

Genesis 9: Tower of Babel
03-11-18 PM

I. Introduction: The Story of the Tower of Babel

A. Genesis 11:1-9

B. After the flood men gathered together on the plain of Shinar

1. This is roughly in the Middle of Iraq today (Daniel 1:2)
2. Sometimes we confuse Babel with Babylon, they are not the same place
3. They agreed to build two things:
 - a. A city
 - b. A tower

C. It may be the case they were led by Nimrod, someone who is recorded by Jewish historians as the most wicked man alive

1. His account seems to parallel this one in Genesis 10:9-10
2. We are told he was the founder of the city they built

D. Men had three goals (vs 4)

1. To get to heaven (to be saved)
2. To make a name for themselves
3. To avoid doing what God had commanded (Gen 9:1,7)

E. God took care of the situation with patience and permanent impact

1. He confused the languages of the world
2. He scattered men across the world

F. There is some evidence remaining for these events, as ancient as they were

1. The Ziggurats of Mesopotamia & the pyramids of the world
2. Similar narratives in widespread cultures
3. The origin of many language families being in the caucuses

G. The primary lesson here is:

1. Man's rebellion

1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry

- a. The worst sins
2. God's patience

II. The Purpose of the Story – The First Man-Made Religion

A. There is only one way to heaven

1. It is not pleasant, or popular, or desirable

Jn 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me"

Mt 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Luke 13:23 Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, 24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. John 15:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

B. The First Man Made religion (an attempt to reach heaven) is still the pattern of man made religions today.

1. They are still trying to reach heaven
2. They are still trying to make a name for themselves

- a. Men still seek to create a name for themselves
 - (1) Religious titles (Matthew 23)
 - (2) Denominations (1 Corinthians 1)
 - (3) Acting without authority (2 Thessalonians 2)
- 3. They are still resisting the commandments of God
 - a. Doing whatever we can to avoid obeying God
 - "I don't have to be baptized"*
 - "I don't have to live righteously"*
 - "I don't have to go to assembly with Christians"*
 - b. As in the days of the tower, sometimes people work HARDER to disobey God that to obey Him
- C. In contrast, Jesus' way is easy

Mt 11:28 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

III. Conclusion:

A. A lot of wasted effort went into building this tower and city

- 1. Didn't they remember God said He was not going to destroy them with water again

Gen 9:11 "... never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

- 2. Had they obeyed, consider the great wastes that would have been avoided
- 3. A tower would not save them from God's wrath

- a. Particularly when God has reserved the final destruction with fire

2 Pet 3:5-7 For this they willfully forget: that the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

B. today there is still a lot of wasted efforts in tower building

- 1. Whether for pride, rebellion or ignorance, the outcome is the same

Ga 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

C. There is ONLY ONE WAY TO HEAVEN!

Mt 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

- 1. It is found only in complete obedience to the commandments of God

Rom 6:17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

1Cor 6:11 But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.