

## **NIMROD, THE REBEL**

Nimrod was the son of Cush, the grandson of Ham, and the great grandson of Noah. He is only mentioned three times in the OT (Gen.10:8-10; 1 Chron.1:10; and Micah 5:6) but has become a historical figure.

Some historians suggest that the Sumerian Kish, the first city established in Mesopotamia after the flood, took its name from the man known in the Bible as Cush. Other cultures followed the Sumerians system like Akkad, Babylon, Assyria, and Persia, which became the basis of Greece and Rome's system of rule.

The Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and Hittites wrote about a ruler that fits the description of Nimrod. He was obviously the most popular hero in Ancient Near East. In extra-biblical literature, he was called Gilgamesh. Muslim historians wrote about Nimrod in the 9th and 13th centuries.

We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

- Cushites           (Gen.10:8)           Relatives
- Conqueror       (Gen.10:9)           Reputation
- Centers           (Gen.10:10-11)       Regions

**This lesson will study SEVEN aspects of Nimrod, the Rebel as recorded by the Bible and history.**

### **1. In Hebrew, Nimrod means (let us rebel).**

It is derived from the verb marad, meaning to rebel or to disobey. Remember that in biblical Hebrew names reflect one's character and lot in the plan of God. Josephus suggests that Nimrod built the Tower of Babel so that the floodwater could never destroy them again. Therefore, he built it higher than the floodwaters (Gen.7:17-20) [20 feet above mountains].

In defiance of God, he built it to avenge himself against God for destroying his forefathers in the flood. This was taken as an interpretation of "He was a mighty hunter **before the Lord** (lipheneh) in front of or face to face or flaunt); wherefore it is said (history), 'Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.'" (Gen.10:9)

### **2. Nimrod became the first (reshith / beginning) world empire builder after the flood in Mesopotamia (Gen.10:10-11). He established a kingdom (mamelamah) rather than a nation (goy).**

This was part of his rebellion against God and shows cosmos diabolicus influence on him (Matt.4:8). Satan always uses a confederation of nations to attack client nations with pivots of spiritual advancing believers (Rev.20:7-10).

### **3. Satan counterfeits the Kingdom of God with the kingdoms of this world. Jesus was consistently under attack regarding this doctrinal issue (Matt.4:8-10).**

Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world if He would worship him (Matt.4:8-10).

The Israelites wanted to make Jesus king of the kingdoms of the world: “Jesus therefore perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force, to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.” (John 6:15).

His disciples wanted Jesus to make Himself king of the Kingdom of God before the time: “And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’” (Acts 1:6)

Jesus declared that His kingdom was not of this world during the first advent (John 18:36). However, in the Second Advent and the Millennium, the kingdoms of the world will become the kingdom of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ (Rev.11:15; 19:16; Isa.2:4; 11:10-11).

- 4. Nimrod gained the reputation of being a mighty hunter before the Lord (in defiance). Nimrod was one of two men in Genesis with this reputation. The other was Esau (Gen.25:27).**

The Hebrew word for hunter is (tsayid / conqueror or tyrant). Historians refer to him as a hunter of men. They believe this was the case with Asshur in Gen.10:11 (Assyria). Asshur was the second son of Shem (Gen.10:22).

- 5. By conquering Asshur, Nimrod extended his empire from the land of Shinar to the land of Assyria (Gen.10:10-11; 1 Chron.1:10). Micah 5:6 refers to Assyria as the land of Nimrod.**

Nimrod established his empire in the land of Shinar which some believe is the same general area as vicinity of life prior to the flood and east of the Garden of Eden (Gen.2:10-14; 3:24; 11:2).

It is interesting that the Babylonians called their chief god (marduk) which is derived from the same word as Nimrod (marad) (Dan.1:2; Jer.50:2).

- 6. By the time of Abraham who lived in the Ur of the Chaldeans, the Canaanite kings had become powerful in the world (Gen.11-12). They were still powerful in the time of Joshua (Josh.3:10).**

Later the Israelites will ask for a king like them and Saul was appointed (1 Sam.8-9). The judge Gideon refused this same offer by stating divine viewpoint: “The Lord shall rule over you.” (Judges 8:22-23) [theocracy].

- 7. Under the leadership of Nimrod, the Hamitic people developed a furnace mudbrick industry (Gen.11:3). Biblical historians believe they built the famous tower of Babel with these mudbricks (Gen.11:4).**

The ancient ziggurat with a temple on top to worship the host of heavens was found at Abraham’s home of the Ur of the Chaldees. Many believe it was a prototype of the Tower of Babel.