

Lesson 24

6.2 Ninrod and Semíramis

- We saw in the study that from the time of the flood, God was establishing with Noah and his sons a covenant and a government, a kingdom on earth. God wanted a kingdom on earth ruled by men and Satan was going to present another type of government, similar to the one God was establishing.

⇒ Genesis 10:6~12

- Here we see the text highlighting the figure of Nimrod. The name Nimrod comes from the root '*marad*' and means: '*he rebelled*'. Some Hebrew scholars say that literally Nimrod would mean: '*let us rebel*', in the 1st person plural.
- When we read in the text the adjectives attributed to Nimrod, we could be mistaken: '*Nimrod, he began to be a mighty one on the earth*'; '*Like Nimrod the mighty hunter (brave) before the Lord.*'

God doesn't like these adjectives for his children: brave, powerful; they are completely contrary to biblical principle.

⇒ **II Corinthians 12:9**; '*My strength is made perfect in weakness.*'

⇒ **II Corinthians 12:10**; '*For when I am weak, then I am strong.*'

⇒ **Joel 3:10**; '*Let the weak say, I am strong.*'

⇒ **I Samuel 2:4**; '*Those who stumbled are girded with strength.*'

When we recognize our weakness, then we are strong, because God's power will sustain us and work in our lives. The Lord rejoices over the man of humble heart and broken spirit. Mighty before the Lord can mean: '*in opposition to the Lord*', '*in defiance of*', '*in defiance of the Lord*'.

- As if these adjectives weren't enough, we also see in ⇒ **Genesis 10:10** another quote against the figure of Nimrod: '*the beginning of his kingdom was Babel*'.

What city did Babel give rise to? Babel gave rise to the city of Babylon. What is Babylon?

⇒ Revelation 17:1~5

- **V.5**; '*THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH*'. Mother means: the one who gave birth to. Babylon is the mother of the abominations of the earth, the mother of the harlots of the earth.

- We see in Genesis, at the very beginning of the Bible, the city of Babylon being founded (*in the region of Iraq today*), and we see there in Revelation, in the last chapters of the Bible, Babylon being judged. What does this show? It shows that the spirit of Babylon has been present all along, all through history. If we study the history of how physical Babylon was destroyed (the ancient city, today it's just ruins) and compare it with the destruction of Babylon described in the Bible, with the prophecies in ⇒ **Isaiah 13:19~22**, ⇒ **Isaiah 46 and 47**, ⇒ **Jeremiah 51 and 52**, we'll see that this destruction described in the Bible hasn't happened to this day.
- Nimrod was a powerful hunter of men; hunters of men are slavers. We can tell this if we study history. Nimrod was the founder of Babylon, the first city with walls. He was Satan's first attempt to exercise world domination on earth; he was a type of antichrist.

- Showing a deep rebellion to God, Nimrod led the construction of a city and a tower. The tower was the translation of everything that was going on in that heart in opposition to God. The tower of Babel was a '*ziggurat*'. Ziggurats were towers, usually seven stories high, that were built to worship the sky and its stars. The tower of Babel served as a model for all the ziggurats of antiquity.
- Astrology already existed at that time; astrological charts, prognostications through the stars, these are not modern things, they are very ancient practices. The ziggurats were built to worship the sky, to consult the moon, the sun and the stars. That's why we constantly see the expressions '*sun god*', '*moon goddess*'.
The name of Babylon and the tower of Babel was '*Bab-Ilu*', which in the language of the Chaldeans means '*gate of heaven*' or '*gate of the gods*'.
⇒ **Deuteronomy 18:9~14**; These practices already existed, which is why God forbade them in the Mosaic Law.
⇒ **Deuteronomy 17:3**
- Then a character enters, a woman named Semiramis. For many centuries Semiramis was considered a legend, but after archaeological discoveries in the region, many tablets were found, proving the historical existence of Semiramis. The Encyclopedia Britannica gives Semiramis as a historical figure, attributes to her the founding of Babylon and says that she was the first high priestess of a religion.
- Christian researchers have spent their entire lives researching the history of these places, their legends and religions. Babylonian history relates:
 - Semiramis was married to Nimrod and after his death, being pregnant, she gave birth to Tammuz. Semiramis claimed that this son was the reincarnation of Nimrod. She had most likely heard the prophecy of the Messiah from ⇒ **Genesis 3:15** and claimed that her son had been supernaturally conceived; Semiramis claimed that Tammuz was the promised seed, the '*Savior*'.
When Tammuz was young and went hunting in the woods, he was killed by a wild pig. So, this is the legend that the Babylonians believed, Semiramis gathers the women of Babylon, and they go to fast and weep for Tammuz. After 40 days of fasting and weeping, Tammuz comes back to life and Semiramis is worshipped as the giver of life.
- A cult religion called '*the cult of the mother with the child*' developed in Babylon, in which the mother was worshipped because she had brought the child back to life; the power was hers. This religion quickly spread throughout the world. It was taken by the Phoenicians (*great navigators*) and this cult took root in various parts of the world. The names of Semiramis and Tammuz changed according to the local language:
 - In Phoenicia, they were called '*Ashtar and Baal*'.
 - In Egypt; Isis and Horus.
 - In Greece; Aphrodite.
 - In Asia; Cybele and Deoious.
- When the Medo-Persians invaded Babylon, they introduced the cult of fire into Babylon; this was the main cult of the Medo-Persians. So, the priests of Babylon fled and settled in Asia Minor, they settled in Pergamon. With the rise of the Roman Empire, the cult of the mother and child was taken from Pergamon to Rome, and there in Rome Semiramis and Tammuz were renamed Venus and Cupid.

- So, in the Roman Empire before Constantine was crowned emperor (*he was crowned in 312 AD*), there was a civil war in which Constantine's forces were pitted against the forces of General Maxentius; whoever won would be proclaimed emperor. This is all recorded in history.

Constantine, suffering several defeats, called on the Christians to support him, with the promise of Christianizing the Roman Empire. The Christians supported him and in the last battle Constantine won and was crowned emperor.

The Roman emperor had two crowns, the political emperor's crown and the other crowning him as 'Pontifex Maximus', the religious head of the empire. Many Romans became Christians to please the emperor; Christianity was now the official religion of the Roman Empire.

But little by little, Christianity became syncretistic with paganism, as people began to miss 'seeing'. The images of the ancient Roman gods were once again introduced, but now with Christian names. In this syncretism, Venus and Cupid, who were Semiramis and Tammuz, came to be called '*Mary and the baby Jesus*'.

- Babylon gave rise to all this, just looking at the history. The Encyclopedia Britannica says: '*There is no doubt that Christianity has its background, its foundation, in paganism in terms of the worship of the mother with the child*'. Images of the mother with child were found centuries before Jesus was born on this planet.

- When this syncretism took place, the old festivals began to make a comeback. In Britain, the main festival that came back (*it still is today*) is the '*Easter*' festival. This festival was '*syncretized*' with Easter; to this day Easter in English is called '*Easter*' and not '*pass-over*', which is the exact meaning of the biblical Passover.

The word '*Easter*' comes from the name of a pagan goddess, the goddess of daylight and goddess of spring. Easter is just a more modern form of Eostre, Oстера, Astarte or Ishtar. It is the same festival that for 40 days commemorated what happened to Tammuz; for 40 days we mourned for Tammuz.

This festival ended with the exchange of decorated and colored eggs, symbolizing life after death, as happened to Tammuz. The rabbit was associated with this festival as a symbol of fertility. Thus, both the Easter rabbit and Easter eggs were symbols of sexual meaning, symbols of fertility.

In Roman Catholicism, Lent is still celebrated today, even until recently with much-encouraged fasting, meaning nothing more than 'those 40 days that were fasted and cried out for Tammuz'.

- In the OT, the Bible shows that the people of Israel were also contaminated by a religion that originated in Babylon. A Phoenician princess called Jezebel brought the cult of Ashtaroth and Baal into Israel. Jezebel married King Ahab of Israel.

⇒ **I Kings 16:29~33**

- Jezebel brought this cult into Israel and God showed it to the prophet Ezekiel.

⇒ **Ezekiel 8**

God went on to show Ezekiel the things that the people of Israel were practicing inside the sanctuary and even says: 'I will show you worse things that the people are doing'.

➤ **V.13 and 14**; '*...weeping for Tammuz*', that is, commemorating that festival.

➤ **V.16**; men with their backs to the temple, worshipping the sun. The sun is one of the symbols of Tammuz.

⇒ **Jeremiah 44:14~19**

- **V.14:** Jeremiah was telling the people that if they didn't turn from their sins, they would be taken captive. At this time the people of Israel were being taken captive to Babylon. What was the people's response to Jeremiah?
- **V.15 to 19;** '*queen of heaven*' was Semiramis' title. What were the people of Israel doing? Worshipping the '*queen of heaven*'. When Jeremiah called the people to come out of this, the people said: '*we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done,*' because she's the one who has blessed us. Is that written in your Bible?
- In Roman Catholicism there is a prayer called salve queen. Mary is often called the 'queen of heaven'. But Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, is not the queen of heaven. People who follow Semiramis will never see Mary. Queen of heaven was the title of the mother goddess who was worshipped centuries before Mary was born. The mother goddess was Semiramis (Ishtar, Astarte, Astaroth). In several passages the Bible shows the worship of Ashtaroth and Baal.

⇒ **Judges 2:11~13**

⇒ **I Samuel 7:3~4**

⇒ **I Samuel 12:10**

⇒ **I Samuel 31:9~10**

⇒ **I Kings 11:4~6**

- All the false religions of the world were made official in Babylon. What Cain began, the path he inaugurated, Nimrod made official in Babylon. That's why, when we get to ⇒ **Revelation 17:5**, it says: '*Babylon, the great harlot, the mother, the originator of all the abominations of the earth*'. All religions, spiritism with reincarnation, everything that has predictions, etc., had their origins in Babylon.

⇒ **Isaiah 8:19~20.** '*To the law and to the testimony!*'

⇒ **Isaiah 47:12~14** Condemnation of soothsayers and sorcerers

- God cries out: '**To the Law and to the Testimony!**' In other words: '**Read the Bible!**'