God wants spiritual fruit…not religious nuts.
Marie Howard

"God is more concerned about the purity of His Prophets, than the accuracy of their prophecies. He values men and women themselves and their motives as much as their message and ministry."
Dr. Bill Hamon in Prophets, Pitfalls and Principles

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The Tower of BABEL, BABYLON, AND INIQUITY DRIVES

Two Types of Reaction to the Word of God

1. The Thessalonians rejected Paul's message without consulting scripture, and eventually they ran him out of town.
2. The Bereans received the Gospel message from Paul with great eagerness and searched the scriptures daily to see whether the things Paul said were true. We want to raise up Bereans here.

The Importance of the Old Testament

(Especially the events of the time in the wilderness)

1. 1st Corinthians 10: 6: *Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted*, and 1st Corinthians 10:11: *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written*

for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

2. *The Old Testament is the New Testament Con cealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament Revealed because one cannot appreciate the New Testament without an understanding of the Old Testament. The Old Testament lays the ground work for the redemption Jesus brought.*
3. The Word teaches us a principle in 1st Corinthians 15:46 (*However, the spiritual is not first but the natural and afterwards the spiritual*): First the Natural and then the Spiritual: The natural world types the spiritual. Another way to say this is that the natural world points us to spiritual truth.

GENESIS 11:1-9

(*For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line; here a little and there a little*: Isaiah 28:10)

Verse 1

Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.

The Bible does not tell us what this language was. Some believe that it is the language, much more precise than any language on earth today, that we will speak in heaven.

This time was between Noah and the flood and Abram being sent out by God and becoming Abraham, the Father of many nations. Scholars think that Noah was still alive when this took

place, some saying the building of the Tower of Babel was 100 years after the flood and others saying 300 years.

Although definitely not a participant, Noah most likely was alive since he lived longer than any man in history besides his great grandfather Methuselah. Noah lived 950 years and Methuselah lived 969 years.

Verse 2

And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

This plain was in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley, or in the country of Iraq. Nimrod was the evil man in charge. He was the great grandson of Noah, the grandson of Ham, the son of Cush, and is recognized as the builder of Babylon in Shinar. He is called a Mighty man in scripture, but he was not godly. His name means "*we shall rebel.*" *Babylon is synonymous* in the Bible with humanism or reliance on man as opposed to reliance on the one true living God. Babylon is founded on pride, world domination, polytheism, henotheism, demonism, and animism. Nimrod is an Old Testament antichrist Figure.

Verse 3

Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make brick for stone," and they had asphalt for mortar.

Any time you see brick being used in scripture, as opposed to stone, it represents man's efforts.

Verse 4

And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

Babel and the Tower of Babel represent man's feeble efforts to make a name for themselves and to replace the God of Heaven. Satan, "the god of this world," used man's pride and reliance on self rather than reliance on God to encourage this rebellion against God.

Those who built the Tower of Babel were not interested in God's name but in their own name. Building the Tower was a deception of satan similar to his first great lie in the Garden. His goal is always the same: to lead mankind in rebellion against the lordship of Jesus and lead them to serve satan by putting idols in their lives or by serving false gods.

The pyramid tower was expected to reach heaven. Josephus in his book *The Antiquities of the Jews*, *writes:* "He (Nimrod) also said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to be able to reach, and that he would avenge himself on God destroying his forefathers." Archeologists have found the ruins of other towers like the Tower of Babel. Apparently on the top of these towers was an altar where human sacrifices were made. Nimrod wanted to raise up a world empire in opposition to God.

<u>Verse 5</u>

But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

Throughout scripture, Babylon is seen as the embodiment of human pride and godlessness that will result in the judgement of Almighty God. It is symbolic of the rejection of the true God and the creation of false religions created by men to meet their own selfish needs and wants.

Verse 6

And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one , and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

Mankind had forgotten the lessons from the judgment of God on man's sinfulness in the Flood. The people in the post flood world had a heart problem, which ultimately is a flesh problem.

Verse 7

"Come, let US go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

Man's efforts at glorifying themselves brought confusion and frustration and the dispersion throughout the world of these people.

Verse 8 and 9

So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over face of all the earth.

Babel literally means "confusion." Jewish tradition teaches that God sent a strong wind and destroyed the tower and scattered

the people. In Genesis 10, there are seventy names that are called the seventy languages.

Nimrod and Babylon

Nimrod was the leader of Babylon during the dispersion of mankind and the confusion of languages. Nimrod is the son of Cush, the son of Ham, who was cursed by God for looking on his naked, drunken father and telling his older brothers. The implication is that Ham had impure and filthy thoughts of a pornographic nature towards his father. At any rate Noah cursed his son Ham (Genesis 10:15-19) repeating the curse three times. This curse was fully realized when Joshua crossed the Jordan and conquered the Canaanites, direct descendants of Ham. Egypt in Psalm 105:23 is called “the land of Ham.”

Nimrod is described in scripture as a mighty hunter. His name means “rebel” or “let us revolt.” Unfortunately, he used his God given abilities to control and conquer all around him and to turn the people of God who were the descendants of Noah to the occult, to astrology and the whole horoscope system, and to ungodly living. (The Bible clearly teaches against horoscopes and astrology in Leviticus 19:31 and Deuteronomy 18.) His was the first but not the last “God is Dead” movement in history. He made himself a God and created his own religious system that included the Zodiac signs and other Babylonian deities. He instituted full-scale ritual sexuality and idolatry into the mainstream culture. He defiled everything that was godly and destroyed anybody and anything that stood in his way. He was also a gifted musician and used music to lull people into

following him. Initially, he most likely convinced people that he was chosen by God and represented the Lord God in the things he did and said, but then he ended up declaring that he was god. Romans 1:23 tells us that, when men reject God, they inevitably turn to false gods. Nimrod was the builder of several towns. Babylon and Nineveh were the best known.

The Bible traces all false religions to Babylon. Revelation 17:5 speaks of Babylon as "the mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth." Babylon is the world system that eliminates God and promotes money making at any cost, sensuality, humanism or reliance on men, deification of men and denial of God. Great Babylon will fall. *And there followed another angel saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.* Revelation 14:8

5 Iniquities or the "I Will" Statements of Satan

Nimrod wanted to make a name for himself. This is an iniquity drive and included in the 5 "I will" statements by satan in Isaiah 14:12-17:

1. **I WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN** (This person spends time striving for recognition, doing works to get to heaven, social climbing, man pleasing, etc.)
2. **I WILL EXALT MY THRONE ABOVE THE STARS OF GOD** (This person reacts with competition, gossip, reputation destruction in attempts to drag others down, working for

praise, self-exaltation, large building and work programs, etc.)

3. **I WILL SIT UPON THE MOUNT OF THE CONGREGATION IN THE SIDES OF THE NORTH** (This person is attention seeking; has an insatiable desire to be looked at, listened to, given recognition; this drive is behind the movie star who commits suicide because another now is a bigger star.)
4. **I WILL ASCEND ABOVE THE HEIGHTS OF THE CLOUDS** (This drive demands soulishness with feelings, emotional bliss, and imaginations and is the drive behind alcohol and drug abuse, gambling, religious ecstasy, illicit sex, sweets, food drives, escapism, hype, etc.)
5. **I WILL BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH** (People with this drive desire to be exalted above others, win every argument, get own way; this drive demands that the one afflicted be recognized as #1; often doctors have this drive which we call a god-complex. It causes fights, strife, and murder.)

An iniquity is a drive in us to sin. It is not sin in the sense that sin is carrying out the act while iniquity is the gas in the car or the drive or the motivation that gets us there. It is not a demon but is a spiritual force that demons sometimes feed on. Iniquities are frequently passed down ancestrally through the generations. I personally believe that one reason why we so often see the “like father, like son” syndrome where children often have the same problems that parents had or have and why certain addictions or sexual/behavioral drives or lusts seem to run in families is because of iniquity drives.

When we minister to people in the area of iniquity drives, we don't cast them out as we do when we are dealing with demonic strongholds. We pray that the Lord will cut the person off from the drive, after they have repented from their sins and the sins of their generational lines and acknowledge that they want to be free. I have found that this is most often not a one time deal but must be done over and over until the iniquity drive is weakened and finally passes from us.

We ask the Lord to cause the iniquity to "pass" from us and "clothe us with a change of garments." I am very much a fan of personal deliverance and personal ministry in the area of iniquity drives where the person himself can pray these things over himself.

Zechariah 3:4 tells us: *And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from you, and I will clothe you with a change of garments.*

We can also ask the Lord to "subdue" iniquity drives in us. Micah 7:19 tells us: *He will turn again; He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.* We can take great comfort in the fact that there is forgiveness with the Lord. Psalm

130 says, *If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, oh LORD, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.* And Isaiah 53:5 says, *...He was bruised for our iniquities.*

Iniquities are passed down from generation to generation unless they are cut off. Therefore, it is extremely important that we deal with them. Numbers 14:18(as well as Exodus 20:4-5, Exodus 34:6-7, Deuteronomy 5:9) tells us that they are passed down to the third and fourth generation: *The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.* Unfortunately for our permissive society, iniquities for illegitimate births go to ten generations, unless broken through prayer by the grace and mercy of our God. Deuteronomy 23:2 says, *One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the congregation of the Lord even to the tenth generation; none of his descendants shall enter the congregation of the Lord.*

So how can we be delivered from what our ancestors did and from our own self-imposed iniquity drives?

1. **By recognizing the specific iniquity drive in us and praying over a course of days, weeks, months or years, until we see victory, that that**

specific drive be cut off from us and our bloodline: Often it is helpful for someone in spiritual authority to pray with you about this. *For I will declare my iniquities; I will be sorry for my sins.* Psalm 38:18

2. **By confessing to God:** *But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me...Then will I remember my covenant with Abraham will I remember, and I will remember the land.* Leviticus 26: 40 & 42

We need to take responsibility for generational things in our families. We do this by taking ownership and repenting for the sin that opened our ancestors up to the iniquity, even though we did not commit the sin. Jeremiah 14:20 tells us: *We acknowledge, O LORD, our wickedness and the iniquity of our fathers. For we have sinned against You.*

3. **By accepting the vicarious sacrifice of Christ in our behalf:** *But He was wounded for our transgressions. HE WAS BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.* Isaiah 53:5

4. **By pleading the purification of His Blood:** *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash*

me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of my salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy way, and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Psalm 51:7-13

[Hyssop is the little shrub with which the blood and water of purification were applied.]

5. By being genuinely sorry and coming to the Lord with a broken and contrite heart. *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.* Psalm 51:17

> My spiritual father, now with the Lord, wrote many years ago: "There seems to be a fixed law that we are POSSESSED by those persons or things we possess. This law operates whether we reach out to possess a PERSON in the natural or CHRIST in the Spiritual. Whether we seem to acquire material riches or the "true riches." After we possess and are possessed, we then consume (destroy) and are consumed (destroyed). When we engage in the consumption and being consumed by earthly persons or things, we descend into DEATH (torment), but when we consume CHRIST ("*eat of my*

flesh, *drink of my blood*"), we come into ETERNAL LIFE and the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

"The more I am in this work, the more I see that possessing and consuming PERSONS and THINGS of this life, produce insanity (powers of satan which are death), and that as soon as the person begins to turn loose of that to which they cling, and by which they are bound, and begins to feed on Christ and to be in turn taken into HIM, then come liberation and life. How the flesh does fight a change of diet! And how powerful the Spirit it to "*show forth Christ*."

7 Areas that We as Christians Need to Deal With

1. We cast out the demonic through deliverance ministry. (John 8:36, Mark 16:9)
2. We repeatedly ask the Lord to cut us off or cleanse us from our iniquities. (Zechariah 3:1-7)
3. We repent for what our ancestors did and ask for our generational curses to be broken. (Gal. 3:13, Exodus 34:7)
4. We spiritually house-clean our homes to cast out any unclean demonic spirit, throwing away objects that might have been dedicated to satan. (Isaiah 38:1)
5. We seek healing for our mind, will, and emotions and for our physical bodies. (James 5:14-16)
6. We crucify or put to death the flesh nature. (Galatians 5:24)
7. We renew our minds by meditating on God's Word. (Romans 12:2)