

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Old Testament Lesson #6

A couple of generations after Noah and his sons had left the ark, the people journeyed eastward as a community. The people all spoke the same language and could work well together. They found a “plain in Shinar (SHI-nar),” and decided to build a city there.

They had three main purposes in building the city:

1. They wanted a tower that would reach to the heavens.
2. They wanted to make a name for themselves.
3. They wanted not to be scattered over the face of the whole earth.

The people planned to make bricks and use tar for mortar to build the city and tower.

When the LORD saw the construction of the city and tower, he was displeased. He could see the rebellion in their actions and noted that the one language they shared enabled them to work together so well that “nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.”

God brought judgment upon the people by confusing their language. The workers could no longer understand one another and stopped building. They called the place Babel (BA-bel) because God had confused their language. Then God scattered the people everywhere.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- The word “Babel” sounds like the Hebrew word for “confused.”
- One of their purposes in building the tower was so that they wouldn’t be scattered, and that was exactly the result of the LORD’s confusing their language.
- Shinar is another name for “Babylonia.”
- Perhaps their desire to build a tower that reached “to the heavens” showed their disbelief in God’s promise never to flood the earth again (Genesis 9:8-17).

The Tower of Babel

- I. After the flood, a group of people decided to settle in a community.
 - A. They wanted a tower to reach the heavens.
 - B. They wanted to make a name for themselves.
 - C. They wanted to live together and not be scattered.
- II. Their goals were not pleasing to God.
 - A. He saw them building the tower and the city.
 - B. He heard them speak the same language.
 - C. He knew they worked well together.
- III. God decided to confuse the language of the workers.
 - A. The people couldn’t understand each other.
 - B. They quit building the city and tower.
 - C. The place where they had worked was called Babel.
 - D. God scattered the people everywhere.

ANSWER KEY:

The people journeyed eastward and settled on a plain in Shinar. The world had one language and could work together easily. They decided to build a tower to reach to the heavens and a city in Shinar. They did not want to be scattered over the earth.

confused, language, not, understand, each, other, scattered, over, face, whole, earth