

Old Testament Lessons

The Tower of Babel

(Gn 11:1-9)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Hope all are well.
2. Noah, Cush, Nimrod
 - a. **Gn 10:8-12**
 - b. Nimrod was mighty
 - c. Says Nimrod was a hunter
 - i. Means hunter of men...
3. It is Nimrod the hunter that started this great city
 - a. It's whole existence for the most part has been evil.
 - b. Makes since why we see the evil in the biblical account of the Tower of Babel.
4. Let us look now at...

I. The Tower Of Babel Account

- A. The people of the Tower of Babel
 1. After the flood, Noah and his family begin repopulating the earth
 - i. **Gn 9:1; 10:32**
 2. Tower was probably build about 100 years after flood
 3. Populated with as many as 30,000 people including men, women, and children
 - i. It is in this group of people, or a large portion of them, that we find in **Gn 11:1**
 4. We also know that it wasn't long after the flood that man's problem with sin once again erupted both with Noah and Noah's sons.
 - i. Three generations of people also brought three generations of sin starting with Noah getting drunk and down...
- B. The language of the People
 1. In verse 1 of **Gn 11**, we're then told that these people all spoke the same language and that they were all together in the same place.
 - i. Commonly believed the old language was Hebrew
 - ii. The Bible isn't specific
 - iii. Remember God's command to Noah and his sons was to replenish the earth. This was not being done here.
 - a. **Gn 9:1**
- C. The place of the Tower of Babel
 1. We are told that the ark landed on the mountains of Ararat
 - i. **Gn 8:4**
 - ii. This would be in modern day eastern Turkey north of Iraq
 2. From here Noah and his family moved to the east.
 - i. **Gn 11:2**

3. They would be most interested in valleys and plains where crops could easily grow.
 - i. The plain (as **Gn 11:2** says) was fertile due to the river running through it and provided ample space for a people of roughly 30,000 to locate.
 - ii. The Tigris river is southeast of the mountains of Ararat.
 - iii. The Euphrates is west of the Tigris
 - a. The Greek historian Herodotus said that this was in the neighborhood of what would later be known as Babylon
 4. This is where they intended to permanently settle
- D. The plans for the Tower of Babel
1. It was the purpose of the people not merely to stop in this area for a while, but to settle here permanently.
 - i. This is evident from what we are told about their building materials
 - ii. The area was not abundant in large stones and such they needed to construct housing
 - a. So, they cooked bricks
 - b. To hold them together they used bitumen or an asphalt. It made for a type of cement to hold the bricks together
 - iii. With these materials, they could build permanent houses and a city in which they could all live.
 2. In addition to the housing and city, they proposed to build a tower
 - i. This was for the purpose of making a name for themselves so that they would not be dispersed in the earth.
 - ii. It seems that they thought that if they, as a society, were great enough, that they could undo God's will for the earth.
 - a. They were supposed to disperse throughout the earth.
 - iii. Their plans for the city and for their tower are now 100% opposed to God's plan.
- E. God's punishment for the people
1. God noted that the people were unified in one place and with one language.
 - i. It wasn't that God had a problem with their being unified, but with their being unified for the purposes they had in mind.
 - ii. God's concern was that there wasn't anything that they wouldn't do.
 - a. Remember we are only 100 years from the destruction of the world.
 - iii. This was the problem with the world prior to the flood
 - a. **Gn 6:5**
 - b. There was no sin that they wouldn't commit which is why God destroyed the earth.
 1. Ro 1:30

2. No doubt, God didn't want the same thing to happen again
 - i. The punishment that God levied upon them fit their situation.
 - ii. They had failed to obey God's command to replenish the earth so God would, more or less, force them to comply.
 - iii. He did so by changing their languages and dispersing them
 - a. **Gn 11:7-8**

II. Lessons From The Tower Of Babel

- A. Where people exist, the problem of sin will also exist
 1. Sin is the constant problem of man
 - i. **Ro 3:23** "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
 2. We must seek not to sin, but to do good
 - i. **He 13:16** "But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."
- B. God's will is to be obeyed regardless of circumstances
 1. I don't know why they didn't initially want to separate.
 - i. Perhaps they loved their families.
 - ii. Perhaps they wanted to be a great people.
 - iii. Perhaps they wanted the easy life.
 2. They eventually came to want to "make a name" for themselves.
 3. Whatever the reason, God's will was not obeyed.
 - i. **He 5:9** "And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him"
 - ii. God is the savior to those that obey not those that disobey, we must obey God no matter what the circumstances are in life.
 - a. We must be willing to leave...
 1. Family
 - i. **Mt 10:29-30** "So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life."
 2. Jobs
 - i. **Mk 1:16-17** "And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 17 Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.""

3. Everything
 - i. **Lk 9:27** "Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."
- C. Pride will always cause us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought
1. The people together were very prideful.
 - i. They didn't think that there was anything they couldn't do.
 - ii. They wanted to make a name for themselves.
 2. Pride causes us to behave in ways that we normally would not
 - i. **Ro 12:3** "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."
 3. Pride will lead us to destruction.
 - i. **Pr 16:18** "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall."
- D. We ought not to think that there is anything that we can't do
1. Certainly, regarding good things, we have no law against such
 - i. **Ga 5:22-23** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. **Against such there is no law.**"
 2. However, sometimes we need to ask not "Can we do it" but "Ought we to do it."
 - i. Scientifically speaking we have come far in our society in knowledge so that we can do a great number of different things.
 - a. We need to ask however "should we to do all of them?"
 1. We can but should we be performing...
 - i. Abortion
 - ii. Euthanasia
 - iii. Every kind of stem cell research (abortion).
 3. Man's actions need certain limitations if they are going to be orderly and pleasing to God.
 - i. **Co 3:17** "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
- E. God's plan will never be thwarted
1. God had a plan for man's salvation through Jesus.
 - i. **Gn 3:15**
 2. This would unfold according to God's wisdom not mans.
 - i. **Je 9:23** "Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches"

3. Man's "wisdom" threatened to undo God's plan for man's salvation.
 - i. **I Co 1:20-21** "Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe."
- F. No society is so great that it can undo God's will
1. Many societies have, in the past, tried to ignore God's will.
 - i. Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, Romans...
 2. It has only been to their detriment.
 - i. Where is Babylon? The Roman Empire? Greece? Persia?
 - ii. What about Sodom and Gomorrah?
 3. What ancient cultures and societies that opposed God are still around today?
 - i. A society that opposes God is not a society that will exist for long.
 - a. **Da 4:34-35** "And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?""
- G. God's punishments are just always
1. God's punishment for the people was just. It encouraged them to do righteousness and obey God.
 - i. **He 12:7-8, 11** "If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons...11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."
 2. By changing their languages, the people dispersed.
 - i. This was what God wanted all along.
 3. This was a just punishment and reasonable.
 - i. **Gn 18:25** "...Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

CONCLUSION

1. If the Judge of all the earth does right always then why do we ever question His wisdom?
 - a. He says follow me and yet to often we follow others.
 - b. Let us be a people that follow the Most High.
2. This evening make sure you are following the God of creation and all His wisdom.
 - a. The One who wants only the best for each of us.
3. Question
 - a. Am I following God's will or trying to follow my "own" will?
4. Invitation
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study God's Word The Bible **Ro 10:17**
 - ii. Believe That Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16**
 - iii. Repent Giving Your Life To Christ **Ac 17:30**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord & Savior **Mt 10:32**
 - v. Be Immersed For The Forgiveness Of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16**
 - vi. Strive To Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7**