

Morning Sermon January 24, 2021

"The Calling Out of Abram" – Genesis 11:1-9; 12:1-3

I. *What was Abram called out of? Called away from?*

We have skipped ahead again, what have we sped past?

1. *Noah's drunkenness –*

²⁰ And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹ Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.

Genesis 9:20–21 (NKJV) *Even Noah was a sinner!*

2. *Ham's disrespect for his father and the curse of Canaan, Ham's son – Genesis 9:22-25*

He saw his father's nakedness, Noah was drunk and lying naked, he should have just covered his father's nakedness –

⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8 (NKJV)

But he tells his brothers instead, they cover their father without looking, but in the end Canaan, Ham's son is cursed!

3. *Chapter 10 is Noah's genealogy, notable among Noah's descendants is Nimrod –*

⁸ Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD."¹⁰ And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Genesis 10:8–10 (NKJV)

In chapter 10 we read of the dividing of the nations, ... according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations. Genesis 10:20

4. *Chapter 11 is an explanation of this division –*

We know the account of the Tower of Babel, so here I will provide only a summary, adding a little bit to a diagram provided by R. Kent Hughes. My words are in the bold, the diagram is provided by Hughes, the words (not in bold) are part of Scripture, part of Genesis 11 – In fact my words are based on Scripture too -

A "The whole earth had one language" (v 1)
B "there" (v. 2) **(they dwelt in the land of Shinar)**
C "each other" (v 3) **(they said to each other)**
D "Come, let us make bricks" (v 3) **(man speech)**
E "let us build for ourselves" (v 4)
F "a city and a tower"
G "the LORD came down ... " (v 5)
F¹ **(to see)** "the city and the tower"
E¹ "which mankind had built"
D¹ "come ... let us mix up" (v 7) **(Godhead speech)**
C¹ "each other's language"
B¹ **(The LORD scattered them)** "from there" (v 8)

A¹ **(b. the LORD confused)** "the language of the whole earth" (v 9)

Hughes diagramed Genesis 11:1-9 the way he did to show us how carefully, and poetically Moses structured this chapter. I believe Moses structured this portion of Genesis this way for emphasis! Men's unity in sin was WRONG! They were aiming for fame –

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 11:4 (NKJV)

They were saying to themselves; our name be hallowed, and our kingdom come! It is a theme we will see from Genesis to Revelation, man's kingdom, symbolized by 666 – Man, Man, Man vs God's Kingdom 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls –

Just as God frustrated man's efforts by confusing their languages, for the longest time he has frustrated man's ungodly goals with –

A. War - Revelation 6:3-4 B. Economic disparity and poverty - Revelation 6:5-6 C. Death in general, including disease – Revelation 6:7-8

All this to allow God's church to grow! Revelation 6:1-2

It is Babylon, starting with Babel vs the New Jerusalem, beginning with the call of Abram –

5. *Babylon like Babel's tower will fall -*

⁸ And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Revelation 14:8 (NKJV)

6. *Babylon is the Mother of Harlots, the New Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ –*

A. *Harlots -*

⁵ **And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH Revelation 17:5 (NKJV)**

B. *Bride -*

² **Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Revelation 21:2 (NKJV)**

Babel tries to build a tower up to Heaven, the New Jerusalem comes down out of Heaven -

⁴ **And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.**

⁵ **For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Revelation 18:4–5 (NKJV)** *There it is a tower of sin, the achievement of the DREAMS of Babel! One day there will be ungodly unity and in that day saints will seem defeated, as the Beast, inspired by the Dragon, Satan will rule the world –*

⁷ **It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. Revelation 13:7 (NKJV)**

II. *The beginning of the church, with Abram, called away from an ungodly world, called to great and gracious blessings –*

12 Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12:1–3 (NKJV)

1. *The beginning of blessing starts with separation, even from family, from his father’s house ... Luke 14:25-27*

2. *This implies that the world had corrupted itself again, the frustration of language was merely to slow down sin, however sin is not stopped, and so Abram is called out – 1 John 2:15-17*

A. *We see a pattern throughout Scripture –*

Judges 2:7 (NKJV) becomes Judges 2:10-11 *People tend to go from faithful to faithless, without abiding in Christ we fail, our children tend to fail –*

⁵ **“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (NKJV)**

B. *We see it in history and church history –*

3. *Abram’s restart group is maybe even smaller than Noah’s –*

⁴ **So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. Genesis 12:4–5 (NKJV)** *Lot separates from Abram and needs to be rescued twice, once by Abram and once by God’s angels. He is called “righteous Lot” yet his closeness at times to the ungodly made his life difficult!*

4. *Abraham is called God’s friend -*

A. *(Jehoshaphat’s prayer) –*

⁷ **Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? 2 Chronicles 20:7 (NKJV)**

B. *By God Himself -*

⁸ **“But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend. Isaiah 41:8 (NKJV)**

C. *By James –*

²³ **And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*” And he was called the friend of God. James 2:23 (NKJV)**

⁴ **Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4 (NKJV)**

²⁹ **And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:29 (NKJV)**

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