

“From Towers to Temples”

Title: *A Father's Covenant*

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Today we are ending our time with Noah, and the Biblical and historical account of the Genesis flood. We will embark on the next period of man as recorded in Genesis Chapter 11.

This is the account of The Tower of Babel.

This narrative, although only one chapter long, is loaded with many fascinating bits of information and rather intriguing points of interest that we can clearly see... **directly corresponds to our lives today.**

So here's a little background before we dive into scripture.

...About a 106 years after the great flood, man began to repopulate at enormous speed but they did not obey God's command which He clearly stated in Gen 9:1 to not just "Be fruitful and increase in number...but also to **fill the earth.**

Instead of obeying Gods command, under the direction of King Nimrod, the descendants of Noah settled in an area known as Shinar.

But, even though Life span was cut down significantly because of the drastic change in climate that ensued after the flood... human ambition was thriving in a way never seen since, particularly because of an ever increase in sharing knowledge.

And this insatiable ambition was manifested with the building of a great structure we know as **the tower of Babel.**

Contrast David

But I remember clearly when I first was doing research on this portion of scripture that I kept thinking of another story in the Bible that sounded surprisingly similar but had a much different outcome. It was the story found in II Samuel chapter 7 surrounding another ambitions King called David and his quest to build

something magnificent as well. But what he was wanting to build was not a tower for man, but a temple for the Lord God.

And so...a question kept coming to mind that I couldn't stop asking myself. A question that I found exposed weaknesses within my own Christian walk. The question being...

Are we as believers...**building towers or are we instead...building temples????**

Again... Are we building towers...or are we building temples???

So let's take a quick look at this story as it's recorded for us in Gen chapter 11 verse 1.

1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. **2** As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

Now I know there is a lot of confusion here but what we are talking about is Shinar not to be confused with a... **shiner**

3 They said to each other, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used bricks instead of stone and tar for mortar.

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; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

5 But the Lord came down to see the city, and the tower the people were building.

6 The Lord said, "**If as one people** speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

8 So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

9 That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Point of interest a) **they had one language and a common speech-**

Most common question asked is...was there really one language up until the tower of Babel and then miraculously and instantaneously...there were all the languages that we have today???

According to evolutionary theory languages started from a proto- like language and then grew through time into the more complex languages that we have today.

First of all...there is no known language in all of history was in any sense primitive.

Sanskrit for instance which is considered to be one of the most ancient of languages is far more complex than our languages today.

Interestingly, the earliest records of written language date no further back than **four or five thousand years** (the time, according to Bible chronology, that the Tower of Babel events would have taken place).

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.

Why the repeated phrase? They spoke one language but...what was in there speech was common from person to person. They were unified in their lives toward the same goals. Soom Sookahs- one soul

This is where the secular world strength is derived from.

People are easily unified around ungodliness.

Point of interest) They were building an enormous tower, and they used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar

The making of fire hardened bricks that were both uniform and very hard. As such they could bear enormous weight. Further the uniform size of the bricks and the use of tar (asphalt) to bind them, meant that the weight was more uniformly distributed, and thus the walls could reach much higher than stone walls which bore weight so irregularly due to the varying shape and sizes of the stones.

Is there any archaeological evidence for this tower??

**Cuneiform tablet
(Metropolitan museum of art the temple of the god nabu)**

Nebuchadnezzar quote *"I King Nebuchadnezzar have completed its magnificence with silver, gold, other metals, stone, enameled bricks, fir and pine... the most ancient monument of Babylon; I built and finished it. The most ancient monument of **Borsippa**."*

*A former king built it, but he did not complete its head. Since a remote time, people had abandoned it, **without order expressing their words.**"*

borsippa means...tongue tower!

Modern day Tower of Babel ruins (on the outskirts of ancient Babylon-current day Iraq) are currently 150 feet above the plain with a circumference of 2300 feet.

Reached a height of more than 230 feet in ancient times; even as a ruin today, it stands more than 172 feet above the flat plain

Point of interest b) **The Lord came down to see the city and the tower.** This caught Gods attention in the spirit world to the point where He 'came down' either figuratively or physically and **decided to intervene.**

But...Why did this caused God to intervene???
Doesn't He want us to be achievers??

a) **There skills and technology was increasing at an alarming rate.** Man was achieving far too much in far too short of time. He would not allow them to become what they were pre flood which was **inventive but destructive.**

The Babylonian people were completely unified and realized the power that this allows.

b) **There reasoning to build such a tower was to make a name for themselves to future Generations. And to become completely self-sustaining.**

And this is exactly what happened before the flood.

Left unchecked, mankind becomes unified in their ungodliness to the point where every thought and every intention of man is evil all the time. God was saving man from himself.

If all of our needs were met through actions of our own...there would be no need for God in our lives, for we would become our own gods.

This is something the Lord will not allow for mankind....

Which is to be independent from Him.

IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO the fact that THERE PRIDE would ultimately hurt them!!!!

Pride can become, more often than not, a very destructive emotion!

Through pride we often forget how in need of God, and even one another, we really are.

Through pride we start to see ourselves as being more than we ought and because of this, take foolish risks in life and believe we can beat the repercussions of our actions.

(Drug and alcohol abuse)

So, through pride we go on sinning and think we will never have to face judgment, or even the simple physical consequences of what we do.

(Infidelity)

Through pride we often look back on the past and the lessons it provides with a pompous attitude that says "they had it all wrong. The way I am doing it today is so much more relevant to the day in which we live."

Proverbs 16:18 PRIDE goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall

What does that mean??

Your only one step away from stupid

God was simply protecting them from themselves, because we don't realize what we are doing. We don't have all the answers and usually mankind learns from mistakes. The problem is some mistakes carry too high of a price.

The Babylonians forgot (as we often forget) that apart from the Lord and left on our own...**we are venerable tiny specks**, on a slightly larger speck (earth), sailing around a fiery speck (the sun), in an immense cloud of specks called the Milky Way.

But even this seemingly large galaxy is but the size of a speck in the full range of space, for there are over 100 million galaxies.

It is a fascinating thing to consider that with just a simple change of perspective, we become increasingly smaller and smaller.

Notice the photo of the greater New York Area 12 million people living in the area photographed.

330 miles above earth-

450 miles above earth

Earth halfway to moon

Earth from moon

Earth at 9.66million miles (Juno spacecraft while on its way to Jupiter on August 26th 2011)

Milky way

Local galactic group

Clusters

Super clusters

Observable universe

You see...man's nature is always trying to raise ourselves up to Gods position. We think just because we throw some mud together and make bricks that we've really created. We didn't create. And you can see how the Lord was almost mocking them for their naivety...

4 "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves;

5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.

He is always trying to remind us of who we are in the order of things.

But man since the beginning of creation and all the way up to today wants to be God.

Think of it...The Babylonians sought to make a structure that could reach heaven so they could insert themselves in heaven without Gods authority.

They felt if we can just unite and share knowledge...we can be godlike and be all powerful.

Even today we hear in politics where candidates say we are stronger together and seek to unite us as a country to the world with a **big push for globalism.**

The world system is waiting patiently until the day that we return to the tower of Babel.

Remember that **Mathew 24** says - "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man."

This is still the days of Noah.

Noah lived hundreds of years after the flood. This was only 106 after. This was Noah's sons who settled in this land. Noah more than likely lived at this are near Babylon.

We are headed back to the tower of Babel again. Defiant against the Lord.

We now have the ability to communicate in any language, anywhere, at any time, with a simple devise called a smart phone. No more language barrier.

We share information worldwide in seconds. Remember we have seen a bronze age, an iron age, an industrial age...What age do we live in??? **THE INFORMATION AGE!**

Has there ever been a time where there was more access to information on a global scale then right now?

Daniel 12:4: "But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and **knowledge shall increase.**"

Example...

And look how openly mocking our world leader have become towards the Bible and protections that the Lord has given us...

Any person with even a remote understanding of the bible clearly knows that there are some symbols, or names, or subject matter, that they may not want to associate with because it is generally thought of as anything blatantly...anti God...anti holy...etc.

I may not want to name my next daughter Jezebel for instance...or my son Beelzebub.

In the worldly senses we may never see someone with a Hitler mustache.

Show Hitler

Show Charlie Chaplin

Show razor

Well in the same sense when we see world councils such as the European Union adopt biblical symbols of evil as symbols of themselves it becomes alarming.

For instance... Peter (Broi guhl) Bruegel's tower Peter Bruegel French Renaissance painter in the 1550s

European Union poster

Side by side comparison

EU Parliament building Strasbourg France comparison (houses the Fifth Parliament of Europe)

EU building side by side

Let's contrast this story for a minute....

David Wants to Build a Temple

II Samuel chapter 7 verse 1 King David was living in his palace, and the Lord had given him peace from all his enemies around him. **2** Then David said to

Nathan the prophet, “Look, I am living in a palace made of cedar wood, but the Ark of God is in a tent!”

3 Nathan said to the king, “Go and do what you really want to do, because the Lord is with you.”

4 But that night the Lord spoke his word to Nathan, **5**“Go and tell my servant David,... Will you build a house for me to live in? **6** From the time I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until now I have not lived in a house. I have been moving around all this time with a tent as my home. **7** As I have moved with the Israelites, I have never said to the tribes, “Why haven’t you built me a house of cedar?””

8 “You must tell my servant David, this is what the Lord All-Powerful says: I took you from the pasture and from tending the sheep and made you leader of my people Israel. **I will make you as famous as any of the great people on the earth.**

12 “When you die and join your ancestors, I will make one of your sons the next king, and I will set up his kingdom. **13** He will build a house for me, and I will let his kingdom rule always. ... your family and your kingdom will continue always before me. Your throne will last forever.”

17 Nathan told David everything God had said in this vision.

David Prays to God

18 Then King David went in and sat in front of the Lord. David said, “Lord God, who am I? What is my family? Why did you bring me to this point? **19** But even this is not enough for you, Lord God. You have also made promises about my future family. This is extraordinary, Lord God.

20 This is why you are great, Lord God! There is no one like you.

So I’m going to ask this again...

Are we building towers or temples???

Are we putting our efforts into things that make us appear be more than we are?
Or, are we like David committed with whatever we do to bring glory honor and praise to The Lord God?

Satan wants us as believers to live for ourselves and not for the lord. He did it with Adam and Eve when he promised them they could be more. Even though, they had all they could ever need

He wants us to build towers that draws attention to ourselves. Whether it's the clothes I wear, the car I drive, the home I live in, so on.

These can be all towers. We must be mindful and honest of why we do things. God can work with our mistakes. He can work with accidental "**me worship**". But we need to commit this to prayer and allow God to work this out of our lives until we change our motives from tower builders to temple builders.

And when we do God elevates us in His name!

Remember, Jesus was raised up on a hill for all to see and for what purpose? To give us all a clear call for salvation. It was for us.

David elevated the Lord despite his mistakes. He didn't say...*oh I messed up so bad that I might as well keep messing up. It's too late for me.*

It's not too late. You can walk a 1000 miles away from the Lord but it is only one turn back. And it all begins with a relationship.

God gave us Jesus knowing we would fail. Knowing we would reject Him. But all He asks is to put our pride aside and build our lives on. HIM, the chief cornerstone. .The true and living temple.

When we elevate God on a mountain top, He grabs us by the hand, puts us on His shoulder, and carry's us to the highest peak so we can clearly see His Kingdom before us.

Proverbs 16:3 "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and all your plans will succeed (he will establish your plans)."