**Lessons for Today from the Tower of Babel**

I’ll admit it: I’ve never preached a lesson on Gen.11:1-9. I didn’t know quite what to do with it. Here’s an historical event which is surely significant to the course of human development, but other than explaining the *source* of divergent languages of men, and his subsequent *scattering,* what’s the application value? That when united, *“nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible”* for mankind from v.6? Surely that is not meant in the absolute sense (*batsar* {*baw-****tsar***}) here means *to cut off, fortify,* and thus *to make inaccessible* or *withhold, to restrain*)*.*  But then I began to ponder this passage a little more objectively and realized that **it contains some *universal truths* about man that are relative to every generation…**

1. **That there is tremendous *power* imbedded in *using the same language* and *the same words,* vv.1,6.** Here in this case, such was not a good thing, since it helped to prevent God’s purposes for man to *“fill the earth,”* cp. Gen.1:28; 9:7 and 11:4. But what if man, even now- thousands of years later, would *use the same language* and *words* ***of God****-* both in ***local congregations****,* and ***universally****,* cf. 1Cor.1:10; 1Pet.4:11; 1Thess.2:3-4,13; Titus 2:1,15? Religious *divisions* and *denominationalism* would disappear as we unite on a *“Thus says the Lord,”* and would, then, *nothing would be impossible for us,* cf. Gen.11:6,7? What if we *all* (*mankind* and *religious* folk) *spoke the same language* regarding:
	1. *God* of the Bible as *Creator, Sustainer, Law-Giver,* and eternal *Judge* rather than the *“so-called gods”* of man, 1Cor.8:5-6? Then everyone would *understand* our *origin, provision* (from God rather than *nature* or *ourselves*), and *purpose* in life! Which leads us to…
	2. *Believing God* and being a *believer?* As I’ve said many times, “There is a tremendous difference in *believing in God* (His existence) and *believing God* (His truthfulness enough to *obey* Him), cf. John 3:16,36; 8:31-31.
	3. *Repentance?* Rather than just being *sorry* for getting caught or *feeling bad* about the (personal) consequences of our actions, truly *changing* our *hearts, minds,* and *actions,* cf. 2Cor.7:9-11?
	4. *Baptism?* Methodists and Catholics *sprinkle-* even those too young to *believe* and *confess,* Baptists say it isn’t necessary but will do it if you insist, and a few others *immerse “for the remission of sins”* as Acts 2:38; 22:16 and 1Pet.3:21 say. What if we all simply read, believed, practiced, and taught what Jesus said in Mark 16:16?
2. **Man’s pride invariably winds up seeking to pervert God’s word/plan, v.4.** From the beginning, God wanted and commanded man to *“be fruitful and multiply, and* ***fill the earth****,”* cf. 1:28. Even after the destruction of the Great Flood, this same command was repeated, 9:7. But here in 11:4 we see how man’s pride and *self-promotion* perverted that plan. His intention was to, instead, *“build* ***for ourselves*** *a city, and a tower… and* ***a name****;* ***lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth****”* was in direct opposition to God’s intention for him. Is not the principle cause of the perversion of God’s plan still man’s pride? *Proud* man still wants to *“make a name”* for himself- individually or collectively, rather than being content with wearing *God’s name, Christian,* 1Pet.4:16. Because of such *pride,* some would even prefer to have *their names* become infamous than remain obscure. Our pride also pushes us to ***“build for ourselves”***rather than *for the Lord.* Thus, we build “churches” *for ourselves* that cater to our own *felt needs* and *desires,* cf. Phil.3:19; or *lives for ourselves* that please us rather than God. Through pride, what *we want* supplants what *God wants* both in “our” *lives* and *religion,* cf. Hag.1:4-5. Man’s *accomplishments-* whatever they may be or how far they reach, do not accomplish God’s *purposes,* cp. Luke 7:30 and John 11:47-48.
3. **God’s will ALWAYS prevails, v.9.** Think about this: God, *before the foundation of the world* (Eph.1:5), had a *plan to save man,* whom He had not yet created on the earth which He had not yet formed, by a Savior who would be *born in the fullness/at the proper time* thousands of years later (Gal.4:4). Throughout time, He *shaped* and *molded* human history- *individual* and *collective* (kingdoms and nations), until, *“at the consummation” of the ages Jesus* was *“manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself,”* Heb.9:26. Such was not a “Plan B, C, D, E, or F,”but *“predetermined plan”* based on omniscient *foreknowledge of God,”* Acts 2:23. No *flesh and blood***,** *ruler(s), power(s), world forces of darkness,* or *spiritual force of wickedness* (cf. Eph.6:12) could *alter* let alone *prevent* His plan’s maturation and fruition. God’s will ALWAYS prevails, Rom.9:19-21; Acts 5:38-39; 11:17. **The wise man**, understanding this, ***bends* (and *brakes* if necessary) *his will* to God’s** rather than **expecting and exerting himself to *bend God’s will* to his**. These *Babylonians* could have saved themselves a lot of “bother” by understanding this, cf. Dan.4:2,17,25,37. How much *planning* and *building* are you “working on” that contradicts God’s will and way, Jas.4:13-17? God’s will/way always prevails, Rom.14:11-12.

**Conclusions:**

* *“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scripture we might have hope,”* Rom.15:4. These Bible “stories” are there for a reason, and we had better *learn* and *heed* their message.
* There is **tremendous power for good in *unity****-* congregationally, nationally, and worldwide; but there is also **opposing power for evil in *division****-* from God, yes, but also from one-another, congregationally, nationally, and worldwide.
* Man’s pride always leads him to go against God’s will, but such will never prevail- not for the individual, the congregation, the nation, or the world, not ever.