

Cherished Bible Stories

Lesson 6



The Story Of The Scattering (Genesis 11)

Introduction

Doing some quick math, we learn it has been at least 101 years since the flood (Gen. 11:10-16; 10:25). Using assumptions as to how many children each generation had, some Bible commentators also surmise Noah's descendants numbered at least 30,000 when this story occurred [Keil & Delitzsch, Vol. 1, pg. 112]. No matter how many people were involved in Babel's tower, this story relates what happens when man desires one thing and God has demanded something else.

Read the story and be prepared to answer the following questions.

- 1) How are the earth's inhabitants described? (v. 1)

- 2) After journeying east (v. 2), what did they decided to do? (vv. 3-4a) What attitude did they express as the motivation for their decision? (v. 4b) What other passages from the O.T. or N.T. can you find that address this "attitude?"

- 3) What other problem do you see re: their decision to not be scattered? (cp. 1:28; 9:1)

- 4) How did God respond to their decision? (v. 5) Did He "come down to see the city" because He did not know what was going on? (Psa. 139:1-12; Heb. 4:13) If not, then why would He "come down?" (cp. 3:8)

- 5) What did God recognize about the people? (v. 6a) What does He also say about the "strength of unity?" (v. 6b)

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- 6) Reconsider v. 1 along with v. 6. Also read **Jn. 17:21**, **1 Cor. 1:10**, & **Phil. 2:1-2**. After considering all these passages, what lesson(s) can we learn or be reminded of?

- 7) What did God decide to do? (v. 7)

- 8) What happened in v. 8a? Considering again **1:28** & **9:1**, does this “scattering” teach us anything about the certainty of the word of God? (cp. **Isa. 55:8-11**)

- 9) **APPLICATION** – thinking about **Rom. 14:10b-12**, what “certainty” do we all face? What does this say to unbelievers?

- 10) Obviously, what else stopped? (v. 8b)

- 11) What did this place come to be called and why? (v. 9)