

GENESIS 11

Expounding God's Word

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KEYWORD

REVERANCE

God (Plural)
God (Singular)
LORD
GOD
Lord
lord
El Olam
Bara
Asah
Beth
Numbers

Elohim (The Trinity)
El
Jehovah & or Yahweh (YHWH)
Jehovah & or Yahweh
GOD the Master (Kurios), Adonai
Man the Master
Everlasting God
God creating from nothing
God making or assembling from existent materials
House

- 1 - Unity between God the Father & His Son Jesus (John 10:30)
- 2 - Represents union, division, and verification
- 3 - Harmony, New Life & completeness (467 times)
- 4 - Creation & The creative ability of God.
- 5 - God's grace, goodness and favor toward humans (318)
- 6 - Imperfection of man and the sin and weakness he has
- 7 - Perfection
- 8 - New beginnings
- 9 - Divine completeness or conveys the meaning of finality (49)
- 10 - God's authority, completeness, order, and divine perfection
- 11 - Disorder, chaos and judgment (11 - 24 & "11th" - 19)
- 12 - God's power and authority (187)
- 13 - Rebellion
- 40 - Represent completeness or wholeness.

Keywords

“create” (bara), “make” (asah), and “form” (yatsar). In Isaiah 43:7 – All the three are used.

Jehova means the becoming one as God relates to man and man's needs and becomes to man whatever man may need

PRAYER

Father we thank you for the privilege of studying your word together.

Thank you for the records Jesus, that lead us to you and eternal life in you.

Jesus let thy Holly spirit now implant upon our hearts your truths.

Thank you Jesus that revelation knowledge will flow freely, uninterrupted & un-hindered by satanic or demonic forces.

In Jesus's name and everybody say Amen!

GENESIS 11

REVIEW

It's about 4 generations after the flood and the population of the earth was still small. The building of the Tower of Babel is just a little over 100 years after the flood.

Genesis 11 contains 3 sections:

1. The story of the Tower of Babel
 2. The genealogy from Shem to Abram, and
 3. A description of the life of Terah, Abram's father.
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As the families of Noah's children Shem, Ham, and Japheth grew, they continued to live together as a community with one language and one culture.

Eventually, they moved to the area known as Shinar and began to build a massive city Babel, later to be called Babylon (Later, when the Israelites came into conflict with the powerful Babylonians, the name of this city was a reminder that God's power was far greater than the plans and might of mere human beings) with a huge tower that would always direct them back to the city so as not to get scattered or lost upon the face of the earth. In doing this the people disobeyed God's command to "fill the earth".

Some scholars believe the building of the tower was an attempt to evade a future flood from God, or possibly as a symbol of man's power.

God acknowledged that nothing would be impossible if they continued to operate as one people with one language.

This comment has been interpreted in various ways, but seems to follow the same line of thought God used prior to the flood:

Left alone, mankind can find a way to commit any act of evil imaginable.

To prevent this, God confused and dispersed the people. (The engineers, foremen and builders could no longer understand each other)

The second section of the chapter provides a simple genealogy from Noah's son Shem to Abram, showing specifically how God's people descended in a direct line from one to the other.

This genealogy also shows that the lifespans of men quickly decreased after the flood, from nearly a thousand years, to several centuries, to roughly a century by the time of Abram.

The final section of the chapter sketches out the life of Abram's father Terah and his family, including Abram's two brothers, his wife, and his nephew.

Together, the family moved from Ur, in what is now southern Iraq, some 600 miles closer to Canaan, settling in Haran.

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GEN 11: 1-2

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech

(Probably Hebrew because in the earlier records of Genesis, the names of the people were Hebrew names that have Hebrew meaning and so the original language was perhaps the Hebrew language itself),

and it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east,

(Some translate that as being eastward; because, if they were coming from the east then Mount Ararat would not have been in the location that it is today)

that they found a plain in the land of Shinar;

(Shinar is the region where Babylon will be established)

and they dwelt there.

While it sounds wonderful for mankind to be united in culture and language, human sin makes this a dangerous condition. As shown prior to the flood in Genesis 6:5, mankind's natural habit is towards depravity. The need to restrict man's cooperation with man, at least to some extent, is a major reason for God's actions in this chapter

GEN 11: 3a

And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly.

(Or Bake them thoroughly)

Since they did not have a lot of stones to build with, there on the plains, they decided to make bricks.

They made such good bricks that many of the structures, built at that time are still standing today. After the confusion, mentioned here in Chapter 11, they went ahead and completed it.

In fact, there are those who believe they have found the Tower of Babel. It was a ziggurat, which is, an ancient Mesopotamian temple tower consisting of a lofty pyramidal structure, built in successive stages with outside staircases and a shrine at the top.

The intention of building the tower was to follow the Zodiac and to communicate with heaven or have understanding of the heavens. It was really a perversion of the astrological message that God had placed in the stars.

However according to the historian Josephus, Nimrod revenged on God by building a tower too high for the waters to reach should he flood the world again

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I shared more details in Episode 10.

GEN 11: 3b

And they had brick for stone, and slime

(Slime was a tar-like substance or asphalt. Tar was made from bitumen, a natural, waterproof mortar. More in Genesis 6:14 & Exodus 2:3)

had they for mortar.

This asphalt for mortar is what triggered the brain of John Rockefeller in thinking, **“If there is asphalt, there must be oil.”** That is why Standard Oil Company began exploring for oil in the region of Iraq and tremendous oil deposits were found in the Middle East.

Now scholars suggest there is wordplay going on in these verses, connecting the words for these building materials to the name of Babel.

In addition, Israelite readers would have likely been interested to know that these ancient people used bricks while they themselves often used stone for building.

GEN 11: 4

And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower,

(They wanted to build this tower as a place of worship. There are many ruins of these towers still standing today in the area of Iraq and Iran)

whose top may reach unto heaven;

(According to the historian Josephus, Nimrod revenged on God by building a tower too high for the waters to reach should he flood the world again.

However, it would also seem that the intention of building a tower this high was to follow the Zodiac and to communicate with heaven or have understanding of the heavens.

Now it is very possible that originally God placed the Stars in heaven for signs and that the gospel, the virgin, the lion is actually given in the zodiac.

But as Satan has always taken the things of God and twisted them and perverted them from the original message that God has placed there in the heavens of his plan for the ages, there's that perversion of it that has come to be known as the modern astrology which began at this time.

Now it would seem that the Magi in Matthew 2:1–12 who came from the East to find the Christ child were reading the heavens correctly. (We have seen his star in the east we've come to worship him).

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And that they were reading truly the signs that God has placed there. Now the Bible says that God has placed the stars for signs and four seasons.

And indeed it is very possible that originally there was the message of God in the Stars but has been perverted into the so called modern astrology in which they look at the stars for the influence over their lives rather than looking to God.

God saw that their minds were against Him and that they were seeking other gods)

and let us make us a name,

(They did not acknowledge God in any way or seek His help and as such God found this to be arrogant and dangerous)

lest we be scattered

(The idea was to form a community so that they would not be scattered abroad in which they would be rebelling against God's command of filling the earth.)

abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

GEN 11: 5-6

And the LORD (aka Jesus) came down to see

(Another case where we are trying to describe God's actions using our limited human terms. God is omnipresent and as such he was watching this thing all the way)

the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one,

(Most likely, the people recognized that there was power and safety in their unity. If they could remain one people, they would be stronger and safer)

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.

So soon after the flood, they had degraded into the worship of false gods and as such we see the development of a religious system.

Babylon was the source of all false religions. As a result, the term Babylon is synonymous with a false religious system. In Revelation 17:4-5, Babylon is called the "mother of harlots."

GEN 11: 7-9

Go to, let us

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(Similar language is used in Genesis 1:26 and 3:22. God is speaking to Himself within the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)

go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

(People who speak different languages have an immediate barrier to communication, making it harder to cooperate)

So the LORD scattered them abroad

(Naturally people separated into groups, based on those languages)

from thence upon the face of all the earth;

(In fulfilment of God's intent for man after the flood to fill the earth)

and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel;

(The word "babel" has come to mean "confusion," for the Lord confounded their language and scattered them over the face of the earth.)

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.

The motive behind the building of the tower of Babel was to show others (and God) that man could attain greatness by himself, and that he doesn't need God.

The tower was a metaphor for the idea that man could reach heaven without God's help.

The word "babel" could also mean another gate or God, which is a metaphor for another way into heaven.

Instead of relying upon the LORD to get into heaven, the tower of babel symbolized the idea of another way of sneaking into heaven, by man's works and not by the works of the LORD (by His grace, through Jesus Christ).

Clearly there is no backdoor into heaven. There is only one way into heaven, and that is by God's grace, through the redemptive works of Jesus Christ on the cross. It is Jesus' final atoning sacrifice on the cross that erases all of our sins, thereby allowing us to enter into heaven.

So in response, God confounded their languages and caused them to disperse throughout the world.

Why do this?

Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden because they desired to be more than they are, to become as gods.

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We see in this lust for power, a parallel with the devil or Satan who wanted to not only be God, but also be higher than God.

The tower of babel reveals the dangers of a single human authority figure. All of the people were under a single dictator Nimrod. So that if that dictator became evil, then evil would disseminate throughout all people.

However, as the people formed into nations and distributed across the world, under multiple leaders and kings, this made it much more difficult for the entire world to become evil via a single corrupt leader.

This is the same reason why Jesus called for the formation of multiple, independent churches not under a single authority. This would help prevent the corruption of all churches, by poisoning a single authority that dictates all churches under a single authority structure.

So, there was the confusion of the language and the scattering of the people over the face of the earth.

There are those who believe that it is quite possible that at this time the earth was divided or that the continental separation (commonly called the “continental drift”) happened at this time.

We know that shortly after this period, many advanced forms of civilization sprung up, all over the earth, and varied techniques of building were used that are still a marvel today.

The pyramids of Egypt were built shortly after this time and are still an engineering marvel. Experts have figured that the great pyramid was built about the time of Abraham.

About this same period of time, the Indians were building pyramids over in Central America and Southern Mexico and their architectural style corresponded somewhat with those in Egypt.

These engineering marvels have created great curiosity among scholars. Each of the nations, as they were scattered, carried their own stories of the flood and thus you find records of a great flood, universally throughout the world.

Earlier, we read some of the genealogies of Ham and Japheth and they had nothing to do with the coming Messiah.

Now we are going to narrow down our genealogical trail and follow the family of Shem from which will come Abraham, from which will come the Messiah.

The Bible was not intended to be a genealogical record of all the various tribes and families. It follows some of them for a few generations and then drops them.

We are only interested in the line which leads us to Jesus Christ and all of the others can be set aside.

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Later on God tells us the Messiah will be from the line of David, the line of Judah, etc. God keeps narrowing down the line so that we don't have to trace a lot of genealogies.

It would be difficult for a person to lay a claim to being the Messiah, today.

He would have to prove that he was of the tribe of Judah, the family of Jesse and that he was from the house of David, in order, to have a legitimate claim to being the Messiah.

Since the time of Christ, there have been no genealogical charts kept; so, they cannot really trace their roots.

He would have to prove that he was from the tribe of Judah and the house of David; therefore, he could not lay an indisputable claim to being the messiah. God didn't see any need to keep the records once Christ was born.

See: The Prophecies of the Messiah“

GEN 11: 10-11

These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad

(He's the 3rd son of Shem. His name appears 10 times in Scripture that's in Genesis, 1 Chronicles and Luke. He died at the age of 438 years (Genesis 11:10-13; 1 Chronicles 1:17-18; Luke 3:36). He lived in Mesopotamia, and became, according to the Jewish historian Josephus, the progenitor of the Khaldis, which he identified as the Chaldeans)

two years after the flood; And Shem lived after he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.

There are ten generations from Shem to Abraham and we find that Shem lived up to the time that Abraham was approximately 58 years old. One interesting fact is that Shem lived to see his children to the ninth generation.

GEN 11: 12-25

And Arphaxad lived five and thirty years, and begat Salah: 13: And Arphaxad lived after he begat Salah four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters.

(Adding the numbers together, Arpachshad lived to be 438 years old)

14: And Salah lived thirty years, and begat Eber:

(The Eberites and their descendants became a well-known people as seen in Numbers 24:24)

15: And Salah lived after he begat Eber four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters.

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(As with other verses, this statement supports a rapid decline in human lifespans after the flood)

16: And Eber lived four and thirty years, and begat Peleg:

(Peleg's name comes from a word that means "to divide." Genesis 10:25 tells us that in Peleg's time the earth was divided, likely referring to the dispersion of the peoples that happened after God confused the languages in Babel)

17: And Eber lived after he begat Peleg four hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters. 18: And Peleg lived thirty years, and begat Reu:

(The name Reu appears only here in the Old Testament, though it may be a variation on other names.)

19: And Peleg lived after he begat Reu two hundred and nine years, and begat sons and daughters.

(Adding the numbers together, Peleg lived to be 239 years old. We notice that the lifespans continue to decrease dramatically the farther we move from the flood.)

20: And Reu lived two and thirty years, and begat Serug:

(The name Serug may be associated with a place called Sarugi about 20 miles from Haran, where Abram's family will eventually settle)

21: And Reu lived after he begat Serug two hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters.

(Adding the numbers together, Reu lived to be 239 years old. This is a noticeably shorter life than his grandfathers, such as Shelah and Eber)

22: And Serug lived thirty years, and begat Nahor: 23: And Serug lived after he begat Nahor two hundred years, and begat sons and daughters. 24:

(Adding the numbers together, Serug lived to be 230 years old. Generations immediately following the Tower of Babel, such as those of Peleg, will live half as long as their predecessors. Their children will live even less than that)

And Nahor lived nine and twenty years, and begat Terah:

(At this point, the lifespans in Genesis have decreased to something similar to the modern pattern. The story of Terah and his son, Abram, will lead into the foundations of the nation of Israel. Soon, God will begin enacting His far-reaching plan to fulfill the promise of restoration made in Genesis 3:15.)

25: And Nahor lived after he begat Terah an hundred and nineteen years, and begat sons and daughters.

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(Adding the numbers together, Nahor lived to be just 148 years old, the shortest lifespan yet recorded following the flood.)

GEN 11: 26

And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

The line from Noah to Abraham (Abram) is now complete.

It follows through Shem to Arpachshad to Shelah to Eber to Peleg to Reu to Serug to Nahor to Terah and now to Abram.

The end of this genealogy includes the fact that Terah had three male children after living 70 years. In addition to Abram, one child is named after Terah's father and the other shares the name of the city Haran.

Abram's name apparently means something like "exalted father."

This is a major moment in the genealogy of mankind. Abram will later be renamed Abraham.

Abraham's relationship to God will be the cornerstone of three major modern world religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Abraham will be called by God (Genesis 12:1), and given special blessings (Genesis 12:2-3). His grandson, Jacob, will be renamed Israel, fathering the nation God will designate as His chosen people.

GEN 11: 27-30

Now these are the generations of Terah:

(It's not clear why the section is described as the generations of Terah, when the focus is almost entirely on the life of Abram)

Terah begat Abram, Nahor,

(Named after his own father. Joshua 24:2 reveals that Terah and his father Nahor worshipped false gods. Since both Ur and Haran are known to have been centres of moon worship, it's possible they worshiped moon gods)

and Haran; and Haran begat Lot.

(Abram's nephew, a man who will play a large role in Abram's story. Lot will also play a central role in one of the Old Testament's most dramatic incidents of divine judgment: the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18 & Genesis 19)

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And Haran died before his father Terah

(Haran, one of the three sons of Terah, died long before Terah did. At the time he died, the family home was in a region known as Ur of the Chaldeans, possibly in modern day southern Iraq.

Lot probably became attached to his uncle Abraham after the death of his father and Abraham, not having any children of his own, more or less adopted Lot and took care of him)

in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees.

(Since Terah named one of his sons Haran, and then later moved to Haran, some scholars speculate that Terah had moved to Ur of the Chaldeans from there before moving back again)

And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran,

(We find several complicated family relationships described in this verse.

First, Abram married Sarai. We know from Genesis 20:12 that Sarai was Abram's half-sister, the daughter of his father Terah, but not from the same mother.

Abram's brother, Haran, had died leaving behind two children: Milcah and Iscah. Abram's other brother Nahor married Haran's daughter Milcah the sister of Lot.

Later, God's Law for Israel would forbid marriages of family members so closely related. At this time, it seems, this was apparently a common practice and not forbidden by God)

the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. But Sarai was barren; she had no child.

(This brief verse sums up a driving force in the lives of Abram and Sarai. Later God will promise them a child. That promise will not be fulfilled for many years, and will test their faith deeply)

GEN 11: 31-32

And Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

No specific reason is given here for the family's migration from Ur. Terah, Abram, and the whole family left their home and headed for the land of Canaan.

While that was their intended destination, they never reached it. Instead, after traveling some 600 miles, they settle in Haran.

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Scholars speculate that perhaps Terah had lived in Haran previously, and was returning. This might have been inspired by Haran's death, something that Haran's son, Lot, supported.

Now we have, what appears to be, a discrepancy in the scripture; for, we read that Abraham was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran to go on to the land.

It would appear that Terah was seventy years old when Abraham was born, per verse 26, but it could be that Abraham was not the first born, but only listed first.

Haran may have been the first born and Abraham may not have been born until his father was one hundred and thirty-five years old.

In the Book of Acts, as Stephen is talking about this incident in Haran, Stephen tells us that they were there until Terah was dead and then after his death, Abraham went on to the "Promise Land."

If Abraham was born when Terah was seventy years old and left the city of Haran when he was seventy-five, that means that Terah was only about one hundred and forty-five years old and lived some sixty years after Abraham left.

This creates a problem, as you can see; but, there are two possible solutions:

(1) Abraham was not the first born son and Terah begat Abraham when he was one hundred thirty-five years old; and

(2) Stephen, referring to Terah being dead, was speaking of his spiritual condition and was referring to him being dead to God and the things of God. Abraham, finally realizing the spiritual deadness of Terah, left him in Haran and moved on to the land that God had promised.

Earlier in this chapter, we said that Babylon was the source of all false religions and the people had many gods.

Life is created, in a sense, through sexual union. Many of the worship services to these gods involved sexual rites.

They worshipped the goddess of the Moon and various other heavenly bodies; they also deified their kings.

Nimrod became Marduke and was one of the chief gods of the Babylonians.

In the worship of the moon goddess, Ishtar; temple priestesses, actually prostitutes, held various kinds of sexual rites and a woman belonging to that religion had to participate in these temple rites at sometime in her life.

This could be where the moon became associated with romance.

Terah, Abraham's father, was a worshiper of these early Babylonian practices.

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Ur of the Chaldees, birthplace of Abraham, was in the southern part of the Babylonian Plain.

The city of Haran might have been established by Abraham's brother, Haran.

Terah, in making the journey to Haran, could have had some business to take care of before going on to the "land of promise."

Another possibility, Terah may have insisted that Abraham go as far as Haran with him and then go on alone to Canaan.

Haran is approximately six hundred and ten miles from Ur of the Chaldees, which was a pretty good journey, in those days, considering there was no form of rapid transit.

If Abraham had gone from Ur of the Chaldees to Canaan, that would have been about a six hundred mile trip directly west, but instead he went northwest, a distance of six hundred and ten miles, with his father to Haran.

We can only speculate why they dwelt at Haran for this interval, because the scripture does not tell us.

The chapter ends by telling us that Terah lived to be 205 years old before dying in Haran.

We will start from Chapter 12 next week ...

IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR, I WANT YOU TO PRAY THIS PRAYER WITH ME RIGHT NOW

- Heavenly Father, I realize that I'm a sinner
 - But right now I repent of my sins
 - I make you my Lord
 - I receive the free gift of forgiveness of sin
 - I need you, Jesus
 - Be my savior
 - So right now I declare by faith that I am saved in Jesus' name. Amen & Praise God
-

If you just prayed that prayer with me online, please let us know through our website and we shall send you a free eBook as a gift to you today.

Otherwise, welcome to the family of God. Amen!

