

Sermon Notes

Our Tower of Babel?

Reflections

8-22-10



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4 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 11:3-4 NKJ)

This account from the book of Genesis demonstrates the rebellious nature of man and his desire to be like God. They planned to build a monument to themselves and to avoid God's command to Noah and his sons to fill the earth. They clearly did not understand the God that had made that command, that He is God Almighty, and that mere men cannot stand against Him. Since they had chosen to ignore God's command to "fill the earth" He intervened and caused them to be unable to understand each other. ***7 "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."*** ***8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. (Genesis 11:7-8 NKJ)*** Because they could no longer understand each other's language, they ceased their futile efforts to thwart God's command to fill the earth. They now had no choice but to do what had been commanded.

Every time I see the video of a space shuttle climbing into space on a mission, I wonder what God is thinking about our puny efforts to inhabit space. It seems that man's current efforts are an attempt to prove that God is not, in fact, the creator. Man seems bent on finding life in space in order to validate his own theories of beginnings without including God in his thinking. How much longer God will tolerate such silliness is the stuff of speculation regarding end times and how the prophecies of Scripture relate to our times. Could it be that we will be the generation that gets to see the return of Christ?

What then is the mandate for man in order to relate to God? The prophet Micah wrote that God has made it clear to those who are willing to listen and to be obedient. ***He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8 NKJ)*** Since the children of Israel, Micah's audience, were remiss in their acknowledgement of God and His law and were told that sacrifices and offerings could not overcome the transgressions of which they were guilty. They, as a people, were not showing mercy, walking in humility before God, nor were they

living in a just manner. They were guilty of dishonest dealings, violence, lies, and were facing judgement for their sins.

In our modern world we have become arrogant to the point of eliminating God from our thinking. We have replaced the Creator with the false religion of evolution. We have exchanged mercy for violence, honesty for deception, and God has been replaced by those which are not gods, though we worship them as if they were. The result? We are very likely facing God's immediate judgement upon our land. Paul explains that when men suppress the truth, God brings His wrath to bear on those who have rejected Him, so the expectation of His judgement is well nigh. God is not impressed with our Space Program. He is not impressed with our pseudo-scientific reasons for rejecting Him as the Creator. In much the same manner as when He intervened at the Tower of Babel, when mankind decided that they could ignore Him and His commandments, He will one day declare that we have taken one step too many in our pursuit of our own lust-driven ambitions. The result will be His judgement.

When the Russian space program sent a man into orbit, one of the cosmonauts declared that God wasn't out there because, though he looked, he did not see Him. Clearly this was a testimonial about his own blindness rather than God's absence. Since the tower in Babel, men have tried to prove themselves while attempting to disprove the very God that created them, and always without success. The corridors of Hell will be filled with such men.

What about each of us then? Have we, without discernment, let ourselves be deceived into rejecting God in favor of a humanistic explanation for creation? Have we believed the lie and in doing so sacrificed our relationship with God? Have we declared ourselves to be wise and have we instead become fools worshipping the creation rather than the Creator? The Tower of Babel became a metaphor of man's blind ambition to be like God even as Eve was told she would be if she would only disobey God's plan in favor of her lusts. What would be our "Tower of Babel", our source of rebellion? Is it fame, power, social position, or is it just going along with the crowd who are lost because of their rejection of God's plan for salvation? Let's just, instead of becoming foolish, learn to acknowledge and serve the Savior. No need to build towers then. **Pastor Doug**