

Genesis Lecture 9

We will now begin lecture 9 on Gen.

The passage for today begin on ch 11

The subject of ch 11 is the Tower of Babel

First, the people build the Tower of Babel

1-4

Second, the judgment of Yahweh

5-9

Third, the descendants of Shem

10-26

Fourth, descendants of Terah

27-32

read v. 1: Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.

Before the Tower of Babel people on earth had one language.

Noah and his three sons populated the earth.

Therefore, there was one language.

read v. 2:As people moved eastward,[a] they found a plain in Shinar[b] and settled there.

They moved to the East

They moved east from Mt. Ararat

There was the plain of Shinar

This is the area of Babylon.

Its a fertile land that has rivers flowing through it.

read vv. 3-4: They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. **4** Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

From there they began to raise a tower.

A tower reaching to the heavens

to make a name for themselves

to prevent themselves from being scattered

they built a very high tower

And the tar they used is the very sticky material used in making asphalt

What was the sin of building the Tower of Babel

First, is not believing in God

God promised that he would not bring another flood to destroy the earth

he made the rainbow as a sign of promise

But the people didn't believe God and out of fear of another flood built the tower of Babel.

Second, is humanism.

They did not depend on God but tried to build the tower according to man's will and wisdom.

Third, is aspiration for self-glory

They tried to raise their name

They didn't give glory to God but tried to glorify themselves

Even trying to take the place of God

They tried to prevent being scattered

This is an example of totalitarianism

which is another aspect of the antichrist

that looks forward to a one world government

It ignores the uniqueness and importance of each nation-state

It is an entity that seeks to unite as one and defy God

This is an expression of human arrogance

to lift up one's name and praising the self

Also, it says they tried to prevent being scattered over the earth

This was the purpose for building the tower

which was a human error in making policy

According to Gen. 9:1, 7, God's will was for mankind to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth.

God didn't say to stick together in one place but to spread out and scatter over the whole earth.

So this was an act of treason against God.

And God bring judgment against this kind of pride in humans

which has a spiritual significance

as a religious reflex

People defied God and tried to glorify themselves.

There are similar kinds of Tower of Babel today

First, there is the political tower of babel

which is an attempt to create an earthly paradise through human policy and government

this attempt to create heaven and paradise on earth is the political tower of babel

We cannot build paradise in this world through human strength

There is a second type of babel tower

Second is the scientific tower of babel

It is believing in the power of science.

It is trusting in science and scientific technology in place of God.

It is depending more on science than on God.

It is the idea that science can make people happy.

There a third type of babel tower

There is a religious tower of babel

They compromise the word of God

and strive for religious alliance

John 17:21

This is not the same as becoming one through faith in Christ

They seek to unite the all the religions apart from true faith

This is the religious tower of Babel

Now, in Rev. 18 is recorded the destruction of the tower of Babel.

That Babel represents humanism

What that means is that humanism will receive the judgment of God and be destroyed.

read v. 5: But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.

As much as people wanted to raise up the tower of Babel they were becoming distant to God's word.

They wanted to forsake God's word.

Therefore, God couldn't help but must punish those who were trying to build the tower.

vv. 6-7: The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. **7** Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

God stopped this defiant act of building the tower.

He confused the language.

So they couldn't communicate with each other.

For example, when the foreman said bring some water, fire was brought instead.

when he said bring some brick, tar was brought

Because they couldn't communicate with each other they couldn't complete the tower of Babel

Through the tower of Babel the language of the people became different.

That is why today because of the language difference we need translations, and people have to study various languages such as English or Chinese.

Why do we have to study different languages today?

Why can't we communicate easily with others?

This is because our ancestors sinned at the tower of Babel.

read vv. 8-9: So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. **9** That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

What does Babel mean?

Babel

Babel can mean the temple door.

Also, it could have come from the Hebrew word Balal.

Balal.

Balal means "to confuse or confusion"

So it can mean that at this place the languages were confused.

To repeat, Babel can mean God's temple door.

And "to confuse or confusion"

When we look at v. 10 we find Shem's genealogy

Here the life span of humans is significantly decreased.

read vv. 24-26: When Nahor had lived 29 years, he became the father of Terah. **25** And after he became the father of Terah, Nahor lived 119 years and had other sons and daughters.

26 After Terah had lived 70 years, he became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran.

After fathering Terah, Nahor lived 119 years and had other children.

After Terah was 70 years old when he became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

read v. 27: This is the account of Terah's family line. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot.

Here we have Abram's nephew Lot

And Haran died first

Now read v. 29: Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milkah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milkah and Iskah. Now Sarai was childless because she was not able to conceive.

Sarah is Abram's wife

read v. 31: Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there.

Abram left Ur with his father

to go to Canaan

but on his way there settled in Haran.

read v. 32: Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Harran.

Terah died in Haran at the age of 205.

Abram left haran and came into Canaan.

Abram's home town is Ur of Chaldeans

this Ur of Chaldeans is in area of modern day Kuwait.

territory of Kuwait

He came up from Ur and settled in Haran temporarily

And he left there and came into Canaan.

Terah, Abram's father was an idol worshipper.

Joshua 24:2

tells us that Terah was an idol worshipper.

But God chose Abram and led him

God made Abram the father of faith.

Most likely Terah later forsook his idols and followed Abram in worshiping the true God.

We will not study ch 12

The subject is the calling of Abraham.

First, God's command and promise of blessing

1-3

Second, Abram follows God's word

4-8

Third, Abram moves to the South

9-10

4th, Failure in Egypt

11-16

5th, God's salvation

17-20

In the passage today, God chooses Abraham.

God calls Abraham.

read v. 1: The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

God commanded Abraham to leave his home country, the country of his father's household.

This place is mentioned in 11:28, 31

The home country of Abraham is Ur of the Chaldeans.

What would it mean to leave one's home country today?

It means to leave materialism and individualism.

It means to forsake worldly desires.

and to obey God's word.

Matt. 19:16-22

Therefore, we should also forsake materialism

Second, God told him to leave his family.

This this means to forsake man's acceptance

and to do away with carnal desires.

If a person is tangled in the acceptance of people he cannot follow God's word.

In the book of Ruth, Ruth left her country to follow after her mother in law.

Ruth's faith caused her to leave her father's household.

Where it says to leave your father's household means to forsake worldly ways and traditions.

it means to leave the ways, habits, and traditions of this world.

Eph 2:2

Also it means to leave the things that you used to depend on.

Ps. 45:10

This is calling him to leave the boasting of one-self and of one's father.

it is also a call to leave one's job.

Jer. 17:5

read v. 2: "I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

At the end of v. 1, God told Abraham to go to the land I will show you.

God is leading Abraham to the land of Canaan.

Heb. 11:8

Abraham had no idea where to go, he just followed God.

Abraham had never been to Canaan.

He didn't know if it was near or far.

He didn't know if the road was treacherous or fair.

But he left just believing in God's word.

in verse 2, God promised to bless Abraham.

First, he promised to give him a nation

And God fulfilled this promised to him

And Abraham became the father of faith

Gal. 3:7

If we believe in God's word God will bless our ways

Also, through Abraham many people receive salvation

Rom 4:18

Second, God promised to give him a great name

a great name refers to his character.

God is promising to give a great character.

He will make him famous.

If we follow God He will makes us stand out among others.

Deut. 28:1-14

Also, when he enter heave the least become great

Matt. 5:19

third, God promised him to be a blessing to others

He will be a blessing

When we follow God's word we become a blessing

When we accept him we receive a blessing

When we walk with him we are blessed.

God sent his blessing to whoever was with Abraham

read v. 3: I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

Through Abraham's obedience to God's word, God's blessings was perfected.

So, whoever blesses Abraham was blessed

whoever cursed Abraham was cursed

Everything in the land were to receive the blessing through Abraham

This means that through believers who have faith in Christ all people on earth will be blessed.

When believers follow the word of God many people will be blessed

Through those who believe in Christ many will receive God's blessing

read vv 4-5: So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. **5** He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

When Abraham followed God's word Lot followed him also

When we follow those who have faith we receive God's blessings also.

Abraham was 75 y/o

Believers should not complain that they are too old but always obey God's word.

read v. 6: Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

Shechem is at the heart of the land of Canaan

It is located between Ebal and Gerizim mts.

It is 48 km north of Jerusalem

read v. 7: The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring[**c**] I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

When Abraham arrived in Canaan God gave him a promise

He said he would give this land to Abraham and his descendants

At that time Abraham set an altar

Because he was thankful to God

Abraham worshipped God

Noah also thanked and worshipped God after the flood

We need to be thankful to God always and live a life of worship

read v. 8: From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

Abraham moved to east of Bethel

There he built an altar to the Lord and worshipped God.

So wherever and whatever he did the first thing he did was to worship God.

We should live a God centered and worship centered life

read v. 9: Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Abraham continued to move southward and ended up in Egypt

This was Abraham's mistake

Although there was a famine in Canaan it is still God's promised land.

Therefore, he shouldn't have left Canaan

It is a land of blessing

Canaan is a land of promise

But Abraham because of a famine left Canaan and went into Egypt

This was due to his lack of faith.

Job 1:1-2

When in Egypt Abraham lied about his wife that she was his sister

read v. 12: When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live.

and v. 13: **13** Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you."

Actually Sarai is Abraham's half sister.

20:12

And this half-sister became his wife

But to say that she was his sister is a lie

He lacked faith

going down to Egypt was wrong

and lying about his wife was wrong as well.

He should have believe in God's power and word and told the truth about his wife

But Pharaoh took Sarai to be his wife

read v. 17: But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai.

So God inflicted Pharaoh's house with diseases

So Pharaoh sent Sarai away.

Abraham must have repented then

So Pharaoh sent Sarai away.

read v. 20: Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

So Abraham came out of Egypt with his family and all that he had

We will now begin the lecture on ch 13

The subject of ch 13 is Separation

1st, Abraham becomes prosperous

1-4

2nd, quarrel

5-7

3rd, separation

8-13

4th Yhwh blesses Abraham

14-18

read v. 1: So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him.

Abram went down to Egypt and failed

But he repented and came up from Egypt

He came into the southern part of Canaan

This area in Egypt is called the Negev

Negev means "southern part"

It is a land between Canaan and Egypt.

So, Abraham came to this area from Egypt

And Abraham continued to go up from there

He went into Canaan

read v. 3: From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier

Abraham arrived at the place where he had first erected an altar to the Lord

12:8

This was between Bethel and Ai.

This is where he had first erected an altar to the Lord.

This is where he had offered a sacrifice to God on the altar.

Abraham came completely into Canaan.

This means his faith was completely restored.

His relapsed faith had been restored.

2 Tim 2:6

He found his first love.

Rev. 2:1

Our faith cannot be one that goes down but one that goes up.

Gen 35:1

Luke 2:30

Luke 24:13

We must not have a faith that goes down but one that goes up.

And when going up we must not go just half way.

We must surpass completely the faith we had in the past.

We must go up to the kind of faith we had when we loved God passionately

read v. 5-6: Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. **6** But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.

God blessed Abraham.

So he had flocks and herds and tents.

Lot also became rich

So Lot's herders and Abraham's herders began to quarrel over the land.

The quarrel between herders may also lead to strife between the uncle-nephew relationship later on.

We should not fight over material possessions.

Gal 5:15

Believers must not fight over material things.

Luke 12:13-15

Matt. 6:24

Living among us are unbelievers

If believers fight over material things we will hide the glory of God from the unbelievers.

read vv. 8-9: So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. **9** Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

Abraham yielded to his nephew Lot

He said, If you go to the right I'll go to the left.

If you go to the left I'll go to the right.

Actually, as the uncle he has the right to choose over his nephew.

He is older.

Also has more faith.

And he is an elder.

And yet he yielded to his nephew.

First, Abraham did not depend on material possessions. He depended on God.

He trusted his life and possession to God.

He knew that life did not consist of possessions.

He believed that even if he went to not so great a place if God was with him he would be blessed.

14:23

Second, Abraham lived for God's glory

When believers fight over material possessions they do not glorify God.

6:2

God's glory is more important than worldly possessions.

Matt. 5:39-42

Third, Abraham's faith led him to walk with God and be satisfied in Him.

He invited God to be in his life whom he delighted in and was completely satisfied.

read vv. 10-11: Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) **11** So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company:

Lot looked up and looked over the land of Sodom.

He looked at it with a selfish eye.

The land of Sodom looked pleasing to his eyes because his heart was inclined toward greed.

Lot held God in one hand and held the world in the other.

He tried to serve both God and money.

Jesus said that you cannot serve both God and money.

Sodom was a sin-city

But on the outside it looked good like the land of Egypt.

The land looked really fertile.

The world had first priority for Lot rather than God.

read vv.12-13: Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. **13** Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.

Although it was difficult Abraham continued to live in the land of Canaan.

he lived in the promise land

He was obedient to God's word.

But Lot kept moving his tent until he finally settled in the city of Sodom.

in v. 13, it says that the people of Sodom were sinning greatly.

Lot was losing faith.

His eyes were opened to the world with greed.

How can I become rich?

Who can I find for my daughters to marry?

How can I give the best education for my children?

He was not following God but was led by the flesh and living worldly life.

The land of Sodom looked attractive.

When sin-city looks attractive you know there's something wrong.

When need to look at the world with eyes of faith.

Life does not consist of money.

God is the giver of life.

We need to be like Abraham and have faith to say that "If God wills then we will live."

We need to continue on in the land of promise with Abraham.

Then we will be blessed with Abraham.

What happened to Lot later?

He ended up losing all his possessions when Sodom and Gomorra was destroyed.

He even lost his wife.

Likewise, when we walk away from our faith looking to better our lives, things will actually get worse.

But Abraham was blessed because he trusted only in God.

Let us have faith like Abraham and be blessed like him as well.

This concludes lecture 9 of Genesis.

We've lectured up to 13:13

Thank you.

