



## Lesson 10 – The Tower of Babel

1) To whom did God give the earth?

**Genesis 7:1** And the LORD said unto Noah, Come \_\_\_\_\_ and all thy \_\_\_\_\_ into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

Yet in the three sons of Noah was speedily developed the same great distinction seen in the world before the Flood. In Shem, Ham, and Japheth, who were to be the founders of the human race, was foreshadowed the character of their posterity.

2) What happened soon after?

**Genesis 9:21-22** And he drank of the wine, and was \_\_\_\_\_; and he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and \_\_\_\_\_ his two brethren \_\_\_\_\_.

The unnatural crime of Ham declared that filial reverence had long before been cast from his soul, and it revealed the impiety and vileness of his character. These evil characteristics were perpetuated in Canaan (Canaan was the son of Ham) and his posterity, whose continued guilt called upon them the judgments of God.

3) What did Shem and Japheth do?

**Genesis 9:23** And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their \_\_\_\_\_, and went backward, and \_\_\_\_\_ the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.

4) When Noah came to himself, what did he say to Ham?

**Genesis 9:25** And he said, \_\_\_\_\_ be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.

5) What blessing did he declare to his Shem and Japheth?

**Genesis 9:26-27** And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of \_\_\_\_\_; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge \_\_\_\_\_, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

The reverence manifested by Shem and Japheth for their father, and thus for the divine statutes, promised a brighter future for their descendants.

The line of Shem was to be that of the chosen people, of God's covenant, of the promised Redeemer. Jehovah was the God of Shem. From him would descend Abraham, and the people of Israel, through whom Christ was to come. And Japheth "**shall dwell in the tents of Shem.**" In the blessings of the gospel the descendants of Japheth were especially to share.

6) What will we be like if we choose to follow the LORD?

**Psalms 144:15** \_\_\_\_\_ is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.

7) What does the Bible say about sin?

**Ecclesiastes 9:18** Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one \_\_\_\_\_ destroyeth much good.



The prophecy of Noah was no arbitrary denunciation of wrath or declaration of favor. It did not fix the character and destiny of his sons. But it showed what would be the result of the course of life they had severally chosen and the character they had developed. It was an expression of God's purpose toward them and their posterity in view of their own character and conduct.

8) What does the Psalmist say about the upright?

**Psalm 37:18, 26** The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be \_\_\_\_\_... .. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is \_\_\_\_\_.

9) Does God keep His promises?

**Deuteronomy 7:9** Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the \_\_\_\_\_ God, which keepeth \_\_\_\_\_ and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

For a time, the descendants of Noah continued to dwell among the mountains where the ark had rested. As their numbers increased, apostasy soon led to division. Those who desired to forget their Creator and to cast off the restraint of His law felt a constant annoyance from the teaching and example of their God-fearing associates, and after a time they decided to separate from the worshipers of God.

10) As they spread out, where did they go to?

**Genesis 11:1-2** And the whole earth was of one language, and of \_\_\_\_\_ speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of \_\_\_\_\_; and they dwelt there.

Accordingly, they journeyed to the plain of Shinar, on the banks of the river Euphrates. They were attracted by the beauty of the situation and the fertility of the soil, and upon this plain they determined to make their home.

Here they decided to build a city, and in it a tower of such stupendous height as should render it the wonder of the world. These enterprises were designed to prevent the people from scattering abroad in colonies. God had directed men to disperse throughout the earth, to replenish and subdue it; but these Babel builders determined to keep their community united in one body, and to found a monarchy that should eventually embrace the whole earth. Thus, their city would become the metropolis of a universal empire; its glory would command the admiration and homage of the world and render the founders illustrious.

11) What did they decide to build within the City?

**Genesis 11:3-4** And they said one to another, Go to, let us make \_\_\_\_\_, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a \_\_\_\_\_, 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.

One object before them in the erection of the tower was to secure their own safety in case of another deluge. By carrying the structure to a much greater height than was reached by the waters of the Flood, they thought to place themselves beyond all possibility of danger. And as they would be able to ascend to the region of the clouds, they hoped to ascertain the cause of the Flood. The whole undertaking was designed to exalt still further the pride of its projectors and to turn the minds of future generations away from God and lead them into idolatry.



12) What did God do?

**Genesis 11:5-7** And the LORD came down to \_\_\_\_\_ the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ to do. Go to, let us go down, and there \_\_\_\_\_ language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

When the tower had been partially completed, a portion of it was occupied as a dwelling place for the builders; other apartments, splendidly furnished and adorned, were devoted to their idols. The people rejoiced in their success, and praised the gods of silver and gold, and set themselves against the Ruler of heaven and earth. Suddenly the work that had been advancing so prosperously was checked. Angels were sent to bring to naught the purpose of the builders. The tower had reached a lofty height, and it was impossible for the workmen at the top to communicate directly with those at the base; therefore, men were stationed at different points, each to receive and report to the one next below him the orders for needed material or other directions concerning the work. language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Confusion and dismay followed. All work came to a standstill. There could be no further harmony or co-operation. The builders were wholly unable to account for the strange misunderstandings among them, and in their rage and disappointment they reproached one another. Their confederacy ended in strife and bloodshed. Lightnings from heaven, as an evidence of God's displeasure, broke off the upper portion of the tower and cast it to the ground. Men were made to feel that there is a God who ruleth in the heavens.

13) To what end did this bring?

**Genesis 11:8-9** So the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called \_\_\_\_\_; 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 dispersion was the means of peopling the earth, and thus the Lord's purpose was accomplished through the very means that men had employed to prevent its fulfillment.

But at what a loss to those who had set themselves against God! It was His purpose that as men should go forth to found nations in different parts of the earth they should carry with them a knowledge of His will, that the light of truth might shine undimmed to succeeding generations.

14) How should we view God's ways?

**Romans 7:12** Wherefore the law is \_\_\_\_\_, and the commandment holy, and just, and \_\_\_\_\_.

The men of Babel had determined to establish a government that should be independent of God. There were some among them, however, who feared the Lord, but who had been deceived by the pretensions of the ungodly and drawn into their schemes. For the sake of these faithful ones the Lord delayed His judgments and gave the people time to reveal their true character. As this was developed, the sons of God labored to turn them from their purpose; but the people were fully united in their Heaven-daring undertaking. Had they gone on unchecked, they would have demoralized the world in its infancy.



15) What is recorded in the Bible about this endeavor?

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

Those that feared the Lord cried unto Him to interpose. In mercy to the world, He defeated the purpose of the tower builders and overthrew the memorial of their daring. In mercy He confounded their speech, thus putting a check on their purposes of rebellion. God bears long with the perversity of men, giving them ample opportunity for repentance; but He marks all their devices to resist the authority of His just and holy law. From time to time the unseen hand that holds the scepter of government is stretched out to restrain iniquity. Unmistakable evidence is given that the Creator of the universe, the One infinite in wisdom and love and truth, is the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, and that none can with impunity defy His power.

16) What do some men do while God patiently waits for repentance and is merciful?

**Ecclesiastes 8:11** Because sentence against an evil work is not executed \_\_\_\_\_, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

***There are tower builders in our time. Infidels construct their theories from the supposed deductions of sciences and reject the revealed word of God. They presume to pass sentence upon God's moral government; they despise His law and boast of the sufficiency of human reason.***

There is a parallel between the Tower of Babel and the Babylon of Revelation. In the professedly Christian world, many turn away from the plain teachings of the Bible and build up a creed from human speculations and pleasing fables, and they point to their tower as a way to climb up to heaven. Men hang with admiration upon the lips of eloquence while it teaches that the transgressor shall not die, that salvation may be secured without obedience to the law of God. If the professed followers of Christ would accept God's standard, it would bring them into unity; but so long as human wisdom is exalted above His Holy Word, there will be divisions and dissension.

17) What is the call to be made by God's people today?

**Revelation 14:8** And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is \_\_\_\_\_, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

18) What is the condition of the earth today?

**Psalms 73:8** They are \_\_\_\_\_, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.

19) What did God tell us will happen?

**Psalms 33:13-14** The LORD looketh from heaven; he \_\_\_\_\_ all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he \_\_\_\_\_ upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

**Psalms 33:10-11** The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to \_\_\_\_\_: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

The time of God's investigation is at hand. The Most High will come down to see that which the children of men have builded. His sovereign power will be revealed; the works of human pride will be laid low.

**Can you see that are fools to think we can conquer God?**

**Would you like to live a life worth living?**

**When is the time consider doing things God's way?**