

Babel On

Genesis 11:4-9

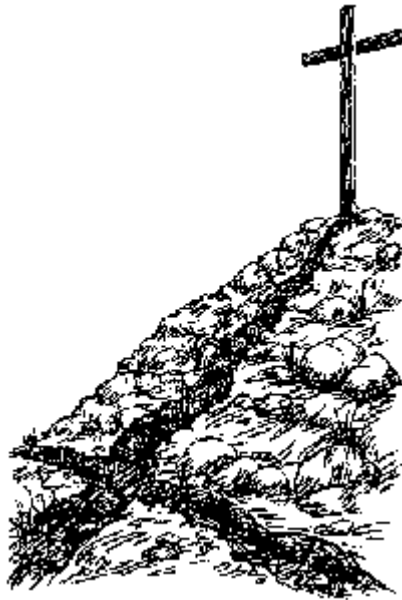
Genesis 11:4-9 (KJV) "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. {5} And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. {6} And 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. {7} Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. {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."

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There is a constant battle – a war – between what we call “Orthodox Christianity” and the world. Those who follow Biblical Christianity are told that they must compromise with the world if we wish to survive – and many professing believers

have done just that. Should we compromise?

The Christian Church must be built on the things of God. First of all, we must build as the Scripture leads, as God commands. This is not a popular notion, but it is the only way things can be. If we do not build our Church on God's principles revealed in God's Word, then we will learn the same lesson that mankind learned at the “Tower of Babel”. We will learn that:

1. There Is No Right Way To Do A Wrong Thing

Genesis 11:4 (KJV) "And they said, Go to¹, let us build us a city and a tower², whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name³, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

¹ yahab {pronounced yaw-hab’}, Qal Imperative, “Come on! Let's go!”

² migdal {pronounced mig-dawl’}, an elevated place, a tower, a pulpit

³ shem {pronounced shame}, to become famous

The people who gathered together to build

gathered together for a specific reason. They were *excited*, because they were going to *do something*. They were going to make *something big*. They were in one accord on what they wanted to do. What did the people, all of humanity, decide to do? They actually purposed to do three things:

First, they wanted to build a city. They wanted to build a place where they could all gather together to live and to work. There's nothing wrong with that – we all need a place to live. If we all work together we can make a fantastic city, a place we can be proud of.

Second, they wanted to build a “high place”, a tower. The Hebrew word used here also means “a pulpit”. These people wanted, in short, to build a place of worship. This meaning is reinforced when we read the sentence:

whose top may reach unto heaven

Now these people weren't silly enough to think that they could build a tower or an elevated place so high that it would reach the place where God lives. The ancient peoples weren't stupid, no matter what the liberal theologian may say. These people may not have been as technologically

advanced as we are today, but Pre-Incan civilizations used brain surgery as an extensive practice as early as 2000 BC. People prior to us weren't stupid. Poorer maybe, not ignorant. You can only go so high before you run out of oxygen. So neither God nor these people believed they were building a tower that would reach Heaven. No Beloved, they were building a place of worship – a church building, a pulpit. There's nothing wrong with that.

Third, these people wanted to “make us a name”. The builders of this place wanted to be famous so that they could attract others to the project. Advertising is good, anonymity is bad. Let's get a reputation for building, tell others the good thing we are doing, and we'll attract more to the project.

So here we have three good things, three intentions which, in themselves, are not bad. There's only one problem: All three intentions were *expressly against the will of God*. These people built -

**lest we be scattered abroad
upon the face of the whole earth**

They wanted to stay in this one place, on the Plains of Shinar. Yet God's express order to man –

specifically to Noah when he left the Ark, was:

Genesis 9:1 (KJV) "... Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."

God our Father ordered that mankind reproduce, spread out, and repopulate the earth. Instead mankind populated the earth till it reached the rich land of Shinar, and then it stopped. At this point man decided to ignore God's command, to stay in one place, and to grow.

May I say this with all the love I have in my heart for you: There is no right way to do a wrong thing. The world will tell us, “As long as you hurt no one, do as you please”. Even church organizations, groups that used to be Christ centered and focused in their ministries, have bowed down to popular opinion. But Beloved, there is no right way to do a wrong thing!

To the man who takes vengeance on the one who has wronged him the Scripture saith, “There is no right way to do a wrong thing”. To the pastor who reads what the Word of God says and yet ignores its application we say, “There is no right way to do a wrong thing”.

You might ask me, “How do we determine right from wrong”? to which I quickly reply, “What saith the Scripture”? What has God said? What does the Book teach? What does the Holy Word say, regardless as to how I feel? When Israel asked Samuel to show them the right way to go, Samuel said:

1 Samuel 12:23-24 (KJV) "... I will teach you the good and the right way: {24} Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things he hath done for you."

When God commands us to do a thing, to walk a walk, to live for Him, then there is no right way to forsake His leading. The human frame is frail, but our God is awesome. The human sight is limited – we can only see today – yet our God sees and controls all.

Isaiah 46:10-11 (KJV) "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: {11} Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also

do it."

These people gathered together to live together apart from the command of God and apart from the presence of God. When God told man to move outward and repopulate the earth, our Lord did so with man's welfare in mind.

2. If God Is Not At The Center Of The Project, You're Using Slime For Mortar!

Genesis 11:5-6 (KJV) "And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. {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."

Prior to the start of this project the people did a quick inventory on what they had. The Bible says:

Genesis 11:3 (KJV) "And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime⁴ had they for mortar."

⁴ chemar {pronounced khay-mawr'}tar, slime

It appeared that the people had the raw materials necessary to build this great city and this great pulpit. They had plenty of rock in Shinar to build with. But the mortar these people were planning to use – what the King James calls “slime” - was literally “tar”.

When I was young people used to say that chewing tar was good for your teeth. I don't know, I never tried it. I do know this, though. We used to pave back roads in North Carolina with tar, and it made a hard road. That is, until the sun got really hot. When the sun got hot the tar would get soft and sticky. If you walked on the road your feet would often stick and make those “shoop shoop” sounds, like velcro pulling up. Tar is fine for back roads, but I sure wouldn't want to use it on a major highway.

Can you imagine these people building a high place, a tower to God using rocks and tar? It might work for a while, but when the sun got hot – what then? It turns slimy, sticky, soft – and the walls, like Jericho, come tumbling down!

Beloved, if God isn't at the center of any project you work on, then you're using slime for mortar. God was not at the center of Project Babel. The Bible says:

**And the LORD came down to see
the city and the tower**

Now God knew what these fools were doing from the beginning. You can't sneak up on God. King David said:

Psalms 139:7-12 (KJV) "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? {8} If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. {9} If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; {10} Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. {11} If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. {12} Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee."

You can't hide from God! God is everywhere! What we're reading in Genesis is what is called an *anthropomorphism*, a way of writing often used in the Bible to illustrate God in a way our small minds can understand. Those who gathered at Babel *did not invite* God to be a part of their

project. Had God been invited, had God been in the project, then the outcome would have been so much more favorable. God told Noah how to build the Ark, and it stayed afloat throughout the worst gully washer mankind has ever suffered under. You have bad storms in Lexington, but nothing to top Noah's flood! God told Solomon how to build the Temple, and it was the most beautiful thing man has ever seen.

If God is at the center of what you're building, then the building will be beautiful. If Jesus Christ is at the center of your marriage, your marriage will last. If Jesus Christ is at the center of your family, your children will be blessed. If Jesus Christ is first and foremost in your business dealings, you will be preserved while all others fail. As the Scripture saith:

1 Corinthians 8:6 (KJV) "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."

Mankind must learn the lesson of Babel. If God is not in the project, then the project is doomed to fail. Oh! How many parents I've grieved with whose children have suffered under Satan's claws

– all because Jesus was not in the project.

It is God's will that man be a social being. We were designed to marry, to have families, to group together in communities, in cities, in nations. We are social creatures. But first and foremost we were created to be in union with God. We are not called to socialize if, in our communion, we push God out of the circle. God so wants our fellowship with Him that He shed His Blood for us.

You'd better keep God at the center of your projects – or you're using slime for mortar!

3. God Will Ultimately Get His Own Way

Genesis 11: 8-9 "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."

Though the very thought of it is repugnant to us, because we so desire to walk any way we please –

God will ultimately get His own way. Modern religion depicts our Creator as a “fine gentleman” Who will force nothing on no one. I don't know where we get this idea, but it certainly doesn't originate in Scripture.

God will ultimately get His own way. God created us, and, as the Scripture says,

Romans 9:20-21 (KJV) "Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? {21} Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?"

and again,

Isaiah 64:8 (KJV) "But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."

It is odd that we beg God to help us when we are sick, and even ask Jesus to heal our bodies – yet when we are well we tell Him to stay out of our business. How foolish! In our day and age we do not fear God, yet we – on the other hand – are amazed at the rise of deadly diseases and

sicknesses.

God designed us along certain principles, and with certain needs. But inside of every person is a place, a hollow, a thing that tells us that *God is real*. We seek Him in Church, we look upward in the night and know that He is there. Even the fool, the atheist, knows that God is there. He may say with his lips that God is not, but when trouble comes he looks upward just as intently as do we all.

God ordered man to spread outward and repopulate the earth, and though man resisted, God insisted – and we all scattered.

In this short period of time we call “life” God has ordered us to submit ourselves to Jesus Christ. We are to come to Him Who died for us, to serve Him, to tell others about Him. God our Savior must be the center of our lives.

Jesus is the tower we run to.

Psalms 61:1-3 (KJV) "... Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. {2} From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is

higher than I. {3} For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy."

Proverbs 18:10 (KJV) "The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."

Sooner or later, just as it was with Babel, every person who ever lived will bow their knee to Jesus Christ. The Scripture says:

Philippians 2:9-11 (KJV) "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: {10} That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; {11} And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

This principle is just as strong a command as was the command that those at Babel tried to avoid. Yet God will triumph! Jesus Christ will be exalted. Every knee shall bow to Jesus, praise His holy Name!

So why not accept Jesus as Savior? Why not commit fully to He Who died for you? I would rather build my life and my unions, be they

Church, or Family, or City, on Jesus Christ.

We ultimately will not be allowed to use slime for mortar. God will triumph in and through Jesus Christ our Savior.

in the name of Jesus Christ,
Brother David Buffaloe, Pastor
Rock Hill Baptist Church



Rock Hill Baptist Church is located between Parsons and Lexington, Tennessee, on Highway 412. Look for our sign! We have services on Wednesdays (Adult, Youth, and children's Bible studies) at 7:00 PM, Sundays at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Rock Hill is a family oriented Bible believing Church - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Our Pastor, Brother David Buffaloe, will answer any questions you have about our Church if you contact him at 731-845-6104, or through his website at bibleteacher.org; or e-mail him by writing webmaster@bibleteacher.org.



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