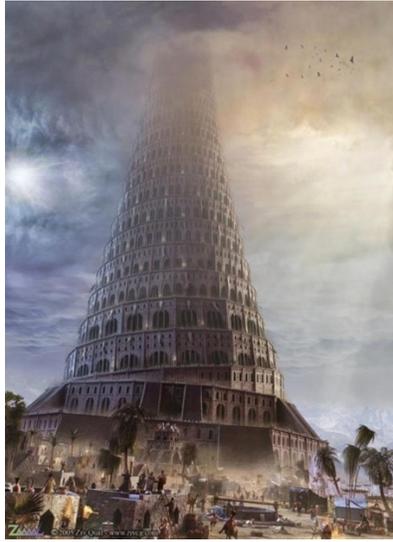


“The Tower of Babel”

Genesis 11:1-32

For the week of December 20, 2020



The Set-Up

Genesis 10 and 11 is one long genealogy connecting Noah to Abraham with two short intermissions (10:8-12, 11:1-9). God “rebooted” creation with Noah, who had three sons. One of those sons, Ham, had a grandson named Nimrod who was a mighty warrior who created the first world empire of which Babylon was its first and greatest city. Even though what Nimrod built may seem impressive on the outside, every intention of it was against God’s plan for humanity.

The Tower of Babel

Read Genesis 11:1-9

What reasons do the people give for building the tower in verse 4? How do these reasons given by the Babylonians go against what God has commanded humans to do?

How does pride show itself in this story? How is pride in a person’s spiritual life dangerous? How can a person combat pride?

The drama of the chapter centers on God coming down to see the city and the tower in verse 5. Why is this significant?

God Intervenes

What are God's reasons for stopping the building of the tower in verse?

God mercifully intervenes in their sin. Why? And does God do similar things today? Give examples.

How God Did It

God could have simply destroyed the city and tower. Why did he choose to confuse the people's language instead?

Have you ever built a "tower" or "structure" for yourself only to have it shattered by God? Describe what happened. How did you grow or learn from this incident?

Full Circle

Read Acts 2:1-13. How does God's confusion of language come full circle (from Genesis 11) in Acts 2?

God eventually unifies believers of all nations and tongues in the gospel. How does your life testify to the unity that God has given believers? How can a person use their life to help build God's temple (the church)?

Shem's Descendants

Read Genesis 11:10-26. This genealogy traces Noah's line through Shem down to Terah, the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. What one change from the chapter 5 genealogy is noteworthy? Why would the life spans be so different?

Terah's Descendants

Read Genesis 11:27-32. This genealogy focus on the immediate family of Terah. Why would there be a focus on Abram's descendants? How does this set the stage for the unique family line that follows in Genesis (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph)?

Pray

Pray during this time as we celebrate the birth of Jesus that many others will come to know Him as Lord and Savior. Pray that each of us will be used to further His Kingdom and to give Him fully glory in all things. Thank God for His many blessings.