

NOTES

May 14, 2017

The Significance of the Tower of Babel

Genesis 11: 1-9

Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. ²It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. ⁴They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." ⁵The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. ⁷Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech." ⁸So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. ⁹Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

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Discussion Questions

Genesis 11: 1-9

1. What key themes do you read from this text? What are several words that are repeated several times? Were the people obeying God or rebelling against Him again?
2. What does the word babel mean here? Why is this so significant?
3. Why does God come down and scatter the inhabitants of the city of Babel?
4. What were the people of Babel trying to do? Were they focused on God or themselves? (Hint: look for the phrase: “they were trying to make a name for themselves.”)
5. What were Gods commands for people to do back in Genesis 1: 28; 9:1, 7?
6. Were the humans trying to build their own earthly (secular) kingdom or were they obeying God to scatter for His glory and future Kingdom of God to be fulfilled?
7. What theme do these scriptures all have in common? Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 3:12; Isaiah 63:12; Jeremiah 32:20; Nehemiah 9:10?

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