

# Nimrod 1<sup>st</sup> World Ruler

Lesson #24 July 1, 2020

God's mandate to Adam & Eve: Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth [Gen. 1:26-28]

In Genesis 9:1, 7 After the world-wide flood, God gave the mandate twice to Noah and his family "to be fruitful and multiply and FILL THE EARTH.

Note: God's intent for the nations was for people to scatter across the earth; not to congregate in one place. He wanted the whole earth populated with His image-bearers [Gen. 1:26-27]. This command was a foreshadowing of the Great Commission.

Matt. 28:18-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you:...

Rom. 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Jesus told His disciples to repopulate the earth with a new "race" of spiritual people, born again in "the image of His Son."

David Jeremiah: As Paul explained, God scattered men and set "the exact places where they should live" so they would seek after God. Humankind, settling in smaller communities throughout the world, would not be tempted toward the self-importance and self-reliance that massive centralization would foster - and did indeed foster at Shinar.

In an age of lawlessness, where morality is believed to evolve based on changing culture rather than eternally fixed principles for self-rule, it is not surprising that the only "government" modern man recognizes is an all-powerful state. The Biblical doctrine of government emphasizes a multiplicity—family, church, and state—each grounded in self-control under God.

The idea of a One World Government has been in the heads of a few throughout all history.

The tension between man's view and God's view of government finds its root in the Genesis record, from the Garden of Eden to the Tower of Babel. The actual beginning was soon after Noah's flood with the first human to actually declare war against the Most High.

Genesis 10 & 11 give us the history of the postdiluvian world and the ways of men in this new world. We are introduced to Noah's great Grandson, Nimrod, who lived 200-300 years after the Flood.

Dispensation #3 = Human Government

Stewards Noah [1<sup>st</sup> Civil Leader] & His Descendants

Period From The Flood To The Confusion Of Tongues At Babel, ~429 Years

Responsibility Obey God; To Scatter; To Multiply

Failure Refusal to Scatter

Goal Let us build for ourselves a city and a tower; make a name for ourselves

Plan Revolt against God; deify and glorify themselves

Nimrod, or Nimroud-bar-Cush, as he is called on the monuments, was a grandson of Ham, the youngest son of Noah, whose character is revealed in his exposure of his father's shame.

- Ham's sin consisted of an utter failure to honor his father. He manifested a total disrespect for and subjection unto his father.
- Ham received no blessing from his father.
- Ham = swarthy, darkened or the sun-burnt. This seems to indicate the state of his soul.

Thus his conscience became seared as with a hot iron, and he became the founder of a race that departed from the living God and led the way into idolatry, worshiping and serving the creature more than the Creator. [Romans 1:18-31]

Nimrod's accomplishments have impacted human religions and governments for at least 4,500 years. Nimrod was born into a new world, recently recreated by God after His judgment had rendered the old world devoid of human and animal life - except for that which had survived in the ark built by Noah and his sons. The new world was initially untainted by the wickedness of the pre-diluvian world. However, innocence did not last long. The prince of darkness wasted no time sowing seeds of rebellion in the fertile hearts of the human survivors.

Nimrod is one of the many small types of antichrists who, anointed by Satan, would show up on the face of the earth as forerunners to "THE" antichrist who Scripture confirms will stand in the holy of holies & blasphemously declare that he is god!

Nimrod foreshadowed in at least 7 ways the last great world-ruler, the Antichrist.

1. His name describes the most prominent characteristic in the one whom he typifies.
  - Nimrod = The Rebel or Let us rebel
  - From the branch of Noah's family on which rested the "curse"
2. "Mighty" is used 4x to describe Nimrod. [3x in Gen. 10 & once in I Chron. 1:10]

Gen. 10:8-9 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.

- Began to be a mighty one [Hebrew gibborim > TYRANT] in the earth
- Before the Lord = Hebrew = AGAINST or hostile; in defiance of the LORD
- Organized a REVOLT against the LORD
- Nimrod was a mighty hunter [The rabbis said: "hunter of the souls of men"]
- "His hunting was seducing men to be subservient to him."
- The Chaldee paraphrase: "Cush begat Nimrod who began to prevail in wickedness, for he slew innocent blood and rebelled against Jehovah."
- Suggests: he struggled for the preeminence and by mere force of will obtained it.
- Suggests: he became a leader and ruler over men

[Reminded me of the "little horn" of Daniel's vision who becomes THE ANTICHRIST]

3. Mighty hunter = skill was in taking of prey and laying of snares

Reminded me of Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! ... ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward...Balaam compromised with the enemy and laid stumbling blocks, snares and traps for God's people

I Pet. 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Satan as a roaring lion; come to kill destroy

The term is not complimentary but implies ruthlessness and a lust for power. [The Jewish Encyclopedia says, Nimrod was "he who made all the people rebellious against God."]

A study will show he was also into Satanic rituals and heathenism.

- Reminds us of one of THE Antichrist during the Tribulation Period

4. The form which Nimrod's rebellion assumed was to head a great confederacy in open revolt against God. [Gen. 11]

After the Genesis Flood, God restated His mandate, originally given in the Garden of Eden, for mankind to multiply and fill the earth (Genesis 1:26-28; 9:1). But in the generations that followed, man expressly rejected that mandate. Rather than dispersing and demonstrating self-governance under God, the people gathered at the tower in the city of Babel [Genesis 11:1-9].

1<sup>st</sup> attempt at World Government Without The Presence Of God

Gen 11:1-4 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

<sup>4</sup> And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

Their mission: an empire of rebellion—a one-world, centralized government under man.

To accomplish a world political empire:

- A center of unity, headquarters must be established
- A motive for the encouragement and inspiration of his followers

5. Nimrod's supreme ambition and desire was to make to make for himself a name. He had an inordinate desire for fame.

The Man of Sin will be fully possessed by Satan. Therefore, an insatiable pride will possess him. This Satanic egotism will cause him to oppose and "exalt himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." [II Thess. 2:4]

6. Nimrod was a king - the beginning of his kingdom was Babel. [Gen. 10:10]

Dan. 11:36 And the king [antichrist] shall do according to his will;...

- Nimrod's headquarters were in Babylon. [Gen. 10:10; 11:1-9]

Isa. 14:4 The Man of Sin is called the "king of Babylon."

Rev. 17:3-5 During the Tribulation Period, the antichrist is associated with "Mystery Babylon."

7. Biblical symbol: The Bow > can represent a covenant or the hunter

- The 1<sup>st</sup> hunter is Nimrod, the Assyrian, the first world leader
- The final world leader will also have a bow and he is called The Assyrian

Rev. 6:2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow;

- The bow identifies this rider on a white horse with Nimrod, the mighty hunter who rebelled against God.
- We begin to see the nature of the rider in Rev. 6 > the ultimate false Christ, the deceiver

Consider: The first time a "bow" is mentioned in the Bible is not in reference to fighting a war, but to a covenant.

Gen. 9:13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

The horseman may be carrying a physical bow, a weapon, but the key event in his life is making a covenant that gets him to power. Then he breaks the covenant. He will not succeed.

Five Characteristics Of The Babylonian System:

I. It was a Man-Made System Gen. 11:1-4

- Let Us - 3x in first 4 verses
- Nimrod's unity was a poor substitute for the unity in Jesus Christ - Eph. 2:13-17
- They substituted Brick for stones and slime for mortar.
- God uses precious STONES to build His Church - I Pet. 2:1-10

II. It was an Economical System

- Let us build a city > a place where people shop, do business, etc.
- They wanted to make a name for themselves [Pride]; didn't want to be scattered

III. It was a Political System Gen. 10:10

Gen. 10:10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel,

- Nimrod was a rebellious leader who DEFIED God and sought to set up his own kingdom
- Kingdom speaks of a political system over which Nimrod would reign

During the Tribulation Period, the Anti-Christ will reign over a political system which will ENGULF the world. [Rev. 17] The Babylon of OLD and NEW will consist of an economic, political and religious system made by man.

Dan. 11:36-37 And the king [antichrist] shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

<sup>37</sup> Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

- The Anti-Christ will have full reign over an economic, political and religious system.
- He will exercise his power with great force.

IV. It was an Influential System

- It must have been very tempting to cause man to DISOBEY God.
- Man could WORK OUT his own salvation without any restrictions by God if he could.
- Sounds good and appeals to man but it will never work because God is left out.

- V. It was a Religious System Gen. 11:4 tower whose top may reach unto heaven
- Man could study the signs of the Zodiac for direction, rather than seeking direction from God.
- Religious system would glorify man and be steeped in the occult.
- The Babylonian religious system of the end time will have a FORM of Godliness, but it will EXALT man and be steeped in the Occult.

II Tim. 3:5 Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Nimrod Builds A Kingdom Genesis 10:10-12

Gen. 10:10-11 The beginning of his kingdom was Babel... and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Note: Zechariah 5:11, the land Shinar was mentioned as a land of godless commercialism.

1<sup>st</sup> mention of Babel ➤ This is the key to Gen. 11:1-9

- In the language of that time, Babel meant "the gateway of god," but afterwards, because of the judgments which God inflicted there, it came to mean "confusion."

The 1<sup>st</sup> mention of anything in Scripture defines its future scope in the Bible. From this time on, Babylon stands for that which is in opposition to God and His people.

- It was a Babylonian garment [Josh. 7:21] which led to the first sin in the promised land.
- Rev. 17 teaches that Romanism which will gather into itself the whole of apostate Christendom, is termed "Mystery Babylon."

<sup>11</sup> From that land [Shinar] he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah, <sup>12</sup> and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

- Then he went to Assyria. Micah 5:6a

And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof:

- Nimrod was building an earthly kingdom.
- Nimrod was obviously a skilled man and an ambitious leader.

The names of his cities tell a story.

1. Babel = confusion or mixing; becomes the heart or capital of Babylon
- The beginning of what later would become Babylon, the destroyer of God's people and His city Jerusalem [605-539 B.C.].

Rev. 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her [Babylon], my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

2. Erek = to lengthen, prolong or live with
- To prolong or live with mixing or confusion
3. Akkad = subtle; a fortress to strengthen
- Subtly strengthen confusion and mixing

Question: How did Nimrod subtly strengthen the living with confusion and mixing?

4. Calneh = Fortress of Anu -
- Anu was from Sumerian culture and was a god that many other gods derived from [about 50 other gods]

- Anu was seen as the master creator behind all the workings of the universe but distanced from both humanity and the other gods. pagan god Anu is over all demons
- Anu or An is the divine personification of the sky, supreme god, and ancestor of all the deities in ancient Mesopotamian religion. Anu was believed to be the supreme source of all authority, for the other gods and for all mortal rulers.
- He is described in one text as the one "who contains the entire universe."

Seems the centerpiece of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of Nimrod's kingdom was comprised of subtly confusing and mixing through a belief in a god named Anu

Since many other gods originated from Anu it became commonplace to believe in multiple gods. Nimrod then went into Assyria.

Genesis 10:11-12 "out of that land came forth Asshur" and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah," And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city.

5. Nineveh = abode of Ninus = the god-like and kingly name used for Nimrod

➤ Nineveh was later devoted to Ishtar Nineveh

6. Rehoboth-Ir is next city - wide paths or street

7. Calah = completion and resilient strength

8. Resen = final city = a bridle = headgear to control a horse

#### Purpose Of Nimrod's Kingdom

"To offer instructive control over his servants through confusing and mixing of God's ways into new ways dictated by a new god called Anu which spawned multiple wide paths through the creation of the gods that followed."

Charles Beard: "Whom the gods would destroy, they first make drunk with power."

The Antiquities Of The Jews by Josephus: Often power helps corrupt a man. Nimrod, under Satan's power, would transform the new world into a cauldron of rebellion.

Nimrod began to lead people away from his great-grandfather's God and established an apostate religious system which became known as "mystery Babylon."

He built a system of the study of the stars, astrology, occultism and devil worship. He built a ziggurat [for religious purposes] and worshiped the hosts of heaven.

#### Accomplishments of Nimrod

Nimrod extended his reputation as a "mighty hunter" to become a "mighty warrior." According to extra-biblical writings, he and his people invented weapons of warfare to inflict punishment and death upon those who did not follow his leadership. The chariot, bow and arrows, spears, helmets and shields were initially invented by his people.

He killed and enslaved thousands in cities he conquered and built. The methods of torture and mutilation he promoted became the foundation for conquering civilizations that would follow him for millennia- down to this present time. Decapitation, dismemberment and torture used by Al Qaeda and ISIS today have their roots in the evil schemes concocted by Nimrod in the same

geographic area of the Middle East. Nimrod is considered an ancient hero of this region. Ancient cities of Iraq have been named after him - Nineveh and Nimrud for example.

Nimrod is the father of human deification. He forced his subjects to worship him as a god and his wife as a goddess. He became the sun god and the god of warfare after his death. His wife was deified as the fertility and love goddess. They were worshipped for thousands of years after their death. Nimrod established the 'mystery religion of Babylon' that included human deification, child and human sacrifice, prostitution, divination, idol worship, and Satan worship. He coerced the unwilling to accept these things and killed many who believed in the true God of creation - the God of Noah.

The new Babel state was distinctively religious in nature. It appeared to have a messianic vision of salvation by government and glory to man, symbolized by the erection of a tower to the heavens. Under this centralized religious state, the people were one.

#### Failure & Destruction of Nimrod's One World Empire

Gen. 11:6-9 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. <sup>7</sup> Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. <sup>8</sup> So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

The ultimate abomination, the Tower of Babel, finally elicited God's judgment and the dispersion of mankind around the world. Because of God's judgment, the "gate of the gods" became "the door to confusion." Unfortunately, the inventions of warfare, human deification, polytheism, astrology and ancient pyramids were exported around the world also. They also spread the beliefs and aspects of Babylon's "Mystery Religion." These were used by the 'the prince of this world,' Satan, to perpetuate false religions from the dawn of the post-diluvian civilization to this present time. History and archeology have chronicled the worldwide spread of all of this. Many Scriptures record the depravity of mankind. God sees the wickedness and moral corruption that reigns throughout the world. Pride, immorality, and idol worship never fail to move His holy wrath. The Tower of Babel demonstrated this.

Truth: The human race was guilty of apostasy. God intervened, brought Nimrod's schemes to naught by confounding the speech of his subjects and scattered them throughout the earth. Man had twice enjoyed a revelation of God's mercy. First to Adam and then to Noah. Man had twice forsaken Him before and now after the world-wide flood.

The Bible teaches a man like Nimrod, motivated by pride and rebellion and empowered by Satan, is about to step onto the stage of human history. He will oppose God and bitterly persecute His followers.

The destruction of Nimrod's kingdom is described in the words, "Let us go down and there confound their language." [Gen. 11:7] This foreshadows so marvelously the descent of Jesus Christ from Heaven at His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming to vanquish His impious Rival, the Antichrist.

God's judgment will fall, once again.

Luke 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

I Thess. 1:9b-10 how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

<sup>10</sup> And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

I Thess. 4:16-18 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

<sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> Wherefore comfort one another with these words.