

Session 5 | Dr. Randy White | Genesis 10-11

- Genesis 11, containing the story of the Tower of Babel, comes in the midst of Genesis 10, by necessity from the languages mentioned in Genesis 10:5, 20
- The Tower took place approximately 1,750 years after creation, approximately 100 years after the flood. This is based on genealogical records of the Bible.
- Babylon was founded by Nimrod, the great-grandson of Noah, through Cush, son of Ham. Genesis 10:8-12
 - He was “a mighty one in the earth” (Genesis 10:8). “Mighty” is “*geber*” which is “strong.” The name “Gabriel” is built on this— “God is my strength.”
 - He was also described as a **mighty hunter before the Lord**.
 - The word is “hunter” comes from the root word for “to hunt, hound, or capture.”
 - “Before the Lord” is literally “in front of” or “in the face of.”
 - It could be translated to say that Nimrod is “the one who stands in front of God to capture Him.” Or, in more casual terms, “the one who shakes his fist at God.”
 - Babylon was **the beginning of his Kingdom** and his Kingdom continued after Babel. He also built Nineveh and other cities (v. 10-11)
- The beginning of recorded history in extra Biblical sources begins about this time in history.
 - The reference to Peleg (10:25) speaks of either the time of the division of the peoples or the division of the continents.
- King Nebuchadnezzar’s words, inscribed on the Borsippa Tablet, give an intriguing view of the *rest of the story* for the Tower of Babel:

I have completed its magnificence with silver, gold, other metals, stone, enameled bricks, fir and pine. The first which is the house of the earth’s base, the most ancient monument of Babylon I built and finished it. I have highly exalted its head with bricks covered with copper. We say for the other, that is, this edifice, the house of the seven lights of the earth, the most ancient monument of Borsippa. A former king built it, (they reckon 42 ages) but he did not complete its head. Since a remote time, people had abandoned it, without order

expressing their words. Since that time the earthquake and the thunder had dispersed the sun-dried clay. The bricks of the casing had been split, and the earth of the interior had been scattered in heaps. Merodach, the great god, excited my mind to repair this building. I did not change the site nor did I take away the foundation. In a fortunate month, in an auspicious day, I undertook to build porticoes around the crude brick masses, and the casing of burnt bricks. I adapted the circuits, I put the inscription of my name in the Kitir of the portico. I set my hand to finish it. And to exalt its head. As it had been in ancient days, so I exalted its summit.

- Babel is the result of the initiation of Government given after the flood. Government was a necessary outcome of the instruction of capital punishment in Genesis 9:6.
- The problem with the tower was its rejection of God’s command to “swarm and multiply” and rather “come together” Genesis 11:4.
- Any study of ethnicity and linguistics should begin with the Tower of Babel.
 - It is better to refer to ethnicity than race. We are of the human race, in multiple ethnicities.
 - The multiplication of ethnicities is very possible within a few generations when segments of the gene pool are separated among themselves.
 - Given no separation, the human race would merge back to one ethnicity.
- If God has separated the ethnicities, to what degree should we put them back together?
 - Prejudice can never be tolerated since we are all of one race
 - Recognizing ethnic and cultural differences is not “racist,” though it is almost always presented as such.
 - The failure to recognize ethnicity is a failure of worldview that aims toward a “one people” agenda
 - Are “diversity” programs “Nimrodian” in their outlook?
 - There is one underlying reason behind the politically correct agenda of removing ethnic difference: *anti-Semitism*.
- Should Christians unify doctrinally?
 - The move today is *unity*.
 - The politically correct world is without borders, boundaries, denominations, or genders.