

## Lesson 25

### 6.3 Babel - Babylon; confusion of tongues

⇒ **Genesis 11:1~9**

- The beginning of chapter 11 goes into more detail about the sequence described in chapter 10. The Bible often uses this way of describing a subject: first it describes it in a general way and then it goes into more detail about something of greater interest. We saw this at the beginning of the Bible.

➤ **V.2**; *'land of Shinar...'*. What is the group that moved to this land?

⇒ **Genesis 10:8~10**; Nimrod headed this group in the land of Shinar.

➤ **V.3 and V.4**; what was God's command to men when he spoke to Noah? Let's see ⇒ **Genesis 9:1 and 9:7**; it was for men to spread out and populate the whole earth. But what did these people want to do? The opposite of what God had said: *'lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth'*. In other words: *'lest we obey God'*.

*'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens'*. A tower has always been built to worship and consult the stars. We can see this in all the history books and encyclopedias.

The fact that they used bricks instead of stone and bitumen as mortar to build the tower and reach the sky is very serious! In the Bible, everything has meaning. Look, the Bible mentions stone and mortar. Who is the stone in the Bible, the rock that can take us to heaven? It's Jesus. But they made bricks, and bricks need to be made by men, they are the work of men's hands, you, see?

The ark was put up with bitumen; bitumen means atonement. We studied earlier that atonement is the appeasement of God's wrath against sin; bitumen is the same word used for atonement. So, they made works of their own hands to get to heaven, and they put on bitumen. It was blasphemous to the things of God; they used it as a typology against God's principles.

➤ **V.5 to V.9**; so, what does God do? Look at the figure of speech used, *'But the Lord came down to see...'* (**V.5**); *'Come, let Us go down...'* (**V.7**).

This is called anthropomorphism. It's attributing to God the same language used by man so that we can understand God.

So, the Lord comes and confuses the language, do you know why? The language was one, wasn't it? The word has tremendous power. God says that if he left those people like that (**V.6**), there would be no restriction on everything they tried to do. God was looking into their hearts and knew what their intentions were. Man is like that: he *'decides to do something, says it and does it'*; both for good and for bad, because there is power in the word.

- The fact that God confused the languages was a blessing. God's curse on the nations was a blessing, because it stopped the abomination that was running rampant. The fact that God scattered those people everywhere was a grace, because those people together, with the same language, plotting everything against God, their wickedness would have no end. So, everyone started speaking different languages and the groups formed and had to spread out, following the original order.

⇒ **Job 42:1~6**; *'None of God's purposes can be hindered.'*

- The confusion of tongues was not a judgment on the human race, as the flood was. It was a curse on that generation, it was a punishment, so to speak, but it was not yet a judgment. In the time that is very near, called the 'tribulation', then God will judge this world. God will judge the world, the nations that have left him out, the apostate church that will not take part in the rapture and Israel, which as a nation continues to reject its Messiah.
- The story of the nations as God relates to them and to humanity as a whole end here. In this 3<sup>rd</sup> period we have seen God wanting to establish his government, his Kingdom, and Satan presenting another, completely opposite kingdom through Nimrod.
- Here God finishes speaking to humanity as a whole. From now on, God will no longer reveal himself as he has done so far, with everyone, why? Because humanity, in these first three epochs, rejected all of God's revelation, said no to God, said: we don't want His interference here on earth; the nations said 'no' to God, or let's see:
  - God, here on earth, acts in three areas in His relationship with man, as we have already discussed: the Area of Government, the Area of the Word and the Area of Worship.
  - In the 1<sup>st</sup> period, in which area did Adam and Eve reject God's revelation and did it their way? In the Area of the Word. Eve changed God's Word at that time. When we disobey God in any of these three areas, the others 'follow along'. It is impossible for someone who disobeys one area to remain faithful to God in the others. So, in the 1<sup>st</sup> period, the trigger for rebellion against God was through the area of the Word; humanity rejected God in the area of the Word.
  - With Cain and Abel, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, in which area did man reject God? In the Area of Worship. God had said: it is 'through blood'. But Cain inaugurated his own way, without the blood. Mankind rejected the area of worship here and the others followed.
  - And now, what have we just studied in 3<sup>rd</sup> period? Man has rejected God in the Area of Government. God offered one government, the devil offered another, and almost all of mankind followed the other plan. God had to come and confuse tongues to put a stop to it.
- So, what happened? Humanity showed that it did not accept God's guidance, neither for the Word, nor for Worship, and nor for Government. To this day, humanity is saying NO to God in these three areas. There is not a single government on earth, not a single nation, that puts God first. The Bible says:
 

⇒ **Psalm 33:12**; *'Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.'*

Therefore, we can conclude that there isn't a single happy nation on the planet, because God is out of their plans as a nation.
- Now, what will God do from now on? God says: *'The nations have rejected me, but I do not reject the nations, my plan to redeem man will continue'.*  
 God then looks at the nations of the earth and chooses a man. There was nothing special about that man, but God chooses him and says: *'I will enter into a covenant with this man, if he accepts; and I will continue to bless the nations that have rejected me; I will create a new people.'*

*All the nations have rejected me, but I'm going to create a nation, a nation that doesn't exist, I'm going to be the God of that nation, and that nation will be the channel of blessing for all the other nations that have rejected me'. Isn't it great? What a God we have!*

- God looks to the earth, back in Chaldea, in the city of Ur, and manifests himself to a man called Abram (not Abraham). Stephen, in the N.T. gave the testimony.

⇒ **Acts 7:2~4**;      The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham. And Abram responded to that manifestation of God by believing.

- The next period we are going to study is the period of promise. It begins with Abram's call in ⇒ **Genesis 12** and lasts until ⇒ **Exodus 19**. God begins speaking no longer to a nation or to humanity as a whole, but to a family, and from that family a great nation will be born. So, God calls that man there in Ur of the Chaldeans.
- Was Abram a Jew? There was no nation of Israel or tribe of Judah, Abram was a Chaldean from Ur.

⇒ **Genesis 12:1~3**;      I will make of you a great nation; ... in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

The Bible is perfect! All the families of the earth will be blessed in Abram, it doesn't say all the nations, it says all the families. The nations rejected God, but God would still bless all the families and nations of the earth through one man.

- The situation of the nations before God, a consequence created through the Tower of Babel, is reversed by the call of Abram in ⇒ **Genesis 12:1~3**. Through Abram, all the nations could once again be blessed by God.
- The nations rejected God! So, God calls a man, Abram, to create a new nation. From this nation, God began to see men divided into two classes, into two peoples; what would later be identified as '**Jews and Gentiles**'. From this new nation, the Savior would be born, the seed of the woman. In Christ Jesus, this division before God is overturned. Through the cross, both peoples are reconciled, thus creating one new man and one people: one new people, the people of God, Hallelujah!

⇒ **Ephesians 2:13~22**;      '*Beginning with Jesus, God has made for himself one people.*'

⇒ **I Peter 2:9~10**;      '*Who once were not a people but are now the people of God.*'

⇒ **II Corinthians 5:17~19**;      '*God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ.*'

- The condition of separation acquired by humanity, represented by the diversity of languages and territories we have studied, has also already been reversed by God. With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost on all people (the beginning of Jesus' church on earth), everyone understood each other, even though they were speaking in different languages.

⇒ **Acts 2:1~11**;      '*Everyone heard them speaking in their own language.*'