

Remnant Life Church

February 11, 2018

Genesis: Babylon

Genesis 10:6-12

- The amount of fame a person has is not always an accurate indicator of their impact
 - John Logie Baird
 - A Scottish scientist and inventor who lived in the first half of the 1900s
 - Credited with publicly demonstrating the first television on Jan. 28 1926
- Another such man in the Bible was Nimrod
- **READ** – **Genesis 10:6-12**
- The name Babylon first appears in the 10th verse of Genesis 10 (2500-2000 BC)
 - It is one of 4 cities attributed to Nimrod as the founder
 - Nimrod was the great-grandson of Noah
- What do we know of this man
 - Most of it is from extra-biblical historical writings
 - Founded not only Babylon but the great city Nineveh
 - He founded a religion – that worshipped him – later called Murdak
 - This would most likely make him the father of idolatry (the worship of anything other than God)
 - Murdak - Babylonian god who the Tower of Babel was built to worship
 - Most of Israel's future idol worship problems originated with Nimrod with the worship of Baal
- Nimrod is credited with founding the region that included Babylon, Nineveh, and is known collectively as Mesopotamia
 - Nimrod translated from the Hebrew is “let us rebel”
 - The city name comes from the Akkadian “babilani” which translates “Gate of God”
 - Hebrew “bab-el” translates “confusion”
 - The name of the man (rebellion/confusion) became the purpose of the city
- Babylon is mentioned (in the NIV) 315 times second in importance only to Jerusalem
- As we have already seen its location is on the plain of Shinar in modern Iraq
 - The significance of this ancient city is so great that prior to the beginning of Operation Desert Storm in Aug 1990 Sadaam Hussain had been, for many years, searching for the foundational ruins of the ancient city desiring to rebuild it and install himself as a modern-day Nebuchadnezzar (the Babylonian king who conquered and captured Jerusalem in 606 BC)
 - Babylon was, at the time of its existence, was the world center for commerce, art, population, and culture
- After **Gen 12** we don't see Babylon again until chapter **14**
 - Vs 1 – Amraphel King of Shinar (Babylon)
 - Leads the fight against Sodom and Gomorrah

- It is in this battle that Lot is captured and Abraham goes to save him
- The Old Testament countries of Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, Moabites, Philistines, etc...
 - All were used as a type of people who rejected God
 - God used them as instruments of His judgement against the sinful Israelites
 - Today, what constitutes the Babylon of our lives (what we allow to become rebellion in our lives)

Three things about Babylon that we need to be aware of today:

1. It was a city of the ungodly
 - a. It had at its beginning a city that not only wanted to be independent of God
 - b. But also like God
 - c. What happens when someone wants to be like God?
 - d. This passage was being written at the time regarding the king of Babylon Merodach-Baladan
 - e. **Isaiah 14:12-15 – READ**
 - f. The parallels between Babylon and America today

2. It is a city that intruded on the land that God had promised to Abraham
 - a. **Gen 12:14-17** - *The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, “Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring^[a] forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.”*
 - b. The promises of God in your life will never be lost
 - c. They may be delayed, they may appear gone, but God is the God of time and space

3. The Babylonian empire included the land that was known at the time as Salem
 - a. Salem later would become Jerusalem
 - b. Its king (Melchizedek) would be seen as a type of Christ
 - c. **Genesis 14:18-20** - *Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*
 - d. God’s design and plan was in motion and no earthly kingdom was going to prevent that from happening
 - e. The City of David

The danger of Babylon in your own life:

- Babylon will always try and steer you away from God
- Babylon is always a false promise and counterfeit to what God wants in your life
- Babylon is about pursuing the things of the flesh
- Babylon is about delaying the things of God
- What constitutes or makes up Babylon in your life?