

## GENESIS 18, THE TOWER OF BABEL 03 10 11 2012

*"The sons of Noah who came out of the Ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth." Genesis 9:18*

*"These were the three sons of Noah from whom came the people who repopulated the earth." Genesis 9:19*

*"Now the whole world had the same language and a common speech." Genesis 11:1*

*"As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and they settled there." Genesis 11:2*

*"Then they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.' They used brick instead of stone and tar for mortar." Genesis 11:3*

*"And they said, 'Come, let us build for ourselves a city, with a tower whose top will reach into heaven.'" Genesis 11:4*

**E. sag. ila.** *"The temple whose top is heaven"*

*"And they said, 'Come, let us build for ourselves a city, with a tower **whose top will reach into heaven.**" Genesis 11:4*

*This "tower" in the Bible fits with everything we have discovered in the archaeology of ancient Babylonia.*

*" . . . and let us make a name for ourselves. And let us not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." Genesis 11:4b*

*"And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and **fill the earth.**" Genesis 9:1*

*[God to Noah] "Be fruitful and multiply and **swarm over all the earth.**" Genesis 9:7*

*" . . . let us **not** be scattered over the face of the whole earth." Genesis 11:4b*

*What we have here is **direct disobedience** to the wishes and command of God.*

*"And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building." Genesis 11:5*

*"And the LORD said, 'Because they are one people, and they all have the same language, this is only the beginning of what they will do. Nothing they imagine to do will be unachievable for them – so long as they speak one language.'" Genesis 11:6*

*Ancient man was erudite, intelligent, and highly-skilled.*

*It was out of mercy that God had commanded these people to scatter.*

*Scattered and separate, there was a far less chance of their sin getting out of hand on a global scale and of God needing to carry out another global judgment.*

*"Come let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." Genesis 11:7*

*"So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth and they stopped building the city." Genesis 11:8*

*"This is why the place was called **Babel** [Hebrew: Confusion] because it was here that the LORD confused the language of the whole earth. And from here the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth." Genesis 11:9*

**1<sup>st</sup> – Archaeology** *Confirms that all of modern civilization had its beginnings in Mesopotamia between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers – just as Genesis 11 says.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Linguistics** Confirms that all languages can be traced back to a common ancestor language (called “proto-indo-european”) just as Genesis 11 says.

Genesis 11 tells us that God created the language barriers we see on earth today **on purpose**.

This is God’s way of reducing mankind’s ability to devise evil and rebel against God on a global scale.

The first official act of the antichrist will be to **unite the world** into one economy and society – so that he can maximize man’s sinfulness and turn it into mass rebellion against God.

So What?

Here in Genesis 11 we see the most basic flaw in human nature on display.

“The great part about being a hobo . . . is not having to account to anybody.”

“All of us like sheep, have gone astray; each one of us has turned to **his own way** . . .” Isaiah 53:6a

The **essence** of sin is this inbred, instinctive, rebellious desire to “do it our way” This is what makes us “sinners” in God’s sight and places us under His judgment

“All of us like sheep, have gone astray; each one of us has turned to **his own way**. But the LORD laid on Him the judgment due us all.” Isaiah 53:6

Being a follower of Christ does not eradicate this wayward, rebellious streak that lives inside of us.

“**Prone** to wander, Lord I feel it, **Prone** to leave the God I love . . .”

Full blessing of God only comes from full obedience to God – which is 180 degrees opposite from our natural human instincts.

“For in the day when I brought your fathers out of Egypt, I did not command them about burnt offerings and sacrifices.” Jeremiah 7:22

“But I gave them this command: **Obey Me** and I will be your God and you will be My people.” Jeremiah 7:23

“Father if it’s possible, please remove this cup from me; Yet not My will, but Thine be done.” Luke 22:42

“Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.” 1 Samuel 3:10

“Behold, to obey is better than to sacrifice!” 1 Samuel 15:22

“I am the LORD’s servant. Let it be done to me as You have said.” Luke 1:38

“Lord the answer is ‘yes.’ Now what is the question?” Jimmy Draper

“Going our own way” – and the full blessing of God – are mutually exclusive.

“Have you noticed how much praying for revival has been going on of late? And how little revival has resulted? Considering the volume of prayer that is ascending these days, rivers of revival should be flowing . That no such results are in evidence should not discourage us. Rather, it should stir us to find out why our prayers are not answered. I believe that our problem is that we have been trying to substitute **praying for obeying** and it simply won’t work.” A.W. Tozer

“Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities.” Romans 13:1

“How do I beat this compulsion inside of me to always **go my own way**?”

*Jesus conquered this desire of His flesh to go its own way – by presenting it to the Lord over and over in prayer.*

*#1 – By honestly admitting it to God*

*#2 – By laying it at God's feet*

*#3 – By not giving up until the Holy Spirit had subdued His human resistance and replaced it with full surrender to God*

*“**Prone** to wander, Lord I feel it, **Prone** to leave the God I love . . .*

*Here's my heart, oh take and seal it Seal it for Thy courts above.”*

*The secret to victory is found in presenting our hearts to God in prayer – over and over like Jesus did – and not giving up until the Holy Spirit subdues our fleshly will and supplants it with full surrender to God.*

*This is a supernatural work that God performs in people that can't be quantified in human terms – but that doesn't mean it isn't real and powerful!*