

I. THE NATIONS DESCENDED FROM NOAH (GEN. 10)

- A. God's judgment was displayed in the flood and His mercy demonstrated in the ark, and raising up of preachers of righteousness. Gen. 10 traces the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. This sets the scene for what will come in the rest of the Old Testament: The origins of the nations surrounding Israel are explained, and also the greatest enemy of Israel: Babylon.
- B. Ham's son, Cush, is the father of Nimrod. Nimrod is a might hunter on the earth (10:8). He was evidently the force behind the building of Babel. Nimrod wanted to build the tallest building in the world, a stepped pyramid made out of bricks. Babel was the beginning of what later would become the city of Babylon. Babylon was the nation that eventually destroyed Jerusalem and destroyed it's temple in 539 B.C.
- C. Nimrod also went to Assyria and built Nineveh. Nineveh was Israel's primary enemy from the East.

II. THE TOWER OF BABEL AND THE DISPERSION OF THE NATIONS (GEN. 11)

- A. Babel is a play on the Hebrew word *balal*, which means "mixed" or "confused." In Akkadian, *Babel* is "gate of god" or "gate of heaven."
- B. The tower of Babel is a picture of the potential of humanity unified in depravity. There is no limit to the heights that depravity can reach when people are unified in their wickedness. God was not referring to their architectural abilities having no limit but to their progression in evil. He knew that if they reached deeper into the spirit realm (demonic) that they would have a synergism in their sin. It would escalate faster than God's plan in unfolding human history.
 - 1. The whole earth had one language and the same words (Gen. 11:1). In a plain in the land of Shinar, they make bake bricks.

Genesis 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."
 - 2. God had commissioned man to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth (Gen. 1:28; 9:1, 7). While people were dispersing, some of the people, under the leadership of Nimrod, decided to stop and establish a city as a monument to their pride and for their reputation.

- C. The confusion of language is the great restrainer of God to limit the tide of iniquity. Unified in wickedness, there is no height to which their wickedness cannot reach, which would force God's wrath to come again. God scattered their language to slow down the escalation of sin and their sin is restrained for a season. The season is ending soon, however. As the great restrainer is lifted, the world will be unified again through a common language and network. God dispersed the people of Babel so that they would not reach man's full potential for evil until God's timing. Sin will be allowed to reach its fullness in the End-Times and not before then.

2 Thes. 2:7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

III. HARLOT BABYLON: A COMING ONE-WORLD RELIGION (REV. 17-18)

- A. Rev. 17:1-6, gives us details about the emergence of the Harlot Babylon as a one-world religion, describing her evil seductions and cruel persecutions. She will be a counterfeit justice movement that unifies multitudes from the largest religions on earth. As the restraining hand of God is eventually removed, there will emerge a unifying of wickedness on the earth.
- B. The angel revealed her name as Babylon. This name linked her to her origin which goes back to the tower of Babel (where Babylon began). This reveals her true nature to us as we understand what happened at the tower of Babel. Babel was the city in which the first organized religion in history developed resulting in the first organized rebellion and war against God by mankind.
- C. Rev. 14:8; 18:2 Speak of the eventual fall of Babylon before the Second Coming of Jesus.

IV. TRUE UNITY IN THE CHURCH THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. At Babel, the Lord scattered man's languages so that they would no longer understand each other and continue to build the tower in their own strength. On the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), when people were first baptized in the Holy Spirit, the Lord gave His people a gift as a sign to the world that His Church was to be a direct contrast and reversal of the Tower of Babel. At Babel, man's languages were confused. At Pentecost, all men could understand a common language. They all began to proclaim the "wonders of God."
- B. It is not strange that the gift of tongues would be the most controversial of the gifts of the Spirit. To the natural man, it does not make sense. Yet, to the spiritual man, it is a blessed gift that touches the inner man and brings a release of worship and praise to God (1 Cor. 14). The gift of tongues is a uniquely New Testament (Covenant) gift.
- C. Only through Jesus uniting people by His Holy Spirit can there be true unity and the building up in the Kingdom of God.

1 Pet. 2:5 You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.