

## The Tower of Babel



For a time the descendants of Noah continued to dwell among the mountains where the ark had rested. As their numbers increased, apostasy soon led to division. Those who desired to forget their Creator and to cast off the restraint of His law felt a constant annoyance from the teaching and example of their God-fearing associates, and after a time they decided to separate from the worshipers of God. Accordingly they journeyed to the plain of Shinar, on the banks of the river Euphrates. They were attracted by the beauty of the situation and the fertility of the soil, and upon this plain they determined to make their home.

Here they decided to build a city, and in it a tower of such stupendous height as should render it the wonder of the world. These enterprises were designed to prevent the people from scattering abroad in colonies. God had directed men to disperse throughout the earth, to replenish and subdue it; but these Babel builders determined to keep their community united in one body, and to found a monarchy that should eventually embrace the whole earth. Thus their city would become the metropolis of a universal empire; its glory would command the admiration and homage of the world and render the founders illustrious. The magnificent tower, reaching to the heavens, was intended to stand as a monument of the power and wisdom of its builders, perpetuating their fame to the latest generations.

The dwellers on the plain of Shinar disbelieved God's covenant that He would not again bring a flood upon the earth. Many of them denied the existence of God and attributed the Flood to the operation of natural causes. Others believed in a Supreme Being, and that it was He who had destroyed the antediluvian world; and their hearts, like that of Cain, rose up in rebellion against Him. One object before them in the erection of the tower was to secure their own safety in case of another deluge. By carrying the structure to a much greater height than was reached by the waters of the Flood, they thought to place themselves beyond all possibility of danger. And as they would be able to ascend to the region of the clouds, they hoped to ascertain the cause of the Flood. The whole undertaking was designed to exalt still further the pride of its projectors and to turn the minds of future generations away from God and lead them into idolatry.

When the tower had been partially completed, a portion of it was occupied as a dwelling place for the builders; other apartments, splendidly furnished and adorned, were devoted to their idols. The people rejoiced in their success, and praised the gods of silver and gold, and set themselves against the Ruler of heaven and earth. Suddenly the work that had been advancing so prosperously was checked. Angels were sent to bring to naught the purpose of the builders. The tower had reached a lofty height, and it was impossible for the workmen at the top to communicate directly with those at the base; therefore men were stationed at different points, each to receive and report to the one next below him the orders for needed material or other directions concerning the work. As messages were thus passing from one to another the language was confounded, so that material was called for which was not needed, and the directions delivered were often the reverse of those that had been given. Confusion and dismay followed. All work came to a standstill. There could be no further harmony or co-

operation. The builders were wholly unable to account for the strange misunderstandings among them, and in their rage and disappointment they reproached one another. Their confederacy ended in strife and bloodshed. Lightnings from heaven, as an evidence of God's displeasure, broke off the upper portion of the tower and cast it to the ground. Men were made to feel that there is a God who ruleth in the heavens.

Up to this time all men had spoken the same language; now those that could understand one another's speech united in companies; some went one way, and some another. "The Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth." This dispersion was the means of peopling the earth, and thus the Lord's purpose was accomplished through the very means that men had employed to prevent its fulfillment.<sup>4</sup>

Nebuchadnezzar's temple or tower of Nebo stood on the basement of the old tower of Babel. He says in an inscription on a clay tablet found at Borsippa, "the house of the earth's base, the most ancient monument of Babylon, I built and finished; I exalted its head with bricks covered with copper . . . the house of the seven lights, a former king 42 ages ago built, but did not complete its head. Since a remote time people had abandoned it, without order expressing their words; the earthquake and the thunder had split and dispersed its sundried clay."<sup>5</sup>

This inscription by Nebuchadnezzar mentions that the reason for abandoning the tower was confusion of the people's words which is what Genesis 11:9 describes. Archeology confirms the accuracy of the Bible.

### **Modern Day Babel Builders**

Many turn from the plain teachings of the Bible and build up a creed from human speculations and pleasing fables. They point to their "tower" as a way to climb up to heaven. Lips of eloquence teach that the transgressor shall not die, that salvation may be secured without obedience to the law of God. If the professed followers of Christ would accept God's standard, it would bring them into unity, but so long as human wisdom is exalted above His holy Word there will be divisions and dissension. The existing confusion of conflicting creeds and sects is fitly represented by the term "Babylon," which prophecy applies to the world-loving churches of the last days. See Revelation 14:8; 18:2.<sup>6</sup>

Who was the ancient king that Nebuchadnezzar spoke of who first tried to build the tower of Babel?  
Genesis 10:8-10

What does the name "Babel" mean?  
Genesis 11:9

How can we avoid becoming part of the "Babylon" that is described above?  
Psalms 119:104, 105

Nebuchadnezzar, like Nimrod, was a proud king. He did not accept the God of Heaven as supreme. What happened to him because of his pride?  
Daniel 4:30-33, 37

How can we avoid having an experience like Nebuchadnezzar?  
Proverbs 16:18, 19

1 Peter 5:5

Babylon, the great city that Nebuchadnezzar built, was a type of Nimrod's city and tower. There is

another Babylon being built, not a literal one but a spiritual Babylon.

What is the woman Babylon called in Revelation?

Revelation 17:1, 5

A woman in scripture represents a church. This woman is a corrupt and false religion and the mother of other false religions. She persecutes the people of God and kills many of them.

What does scripture tell us about this harlot?

Revelation 18:2

What will God do with this harlot “city” or church?

Revelation 18:8, 10

Revelation 18:21

What type of sin calls for punishment involving a mill stone?

Matthew 18:6

There is a church that has a reputation for hurting children, or child molestation. God hates these sins and will destroy this entity after she commits the evil of making the kings of this earth drink the wine of her fornication. In other words, she persuades them to rebel against God's Law and kill many people who are faithful to God. They may claim to be getting rid of troublemakers and terrorists, but the Bible says they will be killing God's people. (John 16:2) God will destroy that power. We are safe only if we understand God's Word, pray for His guidance, and follow all of His Commandments.