

The Table of Nations, Tower of Babel

The stupendous event of the flood was pointed out by Christ Himself as a "foreshadowing of the final judgment that shall at last summon all men before that solemn tribunal where every man shall receive the appointment of his eternal destiny (Matthew 24:37-39).

Matthew 24:34-39 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. 35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. 36 But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. 37 But as the days of Noe [were], so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Covenant With Noah

Genesis 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

"Covenant ..." This word "occurs some two hundred times in the O.T."

I Peter 3:20-21 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not

the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

II Peter 2:4-5 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast [them] down to hell, and delivered [them] into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth [person], a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

II Peter 3:5-6 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

Genesis 9:18 & 24-29 And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham [is] the father of Canaan. 24 And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. 25 And he said, Cursed [be] Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. 26 And he said, Blessed [be] the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. 27 God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant 28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. 29 And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.

"Cursed be Canaan ..." What Cain was to the pre flood world, Canaan was to the world after the flood. He was the ancestor of the Canaanites who occupied the land of Palestine, and the wickedness of that entire Canaanite culture with their sex gods Baal & Asherith, which they worshiped with child sacrifice and drunken orgies ...

This also lends strong presumptive proof that the nature of Canaan's sin against Noah was sexual by the phrase "had done unto him". That same evil culture later overwhelmed Ephraim and the 10 northern

tribes of the kingdom of Israel, ... through which, in turn, the southern kingdom also fell and was carried away 70 years into captivity in Babylon in 586 BC.

It should be noted that none of Canaan's descendants can be identified with the Black African race, who were actually descended from Ham, not from Canaan. Moreover, the Canaanite homeland was not primarily Africa, but Palestine, from Sidon to Sodom and Gomorrah. The Canaanites thus justified in their following history all that Noah had prophesied of them. Noah's curse was a prediction of how they would behave. The Assyrian Hammurabi probably being among the descendants of Ham along with the Egyptian civilization.

"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem ..." This means, that God would be identified as "the God of Shem," This is the prophetic designation of Shem as the patriarch through whom Jesus Christ would be born.

"Enlarge Japheth ..." This prophesied the multiplication of his posterity, which was remarkably fulfilled in the proliferation of the populations of Europe and other places where so-called Western Civilization and Christianity prevailed.

"... he shall dwell in the tents of Shem" Japheth ... in the future European Gentiles nations shall worship the Lord the God Shem,' another reference to the spiritual blessings upon the Church through the Messianic line.

Genesis 10:1 Now these [are] the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood ... (we will skip the naming of all the descendants of Noah)

Generations, section, division or book Hebrew Toledoth IV

Christians should not ignore this chapter, the fundamental teaching of which is that all the nations of earth are descended from a single ancestor and that, all the peoples of the earth are of "one blood"

Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

Genesis 10:5 By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided (split) in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.

Genesis 10:25 And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one [was] Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name [was] Jok-tan.

Peleg - From פֶּלֶג *palag*, in Hebrew means earthquake,

"... in his days was the earth divided; ..." the word "divided" in Hebrew means split. This is supposed to be about one hundred years after the flood. We are of the opinion that a physical division of dry land, or a separation of dry land into continents and islands; from the one previous land mass and what is said in Genesis 10:5, is spoken by way of anticipation, or prophecy of this event. Furthermore, Peleg or "earthquake's" brother was named Jok-tan, which, in Hebrew means "to make little". Looking at the verse, in the light of these facts, it appears in the days of Eber, the earth was divided and split ... he was so impressed by the cataclysmic earthquakes which accompanied the ripping or tearing apart of dry land ... which modern scientists call Pangaea ... that he named one of his sons "earthquake", and the other, "to make little". Only the finger of God in a supernatural event such as this, could explain the mastodons found so quickly frozen in the permafrost of Siberia, that many had green grass still in their mouths and they were frozen before it could be swallowed or spit out.

Genesis 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

It would be impossible to exaggerate the importance of this chapter, since it recounts the Second Hardening of mankind. This happened on the plains of Shinar ... there flowered the second general rebellion of humanity against his Creator. The same pattern is evident in both. In the first, it began with a single act of disobedience; but it eventually resulted in the total corruption of Adam's race, the First Judicial Hardening of humanity, followed by the judgment of God upon their gross wickedness and the destruction of the whole pre-flood antediluvian world in the waters of the Deluge.

In this second instance, it also began with the shameful wickedness of Canaan: but the eventual exaltation of man against his God became general in the events associated with the Tower of Babel and once more became so serious that the situation demanded God's direct interference with it. This resulted immediately in the confusion of tongues or languages. The Love and mercy of God is seen in the introduction of the Chosen People, through whom God would yet provide a Savior and Redeemer for men. This is the significance of the presentation of the family line of Shem, the Messianic line, here recorded in close connection with the events of Babel, which stand here as an introduction to the call of Abraham.

The story is basically the same in both the fall from the garden of Eden and the Tower of Babel: It is man's defiance of God. The setting, however, is different. The first fall occurred among the flowers and fruits of Eden; the second one came in the bricks and asphalt of the city. Therefore, we see nothing less in this event than the Second Judicial Hardening of Adam's race, the first resulting in the Flood, this one resulting in the call of Abraham and the commissioning of a

"Chosen People," by means of whom God's purpose of Redemption would still be achieved through the Messianic line.

Genesis 11:2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

"Plain in the land of Shinar (SHI-nar) ..." This is the great plain upon which Nimrod built Babylon and other cities of Mesopotamia. In all ages to come, Babylon would be the symbol of civilization in its organization opposed to God in pride, arrogance, and defiance. It was literally true that the cancer that began here at the tower of Babel was to form in every great city of the earth for all ages to come, making Babylon the "Mother of harlots and abominations" of the earth, not merely in the religious connotations of the current dispensation, but also in the political developments ever afterward from the foundation of Babylon.

Genesis 11:3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

"Brick ... slime had they for mortar ..." The absence of building stone on the plains of Shinar (SHI-nar) led to the perfection of the brick industry, thus providing materials for the ambitious project of the tower. "The word for slime here is [*~hemar*], that is bitumen or asphalt."

How innocent all this seemed, how practical, and commendable! Despite the innocent appearance, however, wicked forces of the greatest magnitude were behind these proceedings. Man wanted to be God. As Neff put it:

"A true son of Adam, man wants to be God Himself. He wants to run the world in his own way. He wants to put himself at the center of his

civilization on a pedestal inscribed with his own name: `Glory to MAN in the highest.

Genesis 11:4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top [may reach] unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

" whose top [may reach] unto heaven ..." The Babylonians called such a tower a ziggurat (ZIG-er-at). The most conspicuous feature was a huge pyramidal tower, in seven terraces from the temple area. The seven stories represented the seven planetary deities they worshiped. The ascent of the tower was a meritorious self-righteous approach to their gods; and the summit was regarded as the "entrance to heaven."

In the light of the nature and use of such towers which follows in history, there can be little doubt that paganism and idolatry were intimately associated with the tower mentioned ... despite the fact of there not being a word in the text concerning idolatry.

The construction of the tower of Babel was actually the dethronement of God and establishment of paganism as their system of worship. There was also the change of government into a military dictatorship with cruel and oppressive power, and also the creation and of a idolatrous priesthood which constructed right there in Babylon a pantheon of pagan gods and elaborated paganism into a religious system of sex and child sacrifice that was to prevail throughout the world ... who can doubt it still can be worshiped in sex, drugs and rock & roll ... followed by the morning after pill and abortion.

But the Scriptures record none of the names of the perpetrators. The traditional account handed down by Josephus carries the stamp of truth in the simplicity that says, "It was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God; he was the grandson of Ham, the son of Noah." Josephus also affirmed that Nimrod had taught that

it was cowardice to submit to God, and wrong to praise God for benefits, because it was through the courage and daring of MEN themselves that all blessings and benefits came! Such a doctrine as this has been the bible of evil world rulers in all generations.

"Let us build a city ... let us ... make us a name ... lest we be scattered ..." The children of men who wrought this wickedness in God's sight were clearly infected with the US virus - the pride, arrogance, and conceit of the people. Their rebellion against God is inherent in their stated purpose of avoiding their being "scattered," a scattering that God had commanded in the original great commission to "multiply and replenish the earth." That the Second Judicial Hardening of the human family had not merely begun in this episode but that it had reached a crisis stage is revealed emphatically in Paul's great essay on it in Romans.

Thus, we understand the events of Babel as man's SUBSTITUTION of himself for God as the object of worship and devotion. In all probability the ancient tradition that Nimrod (NIHM-rod) himself was deified and worshiped as Merodach (MARE-o-dock) or Marduk (MAR-dook) in Babylon, and that his wife Semaramis (SEE-mar-a-muhs) received divine honors would appear to be founded in fact. The deification of Roman emperors in the Christian era and their hatred of God were only the eventual developments of the tragedy at Babel.

Genesis 11:5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

The fact that no individuals being mentioned in this account and its action being mentioned as something that "the children of men" did, shows that God considered this event as a rebellion of all mankind against Himself. The willingness of mankind, generally, to receive the arrogance, pride and conceit of those people as their chosen way of life, and the perception of God that the cancer that began there would

spread continually throughout the whole world fully justified the heavenly interference with it. God would also call Abraham, who was commissioned to be the head of a "chosen race," who would preserve the knowledge of the true God until the revelation of the Messiah.

"Came down to see ..." This speaking of God in terms that are related to the conduct of men was most natural, there being, in fact, no other way that knowledge of the true God could be conveyed. This is called anthropomorphism; and this passage is loaded with it. Significantly, while man was boasting of his tower "to reach heaven," God could not even see it without making a trip down to earth! Despite the fact that God sees everything continually throughout the whole universe, this manner of speech is superlative as an exposure of the foolishness and wickedness of men.

6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people [is] one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

God foresaw if their wickedness had been left unhindered the true knowledge of God might easily have been totally removed from the earth. The establishment of the people of Israel as a witness of God also aided in frustrating the devices of Satan which were, at the moment, proving successful. In fact, at that future time when "Satan shall be loosed for a little while," there will then occur exactly what was in the process of occurring here.

The silly notion expressed by some to the effect that God feared mankind as a rival is absolutely unworthy of any believer. Whatever fears God had in this situation, they were those fears for the future of the race of men which God accurately foresaw.

7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

"Come, let us go down ..." The plural form here suggests the Trinitarian Godhead more fully apparent in the N.T., but certainly not any kind of a conference with angels, or some kind of a "community of gods," as imagined by some. Also, it is the height of superlative naiveté (ni-eve-TAY) that prompts men to bother with trying to reduce all these anthropomorphisms to descriptions of where God was when He said this or that, or to suppose that God had to return to heaven between similar expressions. The thought here is simply that God had a remedy for human arrogance and conceit. He would do two things:

(1) first, He would thwart the spread of the wicked virus by confounding the languages;

(2) and He would also call out and separate a people to Himself who would keep themselves from idolatry and who would live as a continuing witness of the true God and His holy Name throughout the long dark ages of pre-Christian Gentile darkness then beginning its awesome descent upon the family of Adam.

8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

This is the conclusion of this remarkably important episode. We shall notice, in passing, some of the insinuations against this account, not because of any value in them, but as a notation that evil men are STILL opposed to the will of God.

"The word [*~bala*] means 'confuse'; and from it the form [*~balbe*] (contracted to Babel) is derived, and here we have the actual origin of the name of this famed city. Thus, we translate part of Genesis 11:9, "Called Babel because there *Yahweh* made a babble!"

This passage is one of the "most important in the O.T., because it is the point where primeval history and sacred history dovetail."

Primeval history left open the question of human salvation, but sacred history provides the certain promise of it in the call of Abraham and the announcement that "all the families of the earth" would be blessed through his seed (singular).

The announcement of this is in Genesis 11:12, and the transition from primeval history to sacred history occurs precisely in Genesis 12:1-3.

This brings a great division of Genesis to a close.

The following chapters will take up the narrative relative to the deeds and fortunes of the "Chosen Nation," the posterity of Abraham through whom a Messiah to redeem all men was promised.

After the flood the rapid increase and degeneration of idolatrous paganism was cited by Paul. It began by man worshipping himself (or, an image like himself), but it swiftly moved downward in cycles until men were worshipping reptiles and creeping things!

Example Egyptians worshiped dung beetles.

Romans 1:18-32 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

"The wrath of God ..." is a phrase that describes the fierceness of the Creator between and all sin and unrighteousness.

"revealed ..." it is obvious that the wrath of God is a personal thing. It is God's holy revulsion against that which is the contradiction of holiness.

"hold the truth in unrighteousness ..." This is a reference to the fact that the pre-Christian Gentile world had the truth and that they suppressed it.

Romans 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them.

The argument of this verse is simply that those wicked Gentiles were sinners against the light, not being, in any sense, ignorant of God ... they knew God. The Father Himself had seen to that, for it is categorically stated here that God had "manifested it to them." The pronoun "it" is not in the Greek & Paul's argument is to translate, the verse literally: "For God manifested Himself to them.

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

"... the invisible things of Him ..." is a reference to God's everlasting power and divinity and Paul's argument is that invisible things may be "seen" by the mind ... by the things that are made, namely, all created objects, are the things which enable the mind to comprehend what no natural eye can see, that is, the power and divinity of God.

When I asked Christian's for a reason why they believed in God: "Someone had to make all this ..." That basic truth is understood by every normal child and adult ... in every design we find the Designer.

"they are without excuse ..." There is no doubt that God held the wicked ancient Gentiles to be inexcusable on any grounds whatsoever, and particularly he refuted in this verse any possible claim that they might be excused on grounds of ignorance. Today!

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

“they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful” Greek “negative I worship” It is a frightening and sober thought that all of the carnal debaucheries wickedness of those ancient Gentiles, should have begun with so mild and apparently innocuous a thing as neglect of worship and failure to give thanks to God. What a powerful warning this speaks to countless Christians of the present generation who regard neglect of giving thanks by coming to Church as a very casual and minor omission of duty.

God had manifested Himself to the Gentiles repeatedly through many centuries and their knowledge was more than sufficient to make their conduct inexcusable, and to justify the retribution visited upon them through God's darkening of their senseless hearts.

This verse must be looked upon as the coffin and grave of any theory that the human race progressively worked its way upward in religion.

Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, How wise we all fancy ourselves and, if you don't believe it, look in the dictionary and see that man is listed as "Homo sapiens," which means "the wise one;" but such a definition in the book mankind of wrote himself.

Romans 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things.

After the fall of Adam and Eve, God promised that the seed of woman would bruise Satan's head (Genesis 3:15), and that the serpent should go on his belly henceforth forever. How striking, therefore, is the direction taken by human idolatry. Notice the progression downward.

They images of God that brought God down on two legs, then down on all-fours, and then down on his belly. Example: Egyptian dung beetle.

Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

“God also gave them up ...” means more than the mere removal of the restraining hand of providence from the lives of wrongdoers, for there is included a conscious requirement of God that the sinner thus judged shall be compelled to continue upon the shameful path he has chosen. Just as in the case of Judas who received the sentence from Christ, "What thou doest, do quickly" (John 13:7), in which case Satan had already entered Judas' heart, and he had been given up by Christ to commit the treacherous deed already committed in his heart.

Idolatrous worship consistently produced in people the kind of conduct that might be expected of beasts; but a far lower form of degradation is the subject of these verses, "the uncleanness" here mentioned being a reference to such conduct as no beast was ever guilty of. Not just fornication, homosexuality and orgies is included in this but does not exhaust the meaning. Unmentionable perversions, masochism, sadism, and other degenerate practices were among the types of behavior to which God handed over the pre-Christian world.

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Boy you talking about “taking our eyes off the ball”.

Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

"for this cause" stressing the nature of their sins. This is the second time in this section that God's judicial sentence has been mentioned, and here the emphasis is upon the cause of it. Sexual perversions.

Romans 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

Sexual deviation is brought to attention, not merely as sin, which it is, but also as punishment for sin, dealing with the female deviate, and with the male. How is sin the punishment of sin? In the light of these verses, the debaucheries of the depraved are in themselves a punishment well-suited to the crime of turning away from God. The horrible lusts mentioned here, burning with ever greater and greater intensity, descending constantly to lower and lower levels of uncleanness, and, at last, leaving the sinner consumed by an insatiable lust ...

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

For, the third time in half a dozen verses, it is written that "God gave them over or up," and, in each instance, reference is made to the principle of retribution. God's giving people up was founded upon the righteous premise that such conduct deserved the judgment it received. There is also observed here the concept of punishment fitting the crime.

Romans 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Maliciousness is badness & depravity. Debate is quarrelsome & wrangling. Malignity bad character & mischievousness.

Romans 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

Backbiters talkative against. Despiteful an insulter.

Romans 1:31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Without natural affection hard hearted against kindred ... family and Christians. Implacable w/o libation – accompanied by a treaty, refusing a truce when your brother tries to meet you half way ..

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Romans 2:1-11 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

Romans 2:2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

Romans 2:3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Romans 2:5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Romans 2:6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Romans 2:7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

Romans 2:8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Romans 2:9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

Romans 2:10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

Romans 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

The Sources that have been quoted freely and paraphrased: KJV Bible, Strong's, Burton Coffman & Clark's Commentary, Hailey's Bible Handbook, Wikipedia, Bible Chronology & The Seed Lesson