

The Day of the Lord

An Expository “Journey” Through the Prophecy of Joel

8- A “Magnificent Perplexity”; the End of the First Covenant and the Birth of the Church- Part 3

November 1, 2020

Joel 2:28-32

28 “It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.

29 “Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

30 “I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke.

31 “The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.

32 “And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the Lord has said, Even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.

To the Glory of God

The true Church in America is very weary with having Man and his relationships; and feelings; and self-concepts; and politics at the *center* of our Attention. We are bored with the very *un-amazing* results of standing in front of the mirrors of Psychology; Psychiatry; and Sociology- which focuses solely on ourselves. And we long to hold our eye to the telescope of *Theology*- and behold our God in His Glory.

And that isn't because we are intellectuals. And it isn't because we are academics. We long for this- because we are saved; and because we love Jesus; and because we believe the Bible to be true; and because we know that God's Hand is on our lives; and that He has called us to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

We know that untold numbers of our own puny personal problems

would be swallowed up- if we could but learn to stand atop Mount Zion and gaze at the God- Whose Purpose is to be glorified; and before Whose unutterable Majesty- every knee will bow- whether in Heaven or on the earth or under the earth.

So, my prayer, as we continue to study the **Book of Joel**- is that *we* might see God the way *Joel* saw God. And that the word will spread across this Gulf Coast, "*They have a big God at the Covenant of Peace Church.*"

And the first Lesson from the Prophet Joel for our Man-centered 21st Century is this:

From devouring locusts; to vanishing galaxies- God has a Purpose. And our God is absolutely determined to *achieve* that Purpose. And *nothing* will stop Him.

So, everything that God *says*; and everything that God *does*- is for that one single Purpose: that God alone would be known; and loved; and treasured; and worshipped; and enjoyed; and feared; and honored. And the summary of all of that is a single phrase: that God is *very serious* about His Own Glory.

So, the God, Who is revealed in Scripture; and Who made all things- is *white-hot* in His Passion to say and do all things- so that He alone will be glorified. And what Salvation does to people- is it causes them to unite with God- in accomplishing that one single Purpose.

So, everything here in **Joel** from the locust plague to the prediction of how the Holy Spirit will relate to God's people in the future- is about that one single Goal.

And knowing and believing and cherishing that- is what will lift us up out of the morass of our earthly and finite condition- with all of its various sub-sets- so that we may know God; love God; and enjoy Him forever.

Now I want to make clear what I am proposing about the Prophecy of Joel. I am Teaching at least five things about **Joel 2:28-32**:

1. It was completely and finally fulfilled in Jerusalem; on *that* day (the Day of Pentecost); with *those* people.
2. There is NO further fulfillment to come at some point in our future
3. What God *did* at the Tower of Babel He *undid* at Pentecost through the fulfillment of Joel's Prophecy
4. The fulfillment of Joel's Prophecy (through the Life; Death; and Resurrection of Jesus) brought the Levitical Priesthood to an end-thus ending the Old Covenant
5. The fulfillment of Joel's Prophecy (through Jesus) *birthed* the Church.

...and we already looked at the first two last time. So, today, I will get into #3 and, Lord willing, deal with the last two items next week.

Now this Prophecy that Joel uttered about 800-900 years before Jesus was born- is NOT mainly about God the Holy Spirit using different people; and different *categories* of people. It is mainly about the radical new way in which God the Spirit would dwell continually inside the bodies of ALL genuinely saved people in the infinitely superior New Covenant. And I cannot stress enough how important this is. And, of course, by default, that means that the fulfillment of the Prophecy of Joel (through Jesus)- is what brought about the end of the First or the Old Covenant and the birth of the Church.

3. What God sovereignly *did* at the Tower of Babel- He *undid* in the fulfillment of Joel's Prophecy at Pentecost

Now in order for us to understand one of the most important fulfillments of Joel's Prophecy- we need to do a little research. And this is going to take a little time, so please be patient with me. So, please read again what Dr. Luke wrote in **The Acts 2:5**:

Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.

Now remember, it is in **The Acts 2**, on the Day of Pentecost, where the Apostle Peter infallibly said that Joel's Prophecy was fulfilled. And in **The Acts 2:5**, Dr. Luke wrote that there were Jews, "**living in Jerusalem**". Now, according to history, this occurred every year at the time of the celebration of the *Feast of Weeks* or the *Feast of the Harvest*. So, every year, during that time- "devout Jews" made the trip to Jerusalem to obey God; and to keep the Feast- because they were *required* to go to Jerusalem- in order to keep this Feast.

Now the celebration of the *Feast of Weeks* (**Exodus 34:22**) or the *Feast of the Harvest* (**Exodus 23:16**) was the second of the top three Jewish holy days.¹ And the estimates were that about a million Jews flooded into Jerusalem at that time, every year, to keep this Feast. Now to be sure- some were not believers. But some were. Dr. Luke called these Jews, "**devout**". And that might NOT mean they were all saved. But to make that journey every year to keep that Feast showed a very high level of devotion to what God had given to Moses- because, at a minimum, this was very inconvenient.

¹ Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement); Passover; and the Feast of Weeks

Now many of these Jews would have entered the city several days or even weeks *before* the Feast actually began. And they would have to find lodging. Now some would have stayed with their families- but others would have to stay at the various inns that were common in Jerusalem- for just this purpose. So, when Dr. Luke says that these devout Jews, from all over the world, were “**living in Jerusalem**”- he meant that they were *temporarily* living there- due to keeping the Feast.

Now the phrase, “**from every nation under Heaven**” that Luke uses here might very well be a *literal* description. And those Jews, who had traveled to Jerusalem to keep the *Feast of Weeks* may actually have been every single nation on earth (under Heaven). But it is also possible that Luke was using “literary hyperbole” here to simply mean: *a lot of nations*.

Now why do I say that? Because in **The Acts 2:9-11a**- Luke gave us a list of the various nations that the Jews were from and it does NOT include all the languages that were present on the earth at that time². However, it is also very possible that this list of nations may simply be *representative* of all the languages of the earth at that time.

But whichever way it was- the fact that devout Jews from all over the world could now hear the Word of God (the Gospel) in their own language- is one of the most *amazing* fulfillments of this Magnificent Perplexity that we see in Joel’s Prophecy.

And in order to get the impact of this- we need to go back to the first Book of Moses- the **Book of Genesis**- and see what Moses wrote concerning a very unique time in human history.

Genesis 11:1-4

1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.

2 It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

3 They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn *them* thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.

4 They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

Now this is a time when the rebellion of Adam came to complete fruition. And notice what these people said in verse 4:

² Estimates range anywhere from 3,500 to 6,500 language in the world at that time.

Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth

Now there are some very interesting things about this Statement. First of all, the “**us**” here are the people that were stirred up to fight against God by a man named, “Nimrod”. And we see Nimrod from **Genesis 10:8&9**:

8 Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth.

9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord."

Now both Cush and Canaan were the sons of Ham (**Genesis 10:6**). And their father, Ham was one of the sons of Noah. It was Ham, who “saw his father’s nakedness” in **Genesis 9:22** and “told his brothers outside.”³ And when Noah found out about it- he cursed Ham’s descendant (Canaan)⁴.

Now look again what Moses infallibly wrote about Nimrod:

… he became a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord."

Now, the phrase, “**a mighty one in the earth**” here has to do with, not merely his *physical* abilities- but also his ability to *deceive* people

³ It is very possible that Noah’s “drunkenness” was inadvertent- in that there is no record of wine being produced until this moment; and until Noah drank too much- he was not aware of the danger. Most all of the ancient rabbinic Teaching against drunkenness use this account with Noah to warn others about “accidental drunkenness”. The phrase, “**his father’s nakedness**” in the original Hebrew refers to the genitalia (**Leviticus 18:1-30**). For Ham to have “**seen his father’s nakedness**” accidentally and involuntarily would not have been a Sin. But Ham seemed to delight in the sight. Some ancient writings suggest that Ham committed a sinful act on Noah as he lay helpless (castration/incest)- but those accounts cannot be proven. Moses went on to say, “**he told his brothers outside**”- meaning in public- out in the street. So, at best, this is Ham mocking Noah in a scornful and deriding manner- even though God had said, “**But Noah found favor in the Eyes of the Lord**”; and that “**Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.**” (**Genesis 6:8&9b**). This brought about the Curse that Noah placed on Ham’s posterity (**Genesis 9:25**). The ancient Babylonian historian, Berosus said that Ham became a magician and was celebrated as the Father of the Zoroastrians. Babylonian writings say that Ham was the “public corrupter of mankind”; and says that he “taught men to live as before the flood, to lie with mothers, sisters, daughters, males and brutes, and creatures of all sorts; and that he actually did so himself, and therefore was cast out by his father Noah, and got the name of “Chem, the infamous and immodest.” By any account- Ham appears to have been a very bad man, and probably rejoiced to find his father in an unbecoming situation.

⁴ I’m not sure why Noah did this. Canaan was the Father of the Amorites; Jebusites; Sidonians; and the Phoenicians, so it may have been a “prophetic curse” from Noah as these nations became horribly idolatrous and were the enemies of the descendants of Shem (Jews).

and to *persuade* them to follow him. The phrase, “**he was a mighty hunter before the Lord**”, in the original Hebrew⁵ literally means: “**in the face of Yahweh**”.

In other words, Nimrod operated *in opposition* to the Lord. So, Nimrod was a might hunter “*AGAINST the Lord*”; or Nimrod was might hunter “*in Yahweh’s Face*”. And that means that Nimrod’s prey would have been the souls of men. The Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus wrote,

“Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. He was the grandson of Ham, the son of Noah, a bold man, and of great strength of hand. He persuaded them not to ascribe it to God, as if it were through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power. He also said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to reach. And that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers. Now the multitude were very ready to follow the determination of Nimrod, and to esteem it a piece of cowardice to submit to God; and they built a tower, neither sparing any pains, nor being in any degree negligent about the work: and, by reason of the multitude of hands employed in it, it grew very high, sooner than anyone could expect; but the thickness of it was so great, and it was so strongly built, that thereby its great height seemed, upon the view, to be less than it really was. It was built of burnt brick, cemented together with mortar, made of bitumen, that it might not be liable to admit water. When God saw that they acted so madly, he did not resolve to destroy them utterly, since they were not grown wiser by the destruction of the former sinners; but he caused a tumult among them, by producing in them diverse languages, and causing that, through the multitude of those languages, they should not be able to understand one another. The place wherein they built the tower is now called Babylon, because of the confusion

⁵ גבר ציד לפני יהוה

of that language which they readily understood before; for the Hebrews mean by the word Babel, confusion ...”⁶

Now keep in mind that Josephus was NOT inspired. But what he wrote here is what the Jews believed. Now later on, Ezra infallibly wrote this in **1Chronicles 1:10**:

Cush became the father of Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

.. and in **Micah 5:6**, the Prophet equated the land of Assyria with the “Land of Nimrod”. Ancient Babylonian writings tell us that Nimrod was the first person to “codify” the false Mystery Religions of Babylon. Now to *codify* something is to write it down *systematically*- so that it can be taught to future generations and learned. And as he *continued* to be led by satan, Nimrod became the very *focus* of their worship- holding himself out to be a god.

Now there are many other things about Nimrod I could say- but suffice it to say that God did something about this great Evil:

Genesis 11:5-9

5 The Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

6 The Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

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

8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.

9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

Now many things flow out from language such as:

- National boundaries
- Culture

⁶ Flavius Josephus; *The Antiquities of the Jews*; page 37

- Human Government
- Man-made Religion

... so, by sovereignly “confusing their language” and by “scattering the people” based on those various languages- God set in motion a series of events that lasted until *that* day in Jerusalem when Joel’s Prophecy was fulfilled in **The Acts 2**.

So, this is the beginning of the establishment of the division of the people; and the creation of the various nations of the world, which all have unique cultures (and many times, unique religions); and which exist to house the various languages of the world. Remember what Moses wrote that existed just before this:

Genesis 11:1

Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.

Now we don’t know what language that was- but *before* God moved in Judgment- there was no Division based on language. None. And so, all the Division that is based on the earth having various languages- didn’t exist. So, before God sovereignly ended the building of the Tower of Babel- *everyone* spoke the same language. And everyone heard everyone else in the same language. And that made the world to be- one; unified; and together. And it made all the people on the earth to have “commonality” with each other.

So, everyone speaking and hearing in the same language was a *unifying* force that governed the entire world- until God stepped in and stopped it. And the Question is, “Why would God *purposefully* create this Division?”

I mean, there was any number of ways God *could* have stopped these people from exercising their rebellion and their building of this Tower. So, why would God *purposefully* confuse their language; which in turn created the various cultures and national boundaries that have existed now for millennium; which, in turn, have been the source of all the Tensions and Conflicts and Wars and Divisions and the Injustices and the inhuman Treatment that has become so common? This is truly a Magnificent Perplexity.

Now I don’t have all knowledge of God’s Will. And so, many things that God does- are complete mysteries to me. But a few things are fairly obvious from the Bible. And we need to, at least, understand them.

Now, according to archeology, they have found the ruins of the Tower of Babel. And, surprisingly, it is only about 5 stories tall. Now God knew that the day would come when men would build towers much *higher* than a five- story building. For example, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai is 163 stories (2,722 ft) tall. So,

what was the big deal with this five-story building? I think the Answer is in what God the Father said to the other two Persons of the Trinity in **Genesis 11:6**:

Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them

... so, four things:

1. They wanted to build a City
2. They wanted to build a Tower
3. They want to make a Name for themselves
4. They did not want to be scattered throughout the earth

And the *first* two of these correspond to the *second* two. Building a City is the way they think they will avoid being dispersed over the whole earth. And building a Tower into the heavens is the way they think they will make a Name for themselves. So, in reality- the City and the Tower are simply the *outward* expressions of their *inward* Sins. And the two Sins are:

1. The love of *receiving* Praise (they crave to make a Name for themselves)
2. The love of Man-made Security (they build a City so they won't be scattered throughout the earth).

But God's Will for all human beings is NOT that we find our Joy in *being* praised- but that we find our Joy in knowing and praising Him. And no lost person knows that Joy. That Joy is only found in true Salvation. And God's Will is NOT that we find our Security in cities that we build (or anything else that we do for ourselves)- but in God, Who we strive to obey- with Delight. And, again, striving to obey God (from Scripture) with Delight- can only be found *within* true Salvation. Lost people don't do this.

So, the Sin of Man is that, even after the Flood, which was a powerful Warning against Sin for Noah and his descendants, it turns out that people were no better off *after* the Flood than they were *before*. The Flood didn't cause *anyone* to love God; or to seek His Face; or to strive to enjoy Him through humble Obedience. Only God can cause humans to love and obey God.

So, the "Human Condition" was just like it was immediately *after* Adam sinned- and died, *spiritually*. Each person desires to decide for *themselves* what is best. And they honestly think they can rise up and claim the very Throne of God!

This is the *insanity* and the *suicide* of lost Mankind to this very day- apart from redeeming Grace.

But notice that God didn't simply tear the Tower down- He confused their language, so they, "**stopped building the city**". Look again at what Moses wrote in verses 2, 3a, and 4b:

It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ... They said to one another, Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

Now notice that they journeyed East and settled in the "Land of Shinar", which was Nimrod's base. So, this is where they joined forces with Nimrod. And, evidently, they were already aware that God intended to scatter them if they continued to sin against Him. And so, instead of *humbling* themselves and *repenting*- they simply hurried to build everything to try to make it impossible for God to stop them.

This is what I call, the "Nineveh Syndrome". In the **Book of the Prophet Nahum**, God told the people of Nineveh to repent. But, instead, they built a wall to protect themselves from God's Wrath. And, according to history, their wall was 100 feet high; and was so wide at the top, that four chariots could run side-by-side. And so, they boasted about their great accomplishment, and they said, "*God Himself can't tear this wall down!*" So, God took wall and all down in His Judgment against them.

Now, sadly, this has been the mentality of many- both then and now. Most people inherently know that what they are doing is wrong- but instead of being humble and submitting to God's Will- they engage in more and more Sin- thinking they can outflank God. Here is how the Apostle Paul put it in **Romans 1:28-32**:

28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips,

30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

... and the Answer of God to those building the City and the Tower back then, was to *confuse* their language; and to *scatter* them across the face of the earth. And I find this so strange. Truly it is a Magnificent Perplexity.

But we have learned, from our time in God's Word, that when God *permits* a thing- He does so for a very wise; and a very good Reason. And that Reason is part of a very wise and a very good Plan.

You see, the Holy Bible reveals a God, Who *never* acts whimsically or haphazardly or aimlessly. So, when God *permits* a breathtaking Sin of Pride and Presumption and Rebellion on the plains of Shinar, He knows *exactly* what He is doing; and what His next Act will be- so that He alone will be glorified. And this means that the peoples and the languages of the world are NOT an afterthought. They are the Judgment of God against Sin. Yet, in this Magnificent Perplexity- they are also designed by God- for the Glory of Jesus Christ!

So, how does this breathtaking Sin and its Consequence in the divided languages of the world- serve to magnify the Glory of Jesus Christ? At least in five ways:

1. The Danger of Unity Outside of Salvation
2. The Final Destruction of Pride
3. No Chosen Soul Is Left Out
4. The Gospel Is Magnified
5. Jesus Is Glorified

... let's look at each one:

1. The Danger of Unity Outside of Salvation

Now in Jesus Christ and in the Church- Unity is the name of the game. So, why would God destroy the Unity that people already had by confusing their languages and scattering them all over the face of the earth? One thing we need to think about is that God's sovereign Division of the world into different languages *hinders* the rise of a global, monolithic anti-Christian State- that would have the power to simply wipe out all believers.

Right now, we see the entire world "coming together" because of this virus. And to some extent, that is great. But unless that "Unity" is governed by the Lord Christ- you can rest assured that great Persecution against the Church and the

followers of Jesus will soon result. And that is not me being paranoid. And it is not me being simply “anti-government”. It is a wise and intelligent conclusion to studying 6,000 years of human history.

Now many within the modern church see the diversity of languages and cultures and peoples and political states as a *hindrance* to the spread of Christ’s Kingdom. But that isn’t the way God sees it. God is more concerned about the dangers of Human Unity *outside of Salvation*, than He is about “Human Diversity” within Grace. The Bible teaches that we humans are far too evil to be allowed to unite in one language or one government with one purpose- on our own. So, the Gospel of the Glory of Christ spreads *better* and flourishes *more*- precisely *because* of the 6,500 languages of the world- not in spite of them.

2. The Final Destruction of Pride

Here is the second way that what God did at the Tower of Babel glorifies Christ. The Tower they built was called the “Tower of *Babel*” (**Genesis 11:9**). And the NASB only has the word, “*babel*” in two places: **Genesis 10:10** and **Genesis 11:9**. But the word, *babel*, in Hebrew, occurs over 200 times in the Old Testament! But it is almost always translated as “*Babylon*” in all but those two instances. So, when Moses says in **Genesis 11:9**,

Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

... he was *mocking* Babylon and the Pride of Man. When Moses wrote that God “**came down**” to see the Tower they were building (**Genesis 11:5**)- that was God *ridiculing* the Pride of Man- because they were supposedly building a Tower, “**whose top will reach into Heaven**”. In other words, their prideful efforts were so puny- that God had to “come down” to even see it.

So, these Statements were a “Divine Putdown” of the glory of the Empire of Babylon. And this means that Babylon, with its vaunted towers; and walls; and gardens; and idolatry, is a pitiful effort compared to God.

Now this name “Babel” or “Babylon” is the name given to the city of the Beast in **The Book of the Revelation 14**. And there, the Glory of Christ shines because, even though for a brief season, Babylon is drunk with the blood of Christian martyrs (**The Revelation 17:6**), she will, just like the Tower of Babel, be put to naught. And that will be the final end of the Pride of Man. Here’s a description that marks her out as a latter day “Tower of Babel.”

The Revelation 18:5,7- 10

5 for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

7 "To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, '*I SIT as A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW*, and will never see mourning.'

8 "For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.

9 "And the kings of the earth, who committed *acts of immorality* and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,

10 standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'

So, yes, at some point in our future, God will loosen the restraint He has put on the nations. And they will swell with the Pride of Babylon. And, yes, Christians will suffer. But then, in one instant, Christ will come from His infinite Glory; and Babylon will be no more. So, the Pride of Man will finally be eliminated from the earth. And the Account of **Genesis 11:1-9** is a foreshadowing of that.

3. No Chosen Soul Is Left Out

Here is a third way that that the Sin of Babel and God's Judgment on it- leads to the Glory and Victory of Jesus Christ. The Authority and Power of Jesus is magnified because He lays claim on every language group and every people. Jesus said,

Matthew 28:18b

18... All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

... and in response to Him ALREADY having that Authority- He said,

Matthew 28:19&20

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you

always, even to the end of the age."

So, yes, God judged Sin and divided the languages and the nations. But in the end, that only serves to magnify the Authority and Power of Christ to make disciples in every nation and in every language. His Power is all the more glorious because it breaks into so many different languages and peoples and nations and brings Salvation to every chosen soul. And none will be left out.

4. The Gospel is Magnified

And the same must be said about His Gospel in particular: the Message of Jesus' Death and Resurrection; the Message of Forgiveness and Justification.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

So, a great part of the Glory of the Gospel is that it is *not* "provincial". Christianity is *not* a "tribal religion". It isn't only for white, middle class Americans. The biblical Gospel breaks into *every* language and *every* people. So, if there were no diversity of languages; if the breathtaking Sin of Babel had not happened with its Judgment; the Glory of the Gospel of Jesus Christ would not shine as beautifully as it does through the prism of thousands of languages.

5. Jesus is Glorified

The praise that Jesus receives from all the languages- is *more* beautiful, *because* of its diversity, then it would have been if there were only one language and one people to sing.

The Revelation 5:9&10

9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

10 "You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

It was the breathtaking Sin on the plains of Shinar that gave rise to the multiplying of languages that ends in the most glorious praise to Christ from every language on earth.

So, when did this happen? What did God use to bring about the things that I just talked about? What was the catalyst that *caused* the infallible Words of Joel to come about? The fulfillment of the Prophecy of Joel on the Day of Pentecost outside that Upper Room.

The Acts 2:5-12

5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.

6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.

7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

8 "And how is it that we each hear *them* in our own language to which we were born?"

9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretans and Arabs — we hear them in our *own* tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God."

12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

So, here God is performing an amazing Miracle- as these uneducated Galileans were *supernaturally* gifted with the ability to “speak of the mighty deeds of God” in the various languages of the world.

Now it is very important to understand that what the 120 were speaking was NOT the excited speech that is termed, “speaking in tongues” and that is taught and practiced within the Pentecostal; Full Gospel; Charismatic Movement. These Galileans were actually speaking the Word of God- in known languages of the world- languages that God had originally used to divide the world.

Now I want you to remember what Peter said about what was happening in the Upper Room on *that* day with *those* people, in **The Acts 2:16:**

but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

... and then Peter quoted the *entirety* of **Joel 2:28-32** and said that what Joel was moved by God the Holy Spirit to *predict*- was fulfilled on that day.

And the result of hearing the Good News of the infinitely superior New Covenant preached by Peter and the others- was that 3,000 Jews were enabled to hear and believe (**The Acts 2:41**). So, God the Holy Spirit not only came and gave the 120 in the Upper Room Power from on High- He also empowered 3,000 Jews to hear the Gospel; believe the Gospel; Repent; and trust in Jesus! And AFTER they believed- they were baptized; and were added to the newly born Church!

So, we have come full circle. What God sovereignly *did* at the Tower of Babel- back in Genesis- in dividing the entire world by confusing their language and in scattering them- He sovereignly *undid* at Pentecost- as each chosen Jew were gifted by God the Holy Spirit to hear the Word of God in their own language and were saved! And what was the result of them all hearing; believing; being baptized and becoming part of the Church?

The Acts 2:44

And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;

So, the Tension and Strife and Division that resulted from the Judgment of God at Babel- is removed and the Unity in Salvation through Jesus by the Gospel in the New Covenant is brought about. And the Unity that we have now in the Church makes the unity they had before the Judgment of the Tower- look pathetic.

Because now, as people from every nation, tribe and tongue are gifted by God to hear the Gospel; believe the Gospel; Repent; and put all their Hope and Faith in Jesus and in His finished Work- they are forever saved. And saved people strive every day to walk in the Unity of the Faith- and they passionately love God and each other! And that is now the hallmark of the Christian Church- the great Unity of Spirit brought about by the all-encompassing Love of God in each member.

... to be continued next week.

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.