

OBEY GOD-DEFY TYRANTS #3

I. Introduction

I want to continue our teaching on the Word of the Lord for the year:
“Obey God-Defy Tyrants”

This sermon series is based on the Apostolic response to the civil authorities in Acts 5, where they were commanded not to teach in the name of Jesus...

Acts 5:29

We ought to obey God rather than men.

Last week we learned how to discern the difference between Dominion and Domination; that God made man in His own image and likeness and gave him Dominion over the Creation.

But when man sinned, his desire for dominion over the creation was perverted into a desire for domination over other men.

And tyrants came into the earth.

Though the desire for domination entered in the Garden of Eden, it was not politicized until after the flood of Noah's day, when men began to build cities and form civil governments, and I want to look there tonight to take a look at...

“The Tyrannical Nature of Ungodly Government”

In tonight's teaching I want to show how the elements of *all* ungodly government are found in the establishment of the *first* civil government, which was the building of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11.

Theme

The building of Babylon is the first appearance of man's attempt to establish a one-world government that would create a Utopia on earth—but without God.

If we understand the spiritual nature of the building of Babylon, we can understand what's going on in our own day. I want to begin with a look at the man behind the building of Babylon...

II. The Tyrannical Nature of Ungodly Government

A. Nimrod: The First Tyrant

1. Most Bible scholars believe that the building of Babylon was the work of a man named Nimrod, the evil great-grandson of Noah.

a. There are only a few verses on Nimrod in the Bible, but there is much written of him in the rabbinical writings and ancient historians like Josephus and Philo. The first mention of him in the Bible is...

Gen 10:9-10

And Nimrod began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord...And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel...

b. Hebrew scholars tell us the term means that Nimrod was a mighty hunter for the souls of men...

Ralph Woodrow, in his book "Babylon: Mystery Religion", translates...

Nimrod became a mighty tyrant in the face of the Lord.

c. This can be confirmed by a later mention of Nimrod...

1 Chronicles 1:10

Nimrod was first on earth to be a mighty man.

Nimrod, who became the world's first great conqueror. (TEV/GNT)

(The great Puritan Bible scholars commented on this passage...)

Adam Clarke

The Jewish Targum translation of 1 Chronicles 1:10:

"He began to be bold in sin, a murderer of the innocent, and a rebel before the Lord."

Matthew Henry

Nimrod the son of Cush began to be an oppressor of the people of God in his time. Nimrod did not go in the ways of the Lord and he was more wicked than all the men that were before him, from the days of the flood until those days.

d. It would be impossible to overstate the evil nature of Nimrod, the builder of Babylon.

2. In fact, the great Arthur Pink compared Nimrod to the Antichrist of the end-times:.

Arthur Pink

"Nimrod", in Hebrew, means "the Rebel," one of the titles given the Antichrist, in 2 Thessalonians 2:8—where he is called "The Lawless One". The form of Nimrod's rebellion was to head a great confederacy in open revolt against God.

3. Nimrod was the first of many tyrants to seek world domination: Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon; Belshazzar in Persia; Alexander the Great in Greece; Julius Ceasar in Rome; Genghis Khan in Mongolia; Adolf Hitler in Germany...

a. Anywhere you see the desire for domination expressed through tyrannical, ungodly government you will find a Nimrod. One website sums it up nicely...

TheFirmament.net

Nimrod set up his kingdom of Babylon and reigned over the whole earth in a type of "united kingdom" or "one world" government. He sought to seat himself in heaven to displace God, who created heaven and earth, by building the famed Tower of Babel and deceiving the whole world in his time.

4. Now that we know *who* built Babylon, I'd like to look at what we can learn from *how* Babylon was built because it is a model for all the tyrannical governments that would follow.

Characteristics of Tyrannical Government

**Imagines a political salvation; a Utopia on earth—but without God.
Controls the people by requiring conformity.**

Controls the culture by controlling the language.

III. The Building of Babel

I'm going to read the account of the building of Babylon in Genesis 11:1-9 and pull out some points that compare "The Tyrannical Nature of Ungodly Government", with what's going on in the world today.

Genesis 11:1-5

Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. 2 And it came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. 4 And they said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name; lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

Genesis 11:6-9

And the Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for 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 the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

A. First: An Evil Intent

1. The tyrannical nature of ungodly government will offer a political salvation; a way to heaven built by their own hands; a Utopia on earth but without god.

Genesis 11:4

And they said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name; lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

2. Bible scholars have debated over the meaning of their building a city with a tower top that would reach up to heaven.

a. Some think it was to protect them from another Flood like the one in Noah's day; even though God had promised He would never do that again.

b. Others believe Nimrod intended to use the tower to access the heavenly realm and attack the very throne of God Himself. (As Lucifer did)

c. We cannot know for sure; but we know what God thought about it.

3. Secondly: They wanted to 'make a name for themselves'; the nature of tyrannical government is full of pride; it wants to be worshipped; tyrants see themselves as our saviors instead of our servants.

a. Tyrannical governments displace God and put themselves in His place.

b. They want the people to look to them for help and salvation.

3. Thirdly: It says they were building Babylon 'lest we be scattered over the face of the earth'; what does it mean?

a. After the Flood, God had commanded the sons of Noah to spread out across earth; diversify; so this was a direct defiance of God's command. The tyrant's plan of world domination always requires a large, centralized government.

B. Second: Tyrannical Ungodly Governments Require Conformity By Coercion

1. I believe there's a spiritual lesson to be learned from Babylon's building material; ungodly governments build with 'bricks'.

Genesis 11:3 NASB

And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.

2. Tyrannical governments can only build with bricks. Everyone must be the same.

a. Tyrannical ungodly government will require you to *conform, by coercion if necessary*.

b. Everyone must speak the same, think the same, act the same. If you don't conform, you'll be cancelled. Or worse.

3. Tyrannical governments take control of the media culture and the public educational systems and design them to produce 'bricks'; people conformed to be the same so they can be easily fitted into whatever the government wants to do.

4. Remember this: Tyrants build with bricks; but God builds with stones!

Matthew Henry

What a difference there is between men's building and God's; when men build their Babel, brick and slime are their best materials; but, when God builds his Jerusalem, he lays even the foundations of it with sapphires, and all its borders with pleasant stones! (Isa 54:11,12; Rev 21:19)

1 Peter 2:4-5

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, *as living stones*, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...

God wrote the 10 commandments on stones.

The ephod of the High Priest was adorned with stones.

All the altars in the Old Testament were constructed of stone.

It was Pharaoh and the Egyptians who built with bricks.

3. I've gone a long way round to make this point:

**God builds His church with living stones;
Tyrants build their Babylon's with bricks.**

a. We come to God as a unique 'living stone', and He conforms us to the image of Christ; tyrants cannot build with you until you are a brick that they have conformed to their image.

b. God never violates your will; by His grace He makes you willing; but tyrants will coerce you to conform to their will.

4. Tyrants can only build with bricks; people who allow themselves to be forced into conformity with the will of the tyrant.

Review

Characteristics of Tyrannical Government

Imagines a political salvation; a Utopia on earth—but without God.

Controls the people by requiring conformity.

C. Third: Tyrannical Governments Control the Culture by Controlling the Language

1. The story of the building of Babylon is a lesson in the power of language.

Genesis 11:1 NASB

Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.

Genesis 11:5-6

And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. And the Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And **nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.**

2. God was not pleased with their plans to build a highway to heaven with the works of their own hands; He was not pleased with their plan to provide the people with salvation by politics. So what was His solution?

Genesis 11:7-8

Come, let us go down and confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." So the Lord scattered them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.

3. God's judgment on ungodly government is to confuse the language; God literally turns ungodly people into 'babblers'.

Genesis 11:9

Therefore the name of the place was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord scattered them over the face of all the earth.

'Babble'

**To speak in a meaningless confusion of words or sounds:
(thefreedictionary.com)**

To speak in a way others cannot understand. (MacMillan Dictionary)

4. Have you noticed how our nation's President, Vice President, Press Secretary and others can't put 2 sentences together? They can't even READ their speeches. Confusion abounds.

a. In the Senate Hearings on her nomination to the Supreme Court, President Biden's candidate Ketanji Brown-Jackson was asked if she could provide a definition for the word 'woman'.

Her response: "Not in this context. I'm not a biologist".

a. This woman knows what a woman is; in her speeches she acknowledged herself as a woman. But she is part of a system that depends upon deliberate redefinitions as a means of cultural control...

Mark Twain

He who defines the terms controls the debate.

b. This woman now sits on the Supreme Court without a commitment to what a woman is; why? So she can define it for herself when it comes up in court.

5. Consider the confusion in our court systems: there is more concern for the criminal than for the victim. Confusion.

a. Consider the confusion about the border; we are being told these people are not illegal aliens; they are 'undocumented immigrants'.

b. Some government schools require the students to refer to boys as girls and girls as boys, based on which they prefer. College is even worse.

Stanford University

In 2020, Stanford University launched its "Elimination of Harmful Language Initiative. I have a copy of several hundred terms that they have forbidden or redefined on their campus.

Students are compelled to conform or be expelled

An 'American' must now be called a 'U.S. citizen'

The word 'brave'-is banned as offensive to native Americans

'firemen' must now be called 'firefighters' (to be gender inclusive)

'landlords' must be called 'property owners'

Can't say 'kill 2 birds w/ one stone'-it promotes animal cruelty

a. Parents pay \$77,000 a year to send the kids to a college that conforms them into educated idiots who can't call a spade a spade for fear of offense.

6. This is all CONFUSION-a sign of God's judgment upon Babylonian; a totalitarian Big Brother system of government that used language to control the culture.

James Breslo in The Epoch Times

George Orwell could not make this up. In his book "1984," he famously coined the term "doublethink," whereby political leaders change the meaning of language to achieve political objectives. In his work of fiction, this included "War is Peace," "Freedom is Slavery," and "Ignorance is Strength."

James Breslo in The Epoch Times

Today, in real life, we have doublethink at a level more bizarre than even Orwell conceived. We have "Man is Woman" and "Woman is Man." That is according to the latest edition of the Cambridge Dictionary, which recently changed the definition of woman and man.

7. We need to know that all this confusion of language today is a sure sign that the judgement of God has fallen upon those who seek to control us through the tyranny of ungodly government.

8. God is already scattering them; they will continue to be in confusion; so what are we to do? We can Obey God-and Defy the Tyrants.

III. Close:

A. We Can Reclaim the Culture With a Recommitment to the Power of Language

1. God's people are being pushed to a point where we will comply or defy; we will go along with the tyrants or walk in the opposite spirit.

a. I will not be a 'brick'.

b. And I will not allow the tyrants to control the culture by controlling the language!

Anna Jameson, British writer

Accuracy of language is one of the bulwarks of truth.

2. I will never submit to, nor come into agreement with, those who demand that I live by their lies.

3. I will defy them in their redefinitions of man, woman, and marriage!

Isaiah 5:20-21

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

4. I will stand in agreement with God against those who justify the wicked and condemn the just.

Proverbs 17:15

**He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike
are an abomination to the Lord.**

5. Some of our brethren are afraid to speak out; but a time is coming where those who defy the tyrants will receive a blessing....

Proverbs 24:24-25

**He who says to the wicked, "You are righteous", him the people will curse;
Nations will abhor him. But those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and
a good blessing will come upon them.**

Closing Prayer

Title