

GENESIS –Lesson 26

Learn: The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doing. Jeremiah 17:9,10

Read: Genesis 11:1-32

1. How was the population of the earth different from the time of creation and right up to the time after the flood from what it is today? v 1

Have you wondered what was that one language that people all spoke? Since the proper names of men and places all have meanings only in Hebrew and its cognate languages, it is probable that they spoke a Semitic language, possibly even Hebrew.

Also, it seems unlikely that Shem participated in the Babel rebellion; so it is probable that his own language was not affected by the resulting confusion of tongues. His family would have continued with the original language.

This faculty of human speech and language is truly one of the most amazing attributes of mankind. The evolutionist is utterly unable to explain the unbridgeable gulf between chatterings of animals and human language. The unique and fundamental essence of speech in the very nature of man is underscored in the revelation of God to man through His Word. Christ Himself is the “living Word!” “God has spoken by his Son” (Hebrews 1:2). It is not too much to say that this was the very reason man was created able to speak and hear; that is, in order that there might first be communication between God and man and, secondarily, between man and man.

The whole population was said originally to have been “of one language and one speech” (or, literally, “of one lip and one set of words,” apparently a reference to one phonology and one vocabulary). In all likelihood, this vocabulary also included a written language.

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2. The people had gone from the mountainous region of Ararat.
Where did they settle? v 2
3. What things in verses 3 and 4 suggest that life was not difficult in the fertile plain of Shinar which was located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers?

4. What was the Lord's command for men? Genesis 8:16-17; 9:1, 7

What does this imply as far as where people would go to live?

5. What did most people choose to do as regards where they lived? Genesis 11:1-2

6. What was the building material that the people used? v3

The Lord gives special attention to the description of the building materials that these people used. Good building stones were not conveniently accessible on the river plains, and timber was not durable enough for the permanent structures they had in mind. The clay soil, however, was highly suitable for strong bricks after proper heat treatment in a kiln.

The more common manner of construction in antiquity was apparently to use stone, with a clay mortar. When bricks were used, as in Egypt and Assyria, they were only sun-dried. The Babylonian construction was stronger and more enduring, so the writer called special attention to it. Furnace-treated bricks were used instead of stone, and bitumen instead of mortar. This "slime" was probably tarry material from the abundant asphalt pits in the Tigris-Euphrates valley. Archeology has revealed that this type of kiln-fired brick and asphalt construction was common in ancient Babylon.

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7. The people had Nimrod as their leader and most of them lived in one place. Those who lived at the other cities were also under that one leader. What kind of government arrangement would it be?

8. What did this one-world, single-ruler government result in? vv3, 4

9. The Lord was paying attention to what man was doing on the earth. Was this or is this an unusual thing for God to do? Explain. Psalm 11:4; Jeremiah 17:10

10. What did the Lord say was the problem with this situation? v 6

11. Why is it not a good thing if man can do whatever he imagines?

Proverbs 12:20

Genesis 6:5

Romans 1:21

12. In the Genesis Flood the Lord destroyed the whole earth because of men's wicked imaginations that he pursued. God started the population of men again fresh with those who had believed and obeyed him. Why did things end up going bad again so quickly?

Jeremiah 17:9

Romans 1:19-23

Romans 3:10-18

Think about these questions:

What about "good" things that people do? (related to Romans 3:1-18; Isaiah 64:6)

What is the way of peace? (Isaiah 53:5, 6; Ephesians 2:13, 14)

13. What was God's solution to keep man somewhat in check and limit his ability to perform the evil that he could imagine? vv7, 8

How would this solution limit man in his pursuits of evil?

14. God did something else not mentioned here that would also limit the amount of evil a man could accomplish. What was it? See Genesis 5:25-32; Psalm 90:10

15. Through the centuries many men have pursued the idea of ruling the world. Can you give an example of some of these men?

Have these great rulers been good for mankind or bad? Explain.

16. How does man still continue to pursue this goal of one- world government today?

17. Will man be able to accomplish a one-world government? Revelation 13:1-17
Explain.

Will this one-world government be good for the world? Revelation 13:1-17
Explain.

18. What will God do about this end time world government? Revelation 19:11-21

19. We see then that to pursue a one-world government ruled by a human being is the result of rebellion against God's plan for mankind. Because the heart of man is fully set in him to do evil. Such a world government always will lead to tyranny and slavery for those ruled by it. But when God rules it will be different. What will God's rule be like?
Isaiah 40:9-11

Zechariah 14:3-9

Isaiah 2:1-4

Isaiah 11:4-9

20. Back to Genesis 11. Where did all the languages and nations of the earth originate and why?

15. Where then did languages and nations come from? v 9