

January 21, 2024

## “The Chief End of Man” Genesis 11:1-9

### Prel Rmks

LOGW ~ Tower of Babel ~ Title ~ Read

- (1) Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.
- (2) And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.
- (3) Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.
- (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."
- (5) But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.
- (6) And the LORD said, "Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.
- (7) Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."
- (8) So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.
- (9) Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

## INTRO

### 1. What is the chief end **purpose** of man?

Man's chief end is to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31),  
and to enjoy him forever (Ps. 73:25-26).

So, how are we doing in life? What is the true measure of how we are doing?

bank accounts ~ houses or land ~ cars ~ material possessions  
education ~ job, occupation, career ~ social status

**1 Corinthians 10:31** Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**Psalms 73:25-26** Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is none* upon earth *that* I desire besides You. **(26)** My flesh and my heart fail; *But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

Our lives are to be about God and His glory.

Understanding and applying this Biblical truth and command is **fundamental**, it is **foundational** to our sanctification.

**Luke 9:23** Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

God's design for His creation is that it will glorify Him and bring glory to Him, and that includes man – we are His creation. "It is He who has made us and not we ourselves."

One encouraging thought for us to hold on to is that, ultimately, God will be glorified by man on this earth. That's where everything is headed on this earth ...

**Habakkuk 2:14** For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.

**Isaiah 11:9** They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

Now where does this comes into play in our text today? ...

**Genesis 9:1** So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

**Genesis 9:7** And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."

**Genesis 1:28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it**; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

**God:** "This will bring glory to Me!"

**But what we find in our text is a completely different response by mankind!**

## I. Man's Desire to Glorify Himself 1-4

Man's rebellion against God's purpose and design for man.

Man's humanism – his pride – his worship of himself.

### (1)

Now the whole earth had one **language tongue** and one **speech one set of words**.

### (2)

And it came to pass, **as they journeyed from the east**,

that they found a plain in **the land of Shinar**,

southern part of modern day Iraq, north of Kuwait and the Persian Gulf

and they **dwelt settled** there.

### (3)

Then they said to one another, "**Come, let us** make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.

**Genesis 4:22** And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain *was* Naamah.

### (4)

And they said, "**Come, let us** build ourselves a city,

**Genesis 4:17** And **Cain** knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he **built a city**, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—**Enoch**.

and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens;

ziggurat – temple at the top – place for worship

not the worship of Yahweh –

Babylon is painted in Scripture as the source of all false worship

In Revelation: "Mother of Harlots"

Zodiac – stars, hosts of heaven, demons ... why not

let us make a name for ourselves,

PRIDE: “Look at our city! Look at our tower!”

“God, this is not for your glory. This is for our glory!”

They were out to thwart the will of God and to usurp the glory of God.

“We will not have you rule over us. We will be our own God!”

Today is National Sanctity of Life Sunday (Reagan 1984 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of January – Sunday closest to Roe v Wade in 1973)

This issue has been the continental divide in our society for the past 51 years.

Abortion = “I will be God in the matter of life / death!”

{News commentator: “The major issues in our culture today are theological issues.”} He was right:

Abortion ~ homosexuality ~ transgender movement

“I’LL BE MY OWN GOD!”

FAME – {William Howard Taft or Grover Cleveland}

lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

1. Here we are again ... it didn’t take long!
2. How long did it take? A few hundred years at the most.

Maybe only a hundred years:

**Genesis 10:25** To Eber were born two sons: the name of one *was* Peleg, **for in his days the earth was divided**; and his brother's name *was* Joktan.

It doesn’t take long for mankind to advance technologically.

It doesn’t take long for mankind to decline and degenerate spiritually and morally

They forgot the lessons of the flood.

Where was Noah? Did he stop preaching in his old age. Did he lapse in his fervor and his zeal?

Off-track again:

Adam & Eve ~ Days of Noah ~ Tower of Babel

Rest of Genesis ~ Rest of the OT

**Romans 1:18-25** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, **(19)** because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. **(20)** For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, **(21)** because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became **futile useless, worthless** in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **(22)** Professing to be wise, they became fools, **(23)** and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things **(ziggurats)**. **(24)** Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, **(25)** who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

### Man's Desire to Glorify Himself

## II. God's Purposes Will Stand 5-9

Not man's.

**(5)**

But the LORD **came down** to see the city and the tower which the sons of men **had built up until that point**.

**Psalms 2:1-4** Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? **(2)** The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, **(3)** "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." **(4)** He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision.

**(6)**

And the LORD said, "Indeed **the people are one** and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

This is just the beginning! They will cooperate in their godless plans and schemes ...

So, God has to intervene.

OUR GOD IS A GOD OF INTERVENTION!

(7)

Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

God does not like the "One World" imaginations of man – He considers is EVIL!

{World Economic Forum – Klaus Schwab ~ John Kerry ...}

Ends in Revelation 13 with the anti-Christ and one world government, one world economy, and one world religion

**God:** "Let's break this up. For their own good. It's not time for this yet."

(8)

So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.

(9)

Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth;

A word or some form of this word in every language – what are you babbling about.

and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

### God's Purposes Are Not Thwarted By Man's Proud Plans

**Proverbs 19:21** There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel—that will stand.

## Implications / Applications

### 1. God will not allow man to usurp the glory due to Him.

**Isaiah 48:11** ... I will not give My glory to another.

**Isaiah 42:8** I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

### 2. It is for our good and our best that we live for the glory of God and not for our own glory.

**Luke 9:24-25** For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. **(25)** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?

**3. The Gospel is primarily about the glory of God.**

**Romans 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**4. The earth is moving toward the day when God will be glorified in it by His creation.**

**Philippians 2:9-11** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **(10)** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, **(11)** and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Habakkuk 2:14** For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.