

God's Plans Prevail
10-4-2015

Gen 11:1-9

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.3 And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." 8 So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Next time you see the United Nations meeting on television take note of the headsets they wear in order to hear the translation of what is being said in another language, and remember Babel & God's greatness.

- Genesis (In the beginning) reveals the origin of & the reason for various languages.

One hundred years after flood all men spoke common language. Gen 11:1, 10:5, 20, 31

- The idea of one language was not evil, but it made it easier for man's sinfulness to express itself.
- o This is the 1st recorded organized rebellion against God by man.
 - Man wanted to have a good life on his own terms and in his own way so he "settled" in Shinar in defiance of God's command to fill earth. Gen 11:2-4, 9:1, Jer 17:5
- Man knew what God wanted & they refused to do it.
- The city & tower were outward expressions of arrogance, rebellion, and pride against Lord.
- o William Henley once was quoted as saying, "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."
 - They put their trust in technology & their achievements to gain significance & to assure them of fame and remembrance beyond the grave.
- We are all inclined to build monuments to ourselves. 'mid-life crisis', workaholic
- o Even sometimes built to honor "God" yet more glory is given to us than God.
- God measures fame by obedience not by making a name for ourselves.
 - As both punishment & prevention, God graciously shatters their unity to keep man's pride from going too far.
- Better to have division, than a collective apostasy. Gen 11:5-9, LK 12:51-52
- "Nothing is impossible" not technologically but morally.
- o We are often more arrogant & independent of God if we succeeded.
 - God stopped the rebellion & broke their power by a divine act...miraculously He created languages & enabled people to speak, as well as understand them.
- Languages are not a testimony man's ingenuity or evolution, but a rebellious heart.
- Next morning: There was total confusion, anger, fear & panic everywhere.

- o People gathered into common languages & scatter to fill earth against their will.
- § God does not act aimlessly: peoples & 6,500 languages and God sovereignly grouped with skills.
 - Man's plans never thwarts God's purposes. God always wins.
 - This 1st grandiose plan to unify mankind into a worldwide empire but not the last.
 - *babel* is written in Hebrew 200x in Old testament & translated "Babylon" in all but few. Rev 14:8-9, 18:3, 10, 21, 13:16-17, 19:20
- o "Babel" Hebrew = confusion, Babylonian = the gate of gods.
 - Babylon was a symbol of human autonomy, of organized rebellion against God.
- o Foreshadow: In the End times, there will be one world (Babylon), with one ruler (Antichrist).
 - By one miracle of tongues man dispersed; by another on Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit united people of different languages.
 - In future one world, one ruler, one language, in city built by God for His glory.
 - In Babel man strove by human effort for a city & tower signifying their connection with the gods & a name that would provide a sense of immortality.
- o This was all they wanted, Christians have all we need in Jesus Christ. Rev 3:11-12, 11:15, 15:4, 21:1-4