

Babel - cont.

God and punished. God sees all (Proverbs 15:3; Hebrews 4:13).

When you turn to the New Testament, you will find the same problem of pride. The Jews rejected Jesus because of pride (John 12:43). Herod's pride led to his fall and death (Acts 12:20-23). Pride caused the Gentiles to fall and sin (Romans 1:30). The Laodicean Christians were proud and said they didn't need anything (Revelation 3:17). And, pride is what Paul wrote leads to apostasy (2 Timothy 3:2-3).

Lessons for Today

Following God's commands are always in our best interest (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). He told the people of Noah's day to replenish the earth and they did not do it. Instead, they stayed together and built a tower. In this case, human ingenuity and technology was abused and misused and it led to a problem (Genesis 10:8-12; Romans 1:25).

Yes, pride leads to a fall (Proverbs 16:18). God's plans will not be frustrated (Isa. 55:8-11). May our nation and world learn this lesson as mankind continues to build bigger and better in the 21st century. - *Chris Reeves*

- Scripture of the Week -

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life
- John 3:16

This great verse speaks of the great Being God, a great sacrificial love, the great gift of Jesus, the great demand of belief, and a future great punishment and reward.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Babel: The Story of the Unfinished Tower

As we begin the new year of 2024, I think of all the man-made technology and developments that are already “in the works” for production this year. I also ask myself, “What will be invented this year?” Will this be the year that we see the open use of AI (artificial intelligence)? Will this be the year that man (and a woman) goes back to the moon? Will this be the year that a cure for some disease is found?

Build It Bigger and Better

With advancements in human technology comes bigger and better projects of mankind. For the most part it seems that these projects are meant for good, but sometimes they are meant for evil. We will have to wait and see which it is.

We live in an advanced world today that is similar to what we read in Genesis 11 about the Tower of Babel. Those people had “one language” and “one speech” in which they came together to build a great tower for themselves (v. 1). Today, we have “one speech” - the Internet - we have a global economy, and we have a worldwide ruling body called the United Nations that sets policy for people all over the world.

The danger accompanying all of this is the same danger that was found at the Tower of Babel - pride. They wanted to make a name for themselves (v.4). I fear that some of what is being built today by mankind comes from the same motive. And of course, this will never turn out well.



Background

What is the background to the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11? The background begins with Noah and family after the flood. When Noah’s family exited the ark after the flood, they were told by God to spread out over the earth (Gen. 8:16-17; 9:1). Instead of doing what they were told, some of the people multiplied and then stayed in one location. They chose to stay together instead spread out (Genesis 11:1-2).

Building a tower was not wrong, of

course, but their motive of pride was (Genesis 11:3-4). Their scattering was a punishment of God (Genesis 11:5-9). He confused (“babel”) their language, they could not communicate with each other, so they had to spread out.

Pride Goes Before Destruction

The lesson of the tower of Babel is important for us today. It is good to possess education, talent, organization, etc., like the people who built the tower. But, what are you using all that for? They did not use these things to glorify God, but themselves. Their wisdom was advanced, but they did not use it to the glory of God. Sometimes human wisdom can even take a person away from God (1 Corinthians 1:18ff). Their humanism (“come let us”) dethroned God and exalted themselves just like King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:34ff) and the rich farmer (Luke 12:16ff).

The people who built the tower had pride and their pride eventually lead to their downfall (Jeremiah 10:23; Obadiah 3-4; Jeremiah 49:16).

The people who built the tower made something great and it could be seen. But, their work was also seen by