

Confusion: Dispersion at Babel

Scripture: Genesis 9:1, 9:7; 11:1-9; Acts 17:26

After the Flood was over, Noah and his family (8 people in all) left the Ark. All the tribes and nations on the earth today have come from these 8 people. God gave Noah and his family specific instructions in Genesis 9:1 and God repeated this in Genesis 9:7



At this Point in World History:

1. “The whole earth was of one language, and of one speech” – 11:1

Literally – “of one lip and one set of words” (one vocabulary)

2. The decision is made to dwell in one location – 11:2 “They dwelt there”

The plain of Shinar – Mesopotamia area (11:2, see 10:8-10) Babylonia (Modern day Iraq)

3. Direct defiance of God’s command to “fill the earth” – Genesis 9:1, 7

Two Problems:

- 1- Disobeyed God’s specific instructions to disperse across the earth – Genesis 9:1, 9:7
- 2- Were prideful in their disobedience by coveting a name for themselves – Genesis 11:4

4. God’s Divine intervention – 11:5-7

Problem was the unity of the people – vs. 6

Effective way of thwarting unity would be to prevent communication – vs.7

5. The Lord scattered the people abroad upon the face of the earth

As God imposed different languages on man, they could not work together so they were forced to scatter over the earth as God wanted them to in the first place

Genesis 9:19

“After their tongues”

- Genesis 10:5 – The sons of Japheth

- Genesis 10:20 – The sons of Ham
- Genesis 10:31 – The sons of Shem

See Genesis 10:32

“Babel” – Mixed or confusion

The population was broken into smaller groups which scattered over the earth – 11:9

All the various people groups have come in existence since this time

Putting Dates in Perspective:

Secular historians date the first civilization around 8,000 – 10,000 BC

The worldwide Flood that destroyed everything (that was not on the Ark) on earth began in 2348 BC

The Tower of Babel was a little more than 100 years after the Flood subsided in 2349 BC

The Stills of Ancient People:

Skeptics try to discount the account of the Tower of Babel by refusing to believe that the ancient people were skilled enough to accomplish such a task.

- Building cities – Genesis 4:17
- Raising and caring for live-stock – Genesis 4:20
- Made and played musical instruments – Genesis 4:21
- Metalworker in bronze and iron – Genesis 4:22