

Elpis Israel

for Young People

The Tower of Babel

Class 19

Plan for the next few classes:

1. The Tower of Babel and the beginning of the kingdom of men
2. The Divine Architect and the Master Plan
3. The Beginning of the Kingdom of God – Abraham Called Out

The new society after the flood

Removing “wickedness” from the face of the earth

- In the flood – God destroyed “flesh” from the face of the earth – and the wicked society that Cain had founded.

Genesis 6:12 *And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was **corrupt**; for all **flesh** had corrupted **his way** upon the earth.*

The didn't remove the SOURCE of evil – flesh

- Noah and his family were still FLESH – still capable and PRONE (bent towards) to sin
Mark 7:21-23 *For **from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.***
- Noah, even though a perfect man in his generation makes a mistake:
Genesis 9:20-21 *And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.*
 - If the most righteous man on the face of the earth can sin because of alcohol – we'd better be careful!

You can see the Seed of the Serpent and the seed of the woman develop

- His son was wicked in his heart:
Genesis 9:22-24 *And **Ham**, the father of Canaan, **saw the nakedness of his father**, and **told** his two brethren without.*
 - He thought this was funny
- V23-24** *And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.*
 - Shem & Japheth refused to look on their father's nakedness – sought to cover his shame

Blessings and cursing come out of this:

- A Curse on Ham and Canaan his son
Genesis 9:25 *And he said, Cursed be **Canaan** [son of Ham]; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.*
Canaan: 3667 *K^ena`an* { ken-ah'-an}, from 3665; TWOT - 1002,1002b; AV - Canaan 89, merchant 3, traffick 1, traffickers 1; 94
GK - 4046 { כְּנַעַן } & 4047 { כְּנַעֲנִי }
Canaan = "lowland"; Gesenius: depressed, low region
- The Canaanites are derived from this people
- A Blessing on Shem and his God; a:
Genesis 9:26-27 *And he said, **Blessed be the LORD God of Shem**; and Canaan shall be his servant. **God shall enlarge Japheth**, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.*

The families of Ham

We'll come back and look at the family of Japheth and Shem later.

Families of Ham:

Genesis 10:6-7 *And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan. And the sons of Cush; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, and Sabtecha: and the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan.*

- Identifying the families:
 - Cush = 3568 - "black" area of Ethiopia & Sudan / also into Arabia
 - c/p Jer 13:23 "can the Ethiopian change his skin"
 - Mizraim = 4714 – Egypt – the land of area of Egypt
 - c/p Ex 1:13 – The Egyptians
 - Phut = 6316 – Puwt "the bow" - area of Libya
 - c/p Jer 49: 9 "Come up ye Libyans..."
 - Canaan = area of Canaan (C/p 10:19 – from Sidon to Gaza)
 - Ramah = horses main, a trader (rider of horse)
 - Sheba & Dedan – area of Arabia

Nimrod: The son of Cush

Genesis 10:8-9 *And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.*

- Nimrod: 5808 – Rebel, rebellion or valiant

Began: 2490 – to begin to corrupt

Mighty one: 1368 – Gibbowr (c/p Dan 11:3 – the "mighty" king - Alexander)

Hunter: 6718 – tsayid – "hunter"

Before: 6440 – Paniym – face or faces

- Nimrod was a Mighty Hunter – against the face of Yahweh – Like Cain

Genesis 4:14 *Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy **face** [Heb: Faces] shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.*

Genesis 4:16 *And Cain went out from the presence [Heb: Faces] of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.*

- Esau also a hunter:

Genesis 25:27 *And the boys grew: and Esau was **a cunning hunter**, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.*

Nimrod's Kingdom:

Gen 10:10-14 *And the beginning of his **kingdom** was **Babel**, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah, And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city. And Mizraim begat Ludim, and Anamim, and Lehabim, and Naphtuhim, And Pathrusim, and Casluhim, (out of whom came Philistim,) and Caphtorim.*

- Babel: 894 – Confusion or Mixing
- Erech: 751 - Long
- Accad: 390 – Subtle
- Calneh 3641 – Fortress of Anu
- Shinar 8152 – Land of two rivers (Mesopotamia)

Asshur: (Assyria – a step 804) builded:

- Nineveh 5210 – “abode of Ninus” – built by Ninus – Ninus also a “god”
- Reheboth 7344 – place of wide streets

The Tower of Babel

Man was united – with ONE language – or LIP

Genesis 11:1 *And the whole earth was of one language [lip], and of one speech.*

- **Speech:** Strongs: 1697 – dabar – word –also “cause or reason” c/p Josh 5:4 – This is the cause
- They had a common cause or purpose...

Dwelt in the plain of Shinar

Genesis 11:2 *And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.*

- This was the area of Babylon – the land that would become the rival to the kingdom of God
- Became a center of worship:

Daniel 1:2 *And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which **he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god**; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.*

Their purpose:

Genesis 11:3-4 *And they said one to another, Go to, let **us** make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let **us** build **us** a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let **us** make us a name, lest **we** be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.*

- Remember what we have learned about the seed of the serpent... what do you notice
 - Let US – it is all about them
 - Let US build us a CITY and a TOWER – just like Cain
 - Reach unto heaven – wanted equality with God
 - Let us make us a NAME – making a name for themselves, not God
 - Didn't want to be scattered
- Who was building?

Genesis 11:5 *And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the **children of men** builded.*

Build US a CITY and Make US a NAME

Genesis 4:17 *And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, **after the name of his son**, Enoch.*

- Cain had wanted to make a name for himself
- Named his CITY after his SON
- Nothing has changed

Genesis 11:4 *And they said, Go to, let **us build us a city** and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us **make us a name**, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.*

- This is the creation of a SOCIETY – a CIVILIZATION

Psalm 49:11-15 *Their inward thought is, that their **houses shall continue for ever**, and their dwelling places to all generations; they **CALL THEIR LANDS AFTER THEIR OWN NAMES**. Nevertheless **man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish**. This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah. Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling. **But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave:** for he shall receive me. Selah.*

- Where do we put our trust?
- In ourselves and our own accomplishments – or in our God who can “redeem my soul from the power of the grave”?

A tower to reach unto heaven:

- They were Grasping for equality with God:

Genesis 3:5 *For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods** [Elohim], knowing good and evil.*

Philippians 2:6-7 *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery **[a thing to be grasped at]** to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

Why?

Genesis 11:4 *“... lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”*

- God reverses their plan:

God’s response:

Psalm 33:10-12 *The LORD **bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought**: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.*

The End of the Matter:

Genesis 11:6-9 *And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and **now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do**. [imagination of heart of man is evil continually]
Go to, let us [c/p v3] *go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.**

God wasn't supportive of United Nations:

Elpis (p174): The segregation of mankind into nations, then, is not accidental, or the result of mere human policy. It is a divine appointment. Human wisdom was opposed to it in the beginning; and if Socialists, Peace Societies, and such like, could carry out their schemes, they would commingle the nations into one indiscriminate "universal brotherhood", and abolish all times and bounds of habitation.

The projectors of the city and tower of Babel announced in their programme that the enterprise was intended to secure to the patrons of the scheme "a Name"; and to prevent them from being "scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth". They were opposed to nationalization; they preferred a fraternal communism, and proceeded to build a temple of social fraternity for all mankind. But God and His purposes were in none of their thoughts. They were concocting schemes utterly subversive of them; therefore He interfered, saying, "Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them which they have imagined to do. Let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon all the face of the earth: and they left off to build the city".

The development of this imperio-regal constitution of nations is the one grand idea of the divine writings. It is the subject matter of the gospel of the kingdom and peace of God. All other divine arrangements centre in this as the great focal truth of human redemption and terrestrial regeneration. The needle is not more true to the pole, nor planetary attraction to the sun's centre, than are the things of the prophets and apostles to this idea of an Israelitish kingdom and empire of nations. To lose sight of this is to remain in hopeless ignorance of the faith and hope, which God has graciously set before us in His word; and to lay ourselves open to every species of delusion that the carnal mind, so fertile of evil fruits, may enunciate in opposition to the "mystery of the divine will".

Babel:

- Destroyed the Kingdom of Israel:

Daniel 1:1-2 *In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar **king of Babylon** unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which **he carried into the land of Shinar** to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.*

- Is head over the kingdom of Men:

Daniel 2:37-38 *Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. **Thou art this head of gold.***

- Stands as the enemy of God – representative of the SEED of the SERPENT until the end:
Rev 17:5 *And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, **BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.***
Rev 17:13-14 *These have **one mind**, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall **make war with the Lamb**, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

Patter that is developing:

<i>Seed of the Woman</i>	<i>Seed of the serpent</i>
<i>Called themselves after name of God</i>	<i>Named Cities after themselves</i>
<i>Sons of God</i>	<i>Daughters of men</i>
<i>Children of Shem</i>	<i>Children of Ham</i>
<i>Kingdom of God</i>	<i>Kingdom of Babylon</i>

Picking up the story next time:

Abraham:

Hebrews 11:8-10 *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*