

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

"The [Babel-Babylon] episode highlights two contrasting aspects of human existence: the capacity of people to achieve great things and the hubris of humans to have rejected God's sovereignty over them." —T. Desmond Alexander, From Paradise to the Promised Land

"God & the Post-Flood World"

The Descendants of Noah: Genesis 9:18-28

"The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.)"

"Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent."

The Actions of Noah's Sons:

Ham—

Shem & Japheth—

The Response of Noah:

⇒ Ham and his descendants (Canaan in particular) were cursed. This is the same term used in Gen. 3:14 and 4:11.

⇒ Shem was blessed! What is the content of the blessing? ➡

⇒ Japheth will receive residual blessing through his connection to Shem.

Given that the Hebrews will be descended from Shem, the imagery here is that _____ will find the blessing of knowing Yahweh through their association with His work in and through those who descend from Shem.

Point of Emphasis: The world is characterized by _____ just as it was before the flood.

The Table of Nations: Genesis 10:1-32

- The author's agenda in this section is to highlight the descendants of Shem.

Why?

- In the line of Ham, Nimrod is particularly emphasized in order to foreshadow the account that will follow regarding Babel-Babylon.

The Tower of Babel: Genesis 11:1-9

- This account explains to us how the various nations of the earth came into being.

Shinar –

The Decision to Build the Tower

"Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens..."

⇒ This demonstrates the human aspiration to _____ status.

"...let us make a name for ourselves..."

⇒ This demonstrates the human desire for _____.

"...lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

⇒ This demonstrates the human willingness to _____ the Word of the Lord.

Recall: "And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth." –Gen. 9:1

The Response of God

"And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built."

- This is a common anthropomorphic expression used to describe God's examination of a person or situation.

"Yahweh must draw near, not because he is near-sighted, but because He dwells at such tremendous height and their work is so tiny. God's movement must therefore be understood as a remarkable satire on man's doing." –O. Procksch (Quoted in Genesis by Currid)

"Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech."

- God's decision to bring judgment upon them is not out of fear of them, but was instead a response to their arrogance in assuming that they could accomplish such a feat.

"Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth."

- The disbursal of the people can be understood here as the result of their language being confused or by the special work of Yahweh to scatter them.

They had desired to make a name for themselves and God granted their wish. But the name was not one of glory, but one of _____. (Babel meaning 'confusion')

Point of Emphasis: Though God brought judgment upon them, His _____ was evident through His keeping of the promise made in the Noahic Covenant.

Compare Babel-Babylon with the Temple-City of Rev. 21:22-22:5