

E2E: Part 15 –Babel

Genesis 11

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1. God tells Noah to take on the land and sends them out to prosper. Noah obeys by setting up operations and begins harvesting the planet. (Genesis 9:20-21)
2. Genesis 9, like Genesis 1, reveals a fresh start for humanity, but just like Adam, the new beginning opens with failure. In our fallen nature, mankind really struggles to stand against sin if the living God does not intervene.
3. Ham's genealogical line produces some pretty unsavory people – one of which is Nimrod who is known as the founder of the Babylonian empire.
4. The first mention of Babel in the Bible reveals that Nimrod was building kingdoms for himself. (Genesis 10:10)
5. Verses 1-4 show man building up what *he* wants. Verse 5 shows God stepping in to dismantle what man has built. There is a stark contrast between what man intended to do and what God designed.
6. Nimrod rises and builds a city, not for the glory or honor of God, but for himself. There is no mention of any relationship with God at all. (Genesis 11:3-4)
7. After the dispersion at Babel, we get the basis of 'societies' we now have. God's intervention there originates the nations. (Genesis 11:7-9)
8. God intervenes in a merciful and strategic method. He brings Nimrod's schemes to nothing by confounding their speech and accomplishes His purposes by scattering them throughout the earth.
9. At Pentecost, the language of man became understandable again. However, it is for the glory of God, not for the glory of man. The purpose in bringing everyone to a place of understanding is to speak of Jesus. (Acts 2:1-11)

QUOTES

“Placed in an environment in which the besom of destruction had swept clean; a solemn warning of the judgment of Heaven upon evildoers only recently spread before him; the blessing of God pronounced upon him, the sword of magisterial authority placed in his hand, Noah, nevertheless, fails to govern himself and falls...” ~
Arthur W. Pink – 1925

“Cush begat Nimrod who began to prevail in wickedness, for he slew innocent blood and rebelled against Jehovah.” ~ **Chaldee paraphrase**

HEBREW WORDS

Sharats, shaw-rats´; to wriggle, swarm or abound :— breed (bring forth, increase) abundantly [used of the insect world]

Rabah (raw-baw´) to increase :— excel, exceeding(-ly), be full of, (be, make) great (-er, -ly, x -ness), more (in number)

Ra´ah (raw-aw´); to see — (make to) enjoy, gaze, take heed, x joyfully, look (on), x sight of others, spy, stare

Nagad (naw-gad´); properly to front, stand boldly out; by implication to manifest, to announce (always by word of mouth to one present); specifically, to expose

Tsayid (tsah´-yid) the chase; :— x catcheth, x hunter -to lie alongside (in wait)

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think God might have wanted the full reality of human nature to be on display in the Bible?

2. Do you find yourself tending to conceal your blemishes from others? If so, why do you think you do that? What do you think you might be hoping to accomplish by filtering your life with others?

Even deeper - do you find yourself tending to conceal your true motives from yourself - trying to convince yourself that your actions, thoughts, or desires are not as wrong as they are?

If you are a redeemed child of His, He accepts you just as you are - but He is also committed to transforming you to be like Jesus. How could reminding yourself of these truths allow you to drop more of your filters?

3. Where in your life today would you say you might be trying to ‘make a name for yourself’?

Where could you shift your life so that it is better aligned to bring more glory and honor to Jesus?