

Globalism

Our Biblical Worldview – part 4

(Tower of Babel—Genesis 11)

September 27, 2020

DAY 1: What is “globalism”? Why does this matter?

1. One of the strong movements at American universities, the “elites”, and among about half of our politicians is “globalism”. The term globalism means different things to different people. Here are a few examples.

a. In the business world it means expanding markets, greater opportunities to sell products.

b. To workers, it usually means having my job shipped overseas.

c. To a lot of people it means the world has “shrunk,” in the sense that we can travel and communicate easily with the vast majority of the world.

d. In the **philosophical and political science world** “**globalism**” is the “virtuous, good guy” that can save us, and “**nationalism**” is the “evil, bad guy” that produces misery. To this group, nationalism is something that must be destroyed.

2. Is this idea of globalism a good idea? Is nationalism really something evil?

3. This question is at the root of much modern debate in our country. It relates to all of the following:

a. Is it good for a country to have borders or are borders evil?

b. Is it good to have a citizenship, or should anyone who comes here be a citizen?

c. Is a legal immigration policy a good thing or is it an evil thing?

d. Are our border agents heroes or villains? Should ICE be abolished?

4. This week’s biblical story gives us insight into what makes something good or evil.

Genesis 11:1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ² As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. ³ They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Genesis 11:5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. ⁶ The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." ⁸ So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ 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.

5. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 2: Tower of Babel: WHAT are they doing? And WHY?

Genesis 11:1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ² As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. ³ They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.

1. What is the situation in “*the whole world*” in verse 1?
2. Do you smell anything fishy at the beginning of this story? (Verses 2-3)
3. When we come to verse 4, we find out A LOT of information about WHAT they wanted to do and WHY they wanted to do it!

Genesis 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

4. Let's look at the **WHAT**, first. What are the things they wanted to do?
5. People have built cities and sky scrapers. Are these necessarily good or bad things?
6. Now let's look at the **WHY**. Why did they want to build a city and a tower that reached to the heavens?
7. Let's look at the main two reasons given for building the city and tower that reaches to the heavens. Under each of them, jot down what strikes you about their reasons and motivations.
 - a. “*That we may make a name for ourselves...*”
 - b. “*and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.*”
8. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 3: Tower of Babel: Rebels and Finaglers

Genesis 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

1. These men lived within the generations of Noah's living sons. They knew about the worldwide flood from firsthand accounts, and likely could still see some of the devastation. They **knew** that the flood came as a result of **sin**.

2. They also **knew** what God had **commanded** human beings to originally do!

*Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; **fill the earth** and **subdue it**. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

3. God's will was for the people to populate the earth (*be fruitful and increase in number*) and to spread out (*fill the earth*).

4. But the people on the plains of Shinar rebelled against God's commands, and they did so with impunity.

a. They refused to *be scattered over the face of the whole earth*.

b. They wanted to *make a name for themselves*, a clear picture that the sin nature of man was still fully alive and working.

c. They also knew they were sinning against what God wanted. How do we know that? Let's go back to verse 3.

Genesis 11:3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.

5. They're question was simple. If God thinks we're sinning would He send another flood? Well, He could, but this time we'll outsmart Him!

a. They started building the city and the tower out of bricks instead of stone!

b. They used tar to waterproof the building and especially the tower!

c. They set out to build a tower so high that no flood could ever overtake it!

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 4: God intervenes!

Genesis 11:5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. ⁶ The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them."

1. There are times when collaborative effort accomplishes great things. But as we've already discovered at the beginning of this story great things were not being planned. Rebellion and defiance were being planned against the designs and purposes of God.

2. What God meant by "*nothing will be impossible for them,*" was this: no amount of **evil** will remain outside the "ability" of human beings to enact!

3. The principle of "synergy" does not just work in positive purposes. It also escalates negative purposes. (As an example, think of the stronghold the Mafia or drug lords have on cities and some nations). In the case before us the perpetrators were the government officials.

4. The principle is a simple one. Think of it as math addition equation:

Rebelling against God's design

+ Knowingly scheming against God's commands

+ Being driven by pride and ego

+ Adding a lot of people who are after the same things.

= The ERUPTION and DEEPENING of evil.

5. You may think, "Aren't you being a little overdramatic about this?" Consider what God did!

Genesis 11:7 "Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

Genesis 11:8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ 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.

6. God brought swift and immediate judgment that frustrated and finished off, at least for now, the growing ferocity of evil.

7. What is truly remarkable is that:

a. God frustrated and stopped every item they pursued God, AND

b. God got them to do what they should have done in the first place!

8. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5: God's judgment on a terrible (and far worse) idea

1. Over the course of world history what God warns us about in this story has been played out again and again with horrific, catastrophic and tragic results.
2. When political power is held by a small circle of people, and emboldened by many jumping on board (or acquiesce), the rest of the people are coerced, forced, imprisoned, sent to the gulags in Siberia, the ovens of Auschwitz, the killing fields of Cambodia or left to starve to death in the Ukraine.
3. The principle: Centralized power by the "elite" never ends well.

Genesis 11:7 "Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

Genesis 11:8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ 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.

4. The justice of God and the judgment of God are perfect, contrary to what the "elite" secularists would tell us. Notice how judgment is meted out.
 - a. What the leaders considered their greatest strength—unity—God destroyed by making it impossible to communicate. (v. 7, 9)
 - b. What was their greatest fear? Being scattered. That's what God did! (v. 8, 9)
 - c. What did they want the most? To "make a name for themselves." (v. 4). Ironically, they did just that but not in the way they intended. Every time a baby "babbles" it is reminiscent of what they men experienced at God's judgment of language.
 - d. The building of the city and tower stopped and they were scattered. Babel became a world class laughing stock!
 - e. Those who would "centralize power" in the face of God failed miserably.
5. For those who would seek to centralize political power, whether in a "one-world government," in communism or socialism the truths embedded in this story should instruct you that even if your intentions are good, you cannot bring about the utopia you imagine. Why? Because of our human sin nature.
6. What strikes you from the Tower of Babel story?