




**ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 1 | LESSON 05c****The Pentateuch – The Promise Given Through the Royal Gift Covenant****God is a PROMISE Making God**

God 1) **CREATES** a place where 2) He will **MEET** with his People 3) for their **JOY**. 4) His People reject Him. 5) God binds Himself through **PROMISE (i.e. The Royal Gift Covenant)** to 6) **RESCUE** His people from their sin and 7) **RESTORE** them to Himself for their **JOY**.

**“The Tower of Babel”****The Promise Protected and a Counterfeit Garden****Genesis 11:1-9**

Gen. 11:9 “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.”

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p>THE HEAD - To Know how the Bible records the Story of God fulfilling the SEED PROMISE and completing the BLOOD PICTURE.<br/>Q – After looking at this Lesson on the Tower of Babel, “Has anything changed concerning your thinking?” What do you now know that you might not have known?</p>   |
|  | <p>THE HEART - To Choose the biblical record as to the magnitude of the assault and God’s promise to protect His Seed.<br/>Q – After looking at this Lesson, “How does it make you feel?” What emotional response does this truth solicit / produce in you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example: “<sup>22</sup>love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control [Gal. 5:22, 23 NLT].</li> </ul> |
|  | <p>THE HAND - To Pray we will obey God’s Word to “till the soil and fill the earth.”<br/>Q – After looking at this Lesson, “What might you begin to do differently?” Is there something because of what you know that you might need to start doing or perhaps even stop doing?</p>   |

**EMPHASIS**

The serpent’s seed would assault the woman’s seed in order to stop the promise of God. This pattern of assault tracks through the entire Bible.

The Tower of Babel is the serpent’s assault against the PROMISE OF GOD to provide a SEED to deliver His people from sin and death and for joy and glory.

God is faithful in moving His *Story* forward. The serpent is just as determined to stop God's promise and picture as God is determined to see it fulfilled. Fortunately, GOD WINS!

God judges and disrupts humanity's attempt to thwart His glory by reestablishing His Garden.

The Serpent assaults the SEED OF THE WOMAN by rejecting God's Word and building a replacement GARDEN.

1. If we understand how the Serpent continually attacks God's SEED PROMISE and BLOOD PICTURE, then it is possible to see how in the midst of this "dark" narrative, God continues to win in moving His promise toward fulfillment.
2. Babel is the Serpent's attempt to reconstitute the Garden in his own image. God told humanity to scatter and the people disobeyed by building the tower.

## LITERARY CONTEXT

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve sin and thrust all of humanity under a curse of death. Yet, God makes a promise that one will come to redeem humanity from this curse (i.e. the Seed Promise found in 3:15) and then demonstrates that this will require a blood sacrifice (i.e. the Seed Picture found in 3:21).

What follows are three pictures of Satan's attempts to thwart God's promise. The Seed Promise comes under assault:

- Genesis 4: Cain and Abel – The promise pictured and a Counterfeit Gospel
- Genesis 6-9: The Flood – The promise preserved and a Counterfeit Seed
- **Genesis 11: Tower of Babel – The promise protected and a Counterfeit Garden**

In Chapter 12, God's plan is narrowed to Abraham and his seed.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Did this story actually happen? Babel only occurs twice in the Pentateuch. Genesis 10 identifies Nimrod as the founder of Babel.

- Gen. 10:9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." 10 The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Babel is translated as "Babylon" forty-four times from 1 Samuel through Esther and only three times in the Psalms [Wisdom Literature]. The Major Prophets cite Babylon 180 times and the Minor Prophets only four times.

The event in Genesis 11 has history. This “Babel” was birthed by Nimrod and continued to exist throughout the biblical story.

## **BIBLICAL CONTEXT**

Matthew references Babylon in his genealogy of Jesus (Matt. 1:11, 12, 17). Stephen, in his speech before his prosecutors, cites Babylon (Acts 7:43). The Apostle Peter also speaks of the church that is at Babylon (1 Pet. 5:13).

The Apostle John speaks extensively of evil Babylon and her fall (Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, 10, 21).

## **STRUCTURE**

There are three talking points helping us understand the larger structure of this historical event.

- I. The Serpent seeks to stop God’s PROMISE by imitating God’s Purpose (Gen. 11:1-4)

The serpent always seeks to imitate and undo what God has done and is doing. What the serpent has done, he continues to do. All people have problems. How they address those problems depends on one’s worldview. The devil always seeks to absent God from problem solving. The devil desires to turn people away from God’s design and purpose.

- II. God protects His PROMISE by destroying Babel (Gen. 11:5-8)

God is always faithful to fulfill His promise and complete His picture. What the serpent opposes, God proposes.

- III. God protects His PROMISE by scattering His people (Gen. 11:9)

There is a similar scattering in Acts 8:1 after the death of Stephen in Acts 7. What the devil means for evil, God means for good (Gen. 50:20) and through the adversity and opposition God’s Story continues to move toward fulfillment and completion.

## **JESUS IN THE TEXT**

The Tower of Babel only makes sense inside of the larger Story begun in Genesis 1 and following. There is a natural structural link and thematic link beginning in Genesis 1 and continuing in the Tower of Babel. It is through the fulfillment of the SEED PROMISE that the BLOOD PICTURE will be completed whereby saving humanity from sin and death and for joy and glory. God graciously protects the SEED PROMISE

from the corrupting attack by the serpent's seed. In all of this, God wins. Satan offers a counterfeit garden, but it is a shallow imitation of the real thing.

## APPLICATION

Life has two contrasting families, to contrasting peoples, to contrasting SEEDS, and two contrasting "gardens." Those who know God are a part of the WOMAN'S SEED. Those who reject God are a part of the SERPENT'S SEED. Of which SEED are you? Do you believe God has provided a SEED and do you believe in the final and sufficient blood picture provided in the person and work of JESUS?

There are two families at play. One aligns with the WOMAN'S SEED and the other aligns with the SERPENT'S SEED. Whose family do you align with? Those who know God obey God. Such actions and choices are a result of the JESUS SEED. When we believe God's promises [our justification] we do what God calls us to [our sanctification]. **Those who built the Tower of Babel did not obey God.** God called Adam and Eve to scatter throughout the earth and expand His Garden. The Serpent worked through the disobedience of people to build a counterfeit Garden. Those who do not obey God, do not know God. Those who built Babel did not know God and refused to believe God's promise.

Sometimes believing God is difficult and will often alienate us from others, but God wants us to believe in His promise even when it is hard. A day of gathering is coming (John 14:1-3) when "myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands" shall gather around the throne of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ crying out and saying, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever" (Rev. 5:11-13).

## VISUALS

## MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 11:9

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.

## RESOURCES