

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Gen. Ch.11 takes us on a journey east to a plain in the land of Shinar (Gen.11:2) **and from there** the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth (Gen.11:9) with Abram living and then leaving the Ur of Chaldeans to the land of Canaan (Gen.11:31).

They journeyed east from where? (Mountains of Ararat; (Gen.8:4-5) [East of Turkey]. At 13,000 feet, (2.46 miles high), they discovered what some believe to be Noah's ark. It was carbon dated to be some 4800 years old. Noah's ark was 45 feet in height. It floated above the tallest mountains of Ararat with 20 feet clearance with a loaded ark (Gen.6:15; 7:20).

The Ararat Mountains were a wonder of God's grace and mercy following the Flood to the Postdiluvian civilization. The Ark was a museum to the Postdiluvian world and especially to Noah and his three sons; it was a reminder of God's Mercy, Grace and Long Suffering with mankind. The Ararat mountains, with an Ark resting on top, reminded them of promise of the Noahic Covenant and the Rainbow given to the Postdiluvian civilization (Gen.8:20-9:17). Historians believe that Nimrod built the city-tower of Babel in defiance with all this in this in mind.

This lesson will study five aspects to the Tower of Babel.

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following five point outline.

These five points will be divided into two sections of the Sovereign Directive Will of God that directly effects the Postdiluvian civilization.

Man's Will - Sovereign Directives (3 parts)

- 1st Come** (yahab/ qal impv.1pl) [command] (Sovereign directive will)
Let us make (laben/ qal impf 1pl)
Construction materials (Gen.11:3)
- 2nd Come** (qal impv.1pl)
Let us build (banah/ qal impf 1pl)
Blue-print of the city-tower top that reaches into heavens (pl) (Gen.11:4a)
- 3rd (come)**
Let us make (asah/ qal pf.1pl)
Motive was spiritual arrogance - to make a name for themselves - lest they be scattered (Gen.11:4b)

God's Will - Sovereign Directives (2 parts)

- 4th Come** (yahab/ qal impv.1pl)
Let us go down (yarad/ qal impf.1pl) (Gen.11:7a) [Anthropomorphism]
(Gen.11:5-6 a) Heavenly humor, the top didn't reach heavens!
The ONLY way to God is through Christ (John 14:6)
The Mesopotamian ziggurat stairway! (Gen.28:10-17) [Jacob]
(Jn.1:51; 1) (Tim.2:5).
- 5th (come)**
Let us confuse (balal/ qal impf.1pl)
Languages and speech – scattered “from there” (plain in Shinar) over the face of the whole earth - “they stopped building the city.”

CONCLUSION:

(Gen.11:9) “Therefore its name was called Babel, **because there** the Lord confused the languages of the whole earth; **and from there** the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

(The first act of Divine Discipline for the Postdiluvian civilization)

2. The scattering was the result of the dividing (palag) (Acts 17:26).

It involved the third generation of the Hamites and Nimrod (Gen.10:8-12) [Ham, Cush, Nimrod] until the fifth generation of Shemites and Peleg (Gen.10:22-25) [Shem, **Arphaxai**, Shelah, Eber and Peleg].

(Gen.10:25 “Two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided (palag) [niph / pf]; and his brother’s name was Joktan.” (1 Chron.1:19)

Scattering all but one tribe of Shemites (messianic lineage) (Gen.10:21-31) [3rd son of Shem].

They were convinced that populace support and the city-tower could defer the Word of God regarding the “scattering (puts/ qal impf) (Lev.26:33) [5th Cycle of Divine Discipline] of people” (Gen.11:4).

(Gen.11:4b) “Let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the Face of the whole earth.” (Phil.2:9-11; Eph.1:21)

3. Nimrod was the first to establish a kingdom by force in the postdiluvian civilization. He would set the bar for other empire builders to follow.

He is only mentioned three times in the Bible (Gen.10:8-10; 1 Chron.1:10 and Micah 5:6) but has become a historical figure in early Postdiluvian history. Micah refers to Assyria as the “land of Nimrod.”

The Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and Hittites wrote about a ruler that fits the description of Nimrod. He was obviously the most popular warrior in Ancient Near East. Muslims wrote about Nimrod in the 9th and 13th centuries.

4. His name means “let us rebel” (nimerod/ nimrod).

The name is derived from marad (plus the niph infinitive absolute/ ni/ title) [One leading rebellion]. Many believe he was associated with the Mesopotamian god, Marduk.

The ancient **ziggurats** (Akkadian means to rise high) with a temple on the top to worship the hosts of heavens was found at the Ur of Chaldeans. Most historians believe it was a prototype of the Tower of Babel (Gen.8:20-9:17) [The Noahic Covenant and the Rainbow - his grandfather was on Ark].

(Gen.10:4a) “Let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower (miceddal/ temple tower) whose top will reach into heavens.” (An impressive height) The Book of Jubilees says it reached a height of 1.6 miles!

5. Nimrod was the great grandson of Noah.

- Josephus suggests that Nimrod built the Tower of Babel in defiance of God for destroying his ancestors by Flood. He was a defiant mighty hunter “(Gen.10:9) “before the Lord” in front of or in the face of or flaunt/
- When Nimrod conquered Asshur (second son of Shem), he extended his kingdom from the land of Shinar to the land of Assyria (Gen.10:8-12, 22; Micah 5:6).
- He was a rebellious conqueror of kingdoms (Gen.10:10) [his kingdom]. Satan tempted Jesus with the same idea in (Matt.4:8-10) (Kingdom of God verses kingdoms of world).
- Pilate challenged Jesus with it in (John 18:33-38) “**My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, **My kingdom is not of this realm.**” (John 18:36) (John 6:15 and Acts 1:6)