, the father of Abraham, without doubt to be able to calculate the years. Gen. 11:10-26
  - f. As we have seen already a general account is given and greater details in the following chapters. Gen. 1, 2
2. The indictment was their refusal to disperse throughout the world, instead they attempted to build Nimrod’s religious system in the land of Shinar. Vs. 2
    - a. They journeyed from the east.
    - b. They found a plain in the land of Shinar and dwelt there.
    - c. God had told them to fill the earth. Gen. 1:28, 9:1, 7
  3. Their plans were to build a city and the tower of Babel, whose top is in the heavens. Vs. 3-4c
    - a. The reference is simply to a system and spiritual resource available to the people to have access to God through the worship of nature, creation and the zodiac. Vs. 3a-4d
      - 1) The first city builder was Cain and dedicated to his son Enoch, this a

- dedication to heaven and its host. Gen. 4:17
- 2) The life that is separated from God leads to being one’s own god, distorting and corrupting the knowledge of God, self-willed, “let us”.
  - 3) They were well advanced making their own bricks and asphalt for mortar.
- b. The goal was to make a name for themselves as a religious center for the civil government of Nimrod’s kingdom already established. Vs. 4e
    - 1) Pride and rebellion marks event.
    - 2) Power is the goal and self glory.
  - c. The great ziggurat or stage tower of the Marduk temple in Babylon, Etemenanki, consisted of six square stages one on top of the other, the last one crowned by a small chapel for the god. Excavations of Babylon have revealed important cuneiform text which gives the measurements of the temple and its parts furnishes valuable evidence for reconstruction. (The Inter. Dict.:334)
4. The motive is clearly stated, “lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” Vs. 4f

- a. They knew the command of God to Noah to fill the earth.
- b. They knew they were acting in rebellion to God.
- c. They knew they were about to corrupt the knowledge and revelation of God.
- d. They were establishing a political and religious system.

**B. Nimrod incurred the judgment of God. Gen. 11:5-9**

1. The judgment of God was based on personal knowledge. Vs. 5
  - a. The sharp contrast between God expressed will and man's self-will should not be missed by the word "But"
  - b. Yahweh came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.
    - 1) Just as He had done prior to the flood before pronouncing judgment by the flood, "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Gen. 6:5
    - 2) The response of Yahweh, "And the LORD was sorry that He had

made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart." Gen. 6:6

- 3) Nothing had changed after the flood!
2. The judgment of God was due to man's evil intent. Vs. 6
  - a. Yahweh understood the unity of their evil, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do." Vs. 6a-c
  - b. Yahweh understood the potential for their evil, "Now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them." Vs. 6d
3. The judgment of God was to stop the idolatrous work. Vs. 7
  - a. The plan of Yahweh is declared, 'Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language.' Vs. 7a-b
    - 1) The word confuse "balal" means to mix, mingle or confuse the languages.
    - 2) The word Babel "babel" means confusion, not "Gate of God".
    - 3) The play on words can not be missed.
  - b. The purpose of Yahweh is declared, "That they may not understand one another's speech." Vs. 7c
    - 1) Without being able to communicate they could not be united.

- 2) Without being united, they could not continue to build.
- 4. The judgment of God was to disperse man throughout the earth and scatter the people throughout the world as God had commanded. Vs. 8
  - a. The scattering of the people over all the face of the earth is ascribed to God, not the people. Vs. 8a
    - 1) The word scattered “puwts” means to be dispersed, spread out.
    - 2) The original intent and command of God was accomplished.
    - 3) At Pentecost, the people were united and joint to the church through the confounding of the languages. Acts 2
  - b. The work of building the city ceased. Vs. 8b
    - 1) God rejected their system.
    - 2) God condemned their self-will.
- 5. The judgment of God was memorialized. Vs. 9
  - a. The people acknowledged that Yahweh had judged them by confusing the one language, naming the city Babel. Vs. 9a
    - 1) The tower and city of Babel speak of rebellion by self-will, to be remembered as “confusion”.

- 2) This is the third time man has rebelled against God, Adam. the world of Noah, the Tower and city of Babel!
- b. The people recognized it was God who sent them throughout the earth. Vs. 9b
  - 1) The languages of the world are interesting in that most can be traced to each other by certain words, some more than others.
  - 2) The possibility that Hebrew was the original language is not as far fetched as it may seem.
  - 3) The Mayas used the word “ish” for man and “isha” for woman. How in the world can this be? What are the chances of people in Southern Mexico and Central America used Hebrew words for male and female? Only if they were there!
  - 4) What about all the pyramids in Egypt, Central and South America, where did the idea come from, if not from the tower of Babel!

### **Illustration**

General William Booth, the founder of the salvation army, defined it when he said: “I consider that the chief dangers which will confront the twentieth century will be:

Religion without the Holy Spirit.  
 Christianity without regeneration.  
 Forgiveness without God and  
 Heaven without hell.” #4958

### **Application**

1. The mother-son worship of Mary and the Christ child in the Catholic church comes from the worship of the wife of Nimrod, Samiramis and her child Tammuz who supposedly was conceived by a divine ray in corruption of the prophesy of redemption. Gen. 3:15

- a. She was worshipped as the Queen of heaven by burning incense and offering drink offerings to her. Jer. 44:17-19, 25
- b. Tammuz was worshipped as the deliver who supposedly was killed by wild bores and resurrected after 40 days, from which the Catholic church gets the 40 days of lent.  
 \* Their worship is found throughout the world under different names!
- c. They would worship Tammuz by coloring eggs as a symbol of fertility and life.  
 \* So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD’S house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz. Ezk 8:14

2. The book of Romans records for us the facts from the tower of Babel onwards.

- a. Man knew that God had created and judged the world through the flood by mutual

knowledge of the record handed down to them from Noah and his sons. Vs. 19

- b. Man suppressed or held down the truth about God in unrighteousness and God’s wrath was revealed from heaven. Vs. 18
- c. Man knew about God’s invisible attributes from the evidence of creation, He had to be greater than creation, therefore they were without excuse. Vs. 20
- d. Man though he knew God, did not glorify Him as God, nor was thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, the became fools. Vs. 21-22
- e. Man began to worship the creation which is idolatry and changed the natural use of the woman and man into the perversion of homosexual life-styles, receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due to them. Vs. 23-27
- f. Man refusing to retain God in his knowledge, was given over by God to uncleanness, to vile passions and to debased minds, in order to do those things which are not fitting or appropriate as God created and designed them to be. Vs. 24a, 26a, 28

***The perversion of Nimrod was that he knew about God and the prescribed worship and he rebelled against both, as will the Anti-christ!***

**Conclusion**

This is the rebel Nimrod!

- I.** The person of Nimrod had a seeming humble beginning, as will the Anti-christ!
- II.** The power of Nimrod was used to turn man from God, as will the Anti-christ!
- III.** The perversion of Nimrod was that he knew about God and the prescribed worship and he rebelled against both, as will the Anti-christ!