

Confusion of Tongues

Unchanging Man

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So it begins again, as man now for the second time, starts to rebound from his wickedness as well as God's devastating judgment. Yet the children of Noah find themselves repeating man's brief history by dismissing God's commands and seeking to glorify themselves rather than God.

As we'll see, much of the dilemma lies within verse four of Genesis chapter 11. In general, there are four significant issues which are revealed in this single verse.

First and primarily acting as a catalyst, they state, "let us build us a city and a tower", which was the foundation of the coming judgment. We see here that their primary focus initially, was that they sought to build upon their own power and desire, THEMSELVES a city and a tower. Not having been commanded by God or even seeking the Lord's will, they set off on a course that would prove to be erroneous.

The remaining three problems all seem to encompass the reasoning and motivation behind their actions.

The second problem, and first motivation, is that they sought to "reach unto heaven". Beginning with Lucifer and followed by many, it seems that mankind still seeks to reach the gates of heaven upon their own merit or labor. It appears to be the case here as well. Since the next problem only magnified their current dilemma, which was that they believed their works were going to make them famous.

The third problem, as well as the second motivation, was that they sought to “make us a name”. Simply as has been stated, they purposed to glorify themselves and elevate their own stature among the known world.

I believe that the final problem and motivation sums up not only the underlying circumstances, but also the problem that most often drives man from God, and always separates Him from us. It states that their third purpose was to strengthen themselves together, so as to decrease the possibility of their being “scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth”.

There are two issues that are still at the heart of man’s fall: pride and disobedience. The issue of pride is seen clearly in each of their motivations. However, we also see that ultimately their disobedience was manifested and thus drove their pride. God told Noah and his children to “be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.”, and yet they sought to bind themselves together, in direct disobedience.

As a result of man’s sin, God’s grace, mercy and longsuffering are once again revealed, as He simply “confounded their language” and “scattered them abroad” and yet again gave man the opportunity to repent.

Man never changes, and thankfully neither does the Lord Jesus Christ.

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