

### THE ORIGIN OF NATIONS (#3)

During the months of May and June we will be studying a special series entitled the “Antiquity of Nations”.

Lesson #1	Origin of Nations	Gen.10:32
Lesson #2	Table of Nations	Acts 17:26
<b>Lesson #3</b>	<b>Babel Internationalism</b>	<b>Gen.11:1-9</b>

Today’s lesson text is often taught in our children’s church. The city-tower of Babel was built by Nimrod a Hamitic Cushite (Gen.10:8-12) “The first centers of his kingdom were Babel (Babylon), Erech, Akkad, and Calneh **in Shinar.**” (Gen.10:10)

While the building of the city-tower of Babel is an important lesson, the part of importance for this lesson is the **divine judgment** of scattering the descendants of the three sons of Noah throughout the earth and diversifying their languages – “That is why it was called Babel – because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.” (Gen.11”9, NIV)

We will examine our lesson text by the following five homiletical points.

- Speech universal (Gen.11:1) One languages
- Settlers at Shinar (Gen.11:2) One world government
- Structural wonder (Gen.11:3-4) One city-tower
- Schemers against God (Gen.11:5-6) One evil-minded
- Segregated by languages (Gen.11:7-9) One sovereign Lord

**This lesson will study five aspects of the city-tower of Babel becoming the symbol of the evil of internationalism in the postdiluvian civilization.**

#### **1. We will begin by mentioning three significant historical facts about the city-tower of Babel.**

- The city-tower of Babel became a religious symbol of revolt against God and His plan.
- The city of Babel became the capital of internationalism under the dictatorial leadership of Nimrod.
- Nimrod became the prototype of spirit of antichrist. The city-tower of Babel was built in defiance of God and His plan in Christ
  - “Who is a liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.” (1 John 2:22; Gen.11:5-9)

#### **2. Most biblical scholars agree that the city-tower of Babel was a religious temple around which a metropolitan ancient Babylon was built.**

“Come, let us build **for ourselves** a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make **for ourselves** a name.” (Gen.11:4)

**Here are a few of the extra-biblical literature dealing with this subject.**

- Book of Jubilee records that it took 43 years to build it to a height of 8150 feet (10:20-21).
- Book of Apocalypse of Baruch records its height as 694.6 feet (3:5-8).
- Josephus quotes unnamed sources that record the spiral path of the tower was wide enough for lodging for the workers and animals used in its construction.
- Dr. Livingstone told of a common story among the Africans of the great tower whose builders had their heads cracked by the falling of the scaffoldings (Missionary Travels, chap.26).

- One story out of central America tells of Montezuma escaping the great flood and later built a house reaching to heaven but the Great spirit destroyed it by thunderbolts (Bancroft, vol.3, pg.76)
- Babylonian and Assyrian kings prided themselves upon the heights of temples and boasted of having made their tops as high as heaven (Archaeology of OT by Unger, pg.100)

It shouldn't surprise us that the Hamitic people would keep this story alive in their history.  
(Origin of Nations Lesson #2 by Ron Adema).

### 3. The city-tower of Babel was built in the land of Shinar by Nimrod (Gen.11:2; 10:8-10).

- Babel became the greatest of the four religious cities of Shinar.
- "Shinar was the old name for south Babylon. It was the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. In Babylonian language, it is called Sumer or the Sumerian." (Hebrew and English Lexicon by Brown and Briggs, pg.1042)
- The Sumerian is one of the oldest cultures recorded in the secular history of the postdiluvian civilization.
- Prior to the divine judgment upon the city-tower of Babel, the world's population:
  - Used the same language (Gen.11:1) [phonology and linguistic]
  - The same words (Gen.11:1) [alphabet and vocabulary]
  - Were of the same family (Gen.11:6; 10:5, 20, 32).

Nimrod extended his kingdom from Shinar to Assyria by force. (Gen.10:8-9) [mighty hunter]

- "From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Ninevah and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah, and Resen between Ninevah and Calah; that is the great city." (Gen.10:11-12)

### 4. Under the leadership of Nimrod, the people developed furnace brick and tar mortar for the building of the first structural wonder of the postdiluvian world, the city-tower of Babel.

"Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly. And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar." (Gen.11:3)

- "The low firing temperature of the bricks (550-600 degrees C) resulted in high porosity; thus the mastic was freely absorbed and gave such strength that the walls made of it are stronger than rock or any kind of iron." (Singer, The History of Technology)
- The city-tower of Babel was a monument to the energy of the flesh and genius of old man cosmos diabolicus in revolt against faith in Christ, which is required for a relationship with God.
- "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; **no one** comes to the Father, but through Me." (John 14:6)

### 5. Abraham was raised in Ur of Shinar. The third dynasty of Sumero-Akkadia kingdom provided the education, culture, and religion of Abraham (Gen.11:31; Josh.24:2)

- "At Ur, the birthplace of Abraham, the god was Nanner and his holy shrine was set on the topmost stage." (Unger Bible Dict., pg.115)
- King Ur-Nammu was the prominent figure of this period. Like Nimrod, he also built a powerful and wealthy empire. He built a famous ziggurat temple in Ur (200 ft.high and 150 ft. wide and 70 ft. high with walls 8 foot thick). It was referred to as the high place for pagan worship. It was an artificial hill made by man with a staircase towards heaven and in honor of the god Nanner.
- Listen Paul's description of Abraham's salvation testimony – "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, All the nations shall be blessed in you." (Gal.3:8)
- "Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." (Gal.3:6)
- "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as referring to many, but rather to ONE, 'and to your seed,' that is **Christ**." (Gal.3:16)