

Lesson 8

Genesis Chapter 11

The Table of Nations

Discuss the descendants of Noah's three sons. Who they were and where they migrated. Bring out the role that Ham's descendants played in Covenantal history. Egypt founded Egypt. Canaan claimed what would become the "Promised Land", the land that was given to Shem. Cush is associated with Southern Arabia and Ethiopia. Put is associated with Lydia, on the West of Egypt in North Africa. These sons founded the five nations that were to conquer, enslave and ensnare, the sons of Shem throughout the rest of Old Testament history.

The Tower of Babel

Read the story of the Tower of Babel. Discuss the significance of: What the tower was; Who built it; The purpose behind building it; and how it affected Covenantal history.

In Genesis we read about Nimrod, the world's first "Mighty Man, or Mighty hunter in the face of the Lord." Does this mean that Nimrod found favor with God? On the contrary, Nimrod, as a descendant of Ham, was adamantly opposed to the rule of God. His Uncle, Canaan, was cursed by God, and was told that He and the rest of Ham's descendants would be slaves to the descendants of Shem and Japheth. Instead, Nimrod deliberately tried to overturn this curse and inflict it on the descendants of Shem and Japheth. Can you imagine Nimrod thinking to himself the following? He may have said, "I don't know about the others, but I regard this matter of the curse of God on Canaan as a major disgrace on my family, one that needs to be erased. Did God say that my Uncle Canaan would be a slave? I'll fight that judgement! I'll never be a slave! What's more, I'll be the exact opposite. I'll be so strong that others will become slaves to me. Instead of "slave," I'll make them say, "Here comes Nimrod, the mightiest man on earth."

Isn't this the normal reaction of the human spirit? It says "I'll defy it. I'll take care of my own problems."

The building of the Tower of Babel does not specifically mention Nimrod, but the two are tightly linked. In the narrative on Nimrod and the narrative on the building of the tower we see the work of a leader and his people attempting to build a civilization without God.

So who is Nimrod? Nimrod is the grandson of Ham, and the son of Cush. Cush immigrated to what is now considered the middle east (Southern Arabia) and Northern Africa (Ethiopia). When Nimrod grows up, he heads East and conquers Babel (soon to become Babylon), Erech, and Accad all in the land of Shinar (present day Iraq). He then conquered Assyria, and three other cities. In short, he was the most powerful man in the known world, the world's first emperor or dictator. He builds two great cities, Babylon in Babylon, and Ninevah in Assyria.

The city Babylon, like other post flood cities, goes back to Cain, who built the first. Ancient cities were built by men because of their hunger to huddle together for companionship. Cities were built to satisfy the desires of body and soul. These cities were centers of commerce and business where all the needs of the body could be satisfied. Cities also evolved into centers of culture and pleasure, where hungers of the soul could be satisfied: hunger for beauty, art, music, etc. All of these are manifestations of God.

Now that Nimrod has conquered all these people, how does he control them? It is easy to control their bodies, his soldiers had only to threaten their bodies with destruction to get them to do his will. But this doesn't build loyalty. If the populace doesn't share the same goals he does, it would not take long before these people would rise up and remove him. So how does he get all of these people to share his goal of reversing God's judgment on his family?

He has to control their souls, and he gets a strong ally, Satan. Nimrod creates his own religion. Nimrod is responsible for re-introducing idolatry and false religion back to humanity. Was he successful? This perverted, degraded "religion" spread throughout the ancient world, and is still around today. So what is it? It is Astrology.

Astrology is the study of the Zodiac. It is based on dividing the sky into sections and giving meanings to them based on the stars, called constellations, found in that section. A person's destiny is said to be determined by what section or "sign" he is born under. These stars, or clusters of stars, were named for gods. These gods later became the named gods of Egypt, Greece and Rome. Remember the story in Revelation about how the ancient dragon swept a third of the stars from the sky? In ancient times stars were associated with Angels (both good and bad) and astrology was in effect the worship of them. Who does this benefit? Satan, or Lucifer, of course.

Babylonian astrology was a corruption of primeval astrology that recognized that the entire universe was created and had worth only in relation to the earth, and developed a system of constellations as perpetual reminders of man's fall and the promise of a coming redeemer, as well as a record of angelic conflict down through the ages.

As an example:

At the most prominent place in the heavens is the constellation "Draco", the dragon. He lies coiled around the point in the sky called absolute north. This is the center of the circle that the Earth's North Pole describes every 25,858 years. Around 4000 BC the star IOTA DRACONIS was considered the "North Star". About 3000 BC the North pole was centered exactly on ALPHA DRACONIS (Thuban) the brightest star in the constellation. This portion of the constellation is depicted as attempting to encoil, or surround, the constellation Ursa Minor «which was originally called the "Little Flock" or "Little Sheepfold", namely the faithful remnant of Israel or the people of God. (perhaps we need to return to Revelation, Chapter 12 to see the relevance)). (The pole star today is Polaris, but guess which constellation the pole star will enter next? Cepheus, and this is the constellation depicting God as the triumphant king over all the Earth).

Nimrod came to be associated with the god Marduk (and others) and the symbol of the snake/serpent/dragon (Rev. 12). Nimrod took the dragon as his personal emblem, and from him spring the various dragon myths and their special association with apocalyptic events. Strikingly the only favorable accounts of dragons are found among the Hamitic peoples of the world, including the Ethiopians, Hittites, Chinese, Japanese, and American Indian.

Nimrod had to have a place to worship these stars and constellations. Enter the Ziggurat. A Ziggurat was the Tower of Babel. A religious edifice, built specifically for the worship of astrology! The tower was designed to satisfy the spirit of Man, in opposition to God.

The tower was built in a circular fashion, with an ascending staircase, that terminated with a shrine at the top. Around the top were the signs of the Zodiac and an altar for sacrifices. Ziggurats were built as a means of communicating with God, maintaining contact, but most importantly, they were an attempt by men to make a name (Shem) for themselves, to share in the glory of God. But it was not really for the glory of God. It was built as a means of controlling God by using him for Man's (Nimrod) glory.

After Nimrod's death, his wife, Semiramis, committed Adultery and had a son out of marriage. She claimed that this son, Tarmuz, was Nimrod reincarnated - A VIRGIN BIRTH. Is this an attempt by Satan to anticipate the virgin birth of Christ, promised in Genesis 3 and Revelation 12?

This religion became more and more corrupted after this, and became based on Mother-Son worship. Hardly surprising since it all began with Ham and his mother!