

OLD TESTAMENT STORIES FOR **PERILOUS¹ TIMES**

2 Timothy 3:1-5

BABEL: TOWER² OF DEFIANCE

INTRODUCTION

Four generations after God destroyed the earth with the flood, men had forgotten God's horrific judgment and soon returned to their rebellious ways. The descendants of Noah's three sons, Ham, Shem and Japheth, had multiplied.

This new beginning with Noah, eventually led to one of the most arrogant revolts against God recorded anywhere in Scripture. United by the strong bond of a common language, they had not dispersed as God had commanded in order to replenish the earth. Instead they gathered around the City of Nimrod³ in Babylon in order to build a tower to reach the heavens.

THEME SCRIPTURE

And they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth' (Genesis 11:4).

¹ PERILOUS - Greek *chapelos* reducing strength: difficult, dangerous, furious, fierce, savage.

² TOWER - Hebrew *migdal* tower: so called for its' height; word used for a tower of fortified cities and castles.

³ Nimrod: rebellion or the valiant; a descendant of Noah through his son Ham; a mighty hunter; aggressive empire builder; rebelled against God by attempting to build a tower that would reach the heavens.

SECTION I - Come Let Us Build

READ Genesis 11:1-4.

1. From the time of creation, how did man communicate (v. 1)? _____

PERSONAL

What language⁴ do you communicate in? What do you know to be today's universal language?

2. How does God clearly communicate to mankind (Psalm 19:1-3)? _____

3. Once the people settled in the land of Shinar⁵ what did they decide to do (Genesis 11: 2, 3)? _____

4. What ambitions did these early inhabitants declare that challenged the Living God? What was the purpose of each (v. 4)?

⁴ language - Hebrew *saphah* tongue: dialect.

⁵ Shinar: a country of two rivers: the cities of the earliest kingdoms known were founded in the fertile plain of Shinar; Babylon, Erech, Accad and Calneh.

5. From the time that man was created, what had God commanded man to do (Genesis 1:27, 28a; 9:7)?

PERSONAL

The Earth's inhabitants set out to build themselves a city. What have you built or what have you done in your own strength for yourself?

They also determined to build a tower *whose top is in the heavens*. By your own efforts, how do you try to reach God?

They purposed to make a name for themselves. In what way do you try to make a name for yourself?

SECTION II - Come Let Us Go Down

READ Genesis 11:5-9.

1. Seeing that mankind rebelled choosing to dwell in one place rather than obeying God's command to replenish the earth, what did God do (v. 5)?

⁶ see - Hebrew *raah* look at: advise self; approve; behold with a purpose; gaze, take heed; discern, perceive.

LOOK DEEPER

WRITE from the following verses, why it is imperative⁷ that the LORD's eyes are always on mankind.

II Chronicles 16:9 _____

Psalm 11:4 _____

Psalm 14:2 _____

Psalm 32:8 _____

Psalm 34:15 _____

Psalm 139:16 _____

Proverbs 5:21 _____

⁷ imperative: critical, necessary, urgent.

Proverbs 15:3 _____

Jeremiah 32:19 _____

PERSONAL

Considering that God's eyes are always upon you, how should it prevent you from disobeying God?

2. What did the LORD foresee about the sons of man at the tower (Genesis 11:6)? _____

3. What had God seen in the heart of man prior to the flood (Genesis 6:5)? _____

4. The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth. What did He determine to do (Genesis 6: 6, 7)?

5. What was God's response to the rebellion at the tower (Genesis 11:7, 8)? _____ 8

_____ 9

What happened to *their* city? _____

PERSONAL

How have you experienced confusion and disunity with others when you have sinned or rebelled against God?

LOOK DEEPER

In their rebellion against God, the early inhabitants of the earth devised a plan to dwell in one place, build a city with a tower that would reach the heavens, and make a name for themselves. What was the triune God's eternal plan from the beginning of time?

Genesis 1:26a-28 _____

John 3:16 _____

⁸ Us - the triune God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Referring to the LORD; Yehovah; Self-Existent; the Eternal.

⁹ confuse - Hebrew *babal*: to mix, confound, mingle.

John 14:2 _____

Philippians 3:20 _____

Hebrews 11:8-10 _____

Hebrews 11:13-16 _____

Revelation 3:12 _____

Revelation 21:23 _____

Revelation 22:12-17 _____

6. The inhabitants of the earth did not make a name for themselves. God did not even allow them to name their city. What did the city become known as (Genesis 11:9)?

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LOOK DEEPER

How did God communicate to mankind throughout history and how does He communicate in these last days?

John 14:25, 26 _____

Colossians 3:16 _____

Hebrews 1:1-3 _____

¹⁰ Babel: to mix, confound, mingle.

How will God communicate to man in the last days? What will He communicate? To whom? What will He declare (Revelation 14:6, 7)?

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE out the THEME SCRIPTURE.

(Genesis 11:4)

*Therefore its name is called Babel,
because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth;
And from there the LORD scattered them abroad
over the face of all the earth.*

Genesis 11:9

NOTES: _____



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