

30 AMAZING BIBLE STORIES YOU MAY NOT KNOW

#10 – Nimrod, the First of Many | Genesis 10:8-12, 14:1-21

FIRST KING OF THE GOLDEN AGE

- The time after the flood has been called a *golden age* by many.
 - Freedom was at its greatest since the days after the Garden of Eden.
 - Resources were plentiful and demand upon them was almost non-existent.
 - Governments were limited and likely only temporarily served a specific purpose.
- As far as we are able to tell, Nimrod was the first to gather people into a unification of forces under one leader, creating a kingdom based at Babel.

FIRST KING OF FREEDOM WITHOUT GOD

- Some argue that Nimrod was not his birth name, but more of an acquired name, and most aptly a description.
 - The root word is *marad* (a word that came into the English language), which means *to rebel*, and *Nimrod* is “the man who rebels.”
 - Could it be that when this man **began to be a mighty one in the earth** (v. 8) that he also began to **think of himself more highly than he ought to think** (Rom. 12:3), and people began calling him *Rebel*?
- Nimrod was a **mighty hunter before the Lord** (v. 9). But this is not a *good thing*, but an *arrogant, prideful thing*.
 - Nimrod, it appears, began to think that he could do *whatever he wanted to do*, and did not need to submit Himself to the Lord.
 - His life became *proverbial* for rebellion against God.

FIRST KING OF THE DESPOTIC LINE

- From what we can tell, Nimrod rejected God’s command of Genesis 9:1. Rather than **replenish** (literally, “fill”), Nimrod decides to *congregate* and *control*.
- Putting his fist in God’s face, he sets himself up as God.
- In effect, Nimrod became Satan’s first attempt at and “Antichrist,” the *false savior of the world*.

- Babel became the iconic location for rebellion, despotism, and godlessness. Its effect remains forever and will until the last days on earth.
- Throughout history, it has been displayed time and time again that *freedom* without *God* never ends well. Every nation in history that has rejected the moral limitations of deity has soon found itself in tyranny.

WILL THE REAL NIMROD PLEASE STEP FORWARD?

- If *Nimrod* was a description rather than a name, then *who was the real Nimrod*?
- Genesis 10:8 says that Nimrod **began to be a mighty one in the earth**. Likely this involved warfare.
- It *could* be concluded that the first war mentioned in the Bible included *the actual Nimrod*.
- Genesis 14:1 speaks of **Amraphel, king of Shinar**.
 - There have been Bible teachers for almost 2,000 years that teach that *Amraphel is Nimrod*.
 - The chronology is not out of the question.
- Let’s imagine for just a moment that this assumption is true. If so...
 - After Babylon the singular kingdom is reduced to one of many kingdoms (nine mentioned in Genesis 14).
 - If this is true, then Abram defeated Amraphel with an army of 318 men – Genesis 14:14-17.
 - If this is true, then three of the most intriguing verses of the Scriptures begin to make more sense – Genesis 14:18-21.
 - Why did Melchizedek show up?
 - Why did Abram receive such praise as verse 19?
 - Why did heaven stop to celebrate this victory?
 - Could the Melchizedek event have happened *because Abram defeated Nimrod*? Was it a celebration of the *King of Righteousness* defeating *the king of rebellion*?

JUST A FORESHADOW

- At the **battle of that great day of God almighty** (Rev. 16:14) we will have *the defeat of Babylon* (Rev. 17-18) and the *defeat of the Antichrist*, once and for all!