

Genesis Chapter 11 Commentary

1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

Up to now, all of mankind could communicate with one another in the same language. God will use confusion of language as a tool of separating the people of the world into different nations of people, which will overturn their desire to reach heaven, without the help of God, and to put themselves in the stead of God.

We can apply this principle to the many different religions on earth today. They each preach and teach their own doctrines and isms, and many seem to have left God out of the picture. We understand that the true church, established by Christ Jesus, has a universal language in that it is all to the glory of God and complies with thus saith the Lord.

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.

We can presume, and history confirms, that from scripture given in: ***Ge 8:4 "And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat."*** that the people went in all directions over time. We learned in chapter 10 that Nimrod (Asshur) was the one who builded this place called Babel, which became the land of Babylon eventually, which became a land of idolatry.

We can see a parallel between this and worldly religion today. Religious groups that do not practice "thus saith the Lord" and practice living contrary to God's word of truth, are journeying away from Christ. The rising of the sun is in the east. Christ's incarnation is the rising of the sun on the age of Salvation by Grace. Idolatrous religions have turned their back on Salvation by Grace and reject Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation and eternal life.

3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

It is evident that these people were very well versed in building. They knew how to make bricks and apparently there was no stone present to use. Their mortar is here called slime which by definition is: *slime, bitumen, or pitch, which is tar*; as used in paving today. They understood the binding properties of this slime and made use of it.

This is exactly what idolatrous religions do; they make their own doctrines to build with. In other words they say; we will make our own bricks to build with, because they do not have, or have rejected, the God made stones to build with.

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.

Again we see man is attempting to usurp God from his throne. "***and let us make us a name,***" They understood that God dwelt in the heaven. They wanted to make themselves a name, like unto his, so they would be recognized as gods, just as satan had persuaded man in the Garden of Eden.

This is man's attempt to provide his own means of salvation. There are many today, who are trying to build their Babel Tower, and make their own way to the eternal heaven, but rest assured that God will confound them also.

God has affirmed and confirmed this to us in the provision of God the Son, Jesus Christ, and the establishment of the Church of Salvation by Grace. Scripture plainly declares that there is only one way into the eternal heaven and that is by and through Jesus Christ.

- **Joh 14:6** "*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" This text plainly shows that there is only one way to the eternal heaven and that is by Jesus Christ.
- **Ac 4:12** "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*" Again, scripture iterates that Christ is the only way of salvation and eternal life with God the Father.

These scriptures tell us plainly; we cannot build a tower to reach to heaven. There are many religions that will tell you; you can save yourself eternally, but they are idolatrous religions and have not the truth of God.

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

In verse 5 and in the reference below; we see that God, in words man can understand, descends to earth and looks upon the affairs of men. We also discern, from the outcome in each text; that God descended as judge, and gave forth his judicial decrees in each case, as demonstrated in: **Ge 18:20-21; 20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; 21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.**

How uppity of man, to think that he can be greater than his Creator. Both of these text show how the judicial judgment of God puts man in his rightly, lowly, servant place.

6 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.

God says plainly here; since all people are of one language; there is nothing to restrain them from sharing their knowledge with one another, and they are able to collaborate together and do all they wish to do. We see here the beginning of the work of satan to create a one-world language, government, and religion.

Certainly, we see this same principle of men at work today, collaborating together to fix things to their own liking and advantage, leaving God completely out of the picture. Oh, the depravity of mankind left to his own devices and strength.

7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

"let us go down" In this phrase, it is pointed out; God is not alone in his habitation. Just as God pointed out in: **Ge 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."** We know from scripture that there are 3 figures in the godhead that are coequal, coexistent, and coeternal; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

We also know from the reference scripture; God gave man dominion over all the earth and its inhabitants, plant and animal.

We further discern from the scripture in Genesis 11:7; **"and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."** that this is where the different languages of the nations of the earth came from. This is also a picture of the plethora of idolatrous religions, which speak a different language than **"thus saith the Lord."**

8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9 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's remedy for the present situation accomplished several things:

- Since they couldn't understand one another they left off building the tower to heaven.
- God has thwarted the plans of man to accomplish God's own purpose, and established that man can't get to heaven without the assistance of God.
- This confounding of language created different sects of people, who went forth to different parts of the earth, and established various nations over time.

We notice in the judicial judgment of God, he did not just wipe out these people from the face of the earth. God will use different ones of the nations, which come from these people, for different purposes of his own in time. One thing, he uses ungodly nations for, is to punish godly nations that have forsaken God.

This reminds us that God does what he will, with whom he will, when he will. We see a picture of this in the New Testament in: **Joh 9:1-3; 1 "And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? 3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."**

10 These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood:

In Genesis 11:10-32: we have the recorded lineage of Shem to Abram.

- Genesis 5:01-32 gives us the genealogy from Adam to Noah.
- Genesis 11:10-32 gives us the genealogy from Noah to Abraham
- Matthew 1:01-16 gives us the genealogy from Abraham to Jesus Christ
- Luke 3:23-38 gives us the genealogy from Adam to Jesus; in reverse order

These genealogies give us the lineage; from the first created Adam, to Jesus Christ, the second Adam as demonstrated in: **1Co 15:45** *"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."*

11 And Shem lived after he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters. 12 And Arphaxad lived five and thirty years, and begat Salah: 13 And Arphaxad lived after he begat Salah four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters. 14 And Salah lived thirty years, and begat Eber: 15 And Salah lived after he begat Eber four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters. 16 And Eber lived four and thirty years, and begat Peleg: 17 And Eber lived after he begat Peleg four hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters. 18 And Peleg lived thirty years, and begat Reu: 19 And Peleg lived after he begat Reu two hundred and nine years, and begat sons and daughters. 20 And Reu lived two and thirty years, and begat Serug: 21 And Reu lived after he begat Serug two hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters. 22 And Serug lived thirty years, and begat Nahor: 23 And Serug lived after he begat Nahor two hundred years, and begat sons and daughters. 24 And Nahor lived nine and twenty years, and begat Terah: 25 And Nahor lived after he begat Terah an hundred and nineteen years, and begat sons and daughters. 26 And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran. 27 Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot.

Abram (whose name was changed by God to Abraham) was born circa B.C. 1996 and died circa B. C. 1822. Abraham lived 175 years as stated in: **Ge 25:7** *"And these are the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years."* We shall read much about Abram (Abraham) in future scriptures, both Old and New Testaments.

28 And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees. 29 And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. 30 But Sarai was barren; she had no child. 31 And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. 32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

These, and the other genealogies of scripture, seem very dull, and boring, and we often wonder why they are included in scripture. A couple of reasons are:

- At least one reason is; to give us the record of the lineage of mankind from Adam to Jesus, who is the theme of the whole bible.
- Another reason is; it gives us the record to substantiate that God made promises in scripture and fulfilled them, as denoted by the lineage records.
- We find records, which link different nations of people back to their roots or origin.
- Sometimes we can use genealogies to help us understand; God has blessed, or cursed, a line of people, and see that scripture dictates that God did what he said.

I thank the Lord for the records of lineage, and for the enlightenment given to various bible scholars; who point out many different uses and ways that God uses the records of lineage.