

Is God opposed to the building of great and impressive structures? Our text indicates that this may be a possibility. He stopped them from building the tower of Babylon which we call the tower of Babel. And yet the Great Pyramid of Egypt was built around the same time. God halted the building of the tower as we see here in our text. But the Great Pyramid was completed and still stands today, and it is much taller than Babylon's tower would have been. So, there is something else going on here.

After the Great Flood, God commanded Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, "*Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.*" They were fruitful and they multiplied. Yet not necessarily because this is what God had told them to do. These things come naturally because of man's needs and desires.

Of Noah's three sons, Ham was the rebellious one. His grandson, Nimrod, "*was a mighty hunter before the Lord,*" says the Bible. He was opposed to the Lord, is what this means. He was a hunter, not just of animals, but of people - the children of Shem who were faithful to the Lord.

Nimrod built the city of Babylon. And he would have been the one to call out in our text, "*Come, let us build ourselves a tower and a city... and let us make a name for ourselves lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.*"

Nimrod, with all the children of Ham, were not about to be scattered as God had commanded them. They would come together and unify. They would, together, rebel against God. This is why they were building the tower. To oppose the Lord, the God of Noah and Shem. They would be gods unto themselves.

The last time people acted so wickedly, God destroyed them in a flood of water. But He promised, with the rainbow, to never do that again. And so, rather than removing the wicked ones from the earth, He places a limit upon their wickedness. He confuses their language so that they cannot understand each other nor trust each other. They are no longer unified, unified against God, and against the children of Shem. They must cease building the tower, and they are forced to disperse over the whole earth.

This was an act of gracious judgment. Had the wickedness of Ham's children not been limited, the children of Shem would surely have been wiped out. And so, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would not have been born. Nor Moses, nor the Children of Israel. Nor King David. Nor Mary and Joseph. Nor Jesus. In confusing their language in one fell swoop, God was preserving, for all people, a Savior.

Would you agree with me that we are living in a sort of Babylon today? What we see are the Nimrods of the world calling people to unite together against God, against His Commandments, against His authority. "Come," they call out, "let us protest and riot. Let us take bricks and throw them. Let us burn stores and churches."

Babylon became Babel when God intervened to throw the people into confusion. And is it not very apparent that we live in such a world of confusion today? Perhaps this, as was Babel, is an act of God's judgment.

You've seen what is happening. There is confusion over what is a man and what is a woman. Confusion over how many genders there are, even though God made them "*male and female.*" Confusion over what is a baby and when is a baby a baby. This confusion is being taught in our schools so that, for generations to come, confusion will reign supreme.

Now, the confusion of their language in our text was not limited to Babylon. We're told that the "*Lord confused the language of all the earth.*" All of Noah's descendants were confused including the children of Shem who were faithful to the Lord.

You are, in a real sense, the children of Shem, for you desire to live faithfully toward God. But even you are affected by all the confusion out there. And so, we are plagued with doubts as a result. We hear what the Bible says about man and woman, homosexuality, abortion, and that there is one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who alone has been given all authority. But the Nimrods out there speak so loudly, and so many are believing them and going along with them. What are we to think? It is all so confusing.

There is only one place where there is no confusion. That place is the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures. And when the Holy Spirit is at work in the hearts and minds of people, He leads them out of all the confusion to the truth of Jesus Christ.

This happened on the Day of Pentecost, and three thousand were led out of the confusion which began at Babel to the waters of Holy Baptism, confessing their sins and believing in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins.

There is no confusion in what the Holy Spirit teaches. Look at your baptism and you know who you are. A sinful male or female, yes, but a sinner baptized into Christ Jesus. One who is forgiven of all sin. Look at the cross and you know who your God is. The man Jesus Christ who endured the penalty for your sin, who suffered, died, and rose again so that your true home is not this world of confusion, but in heaven above.

There was only one language, we're told, before Babel. And today there is only one language the Holy Spirit teaches. The language of God's love for sinners in Christ Jesus. You know this language. And this language will never be thrown into confusion.

Faithful missionaries are proclaiming this one language into all the world so that people of many languages learn the one language of God's love for them in Jesus. This is the language taught here in God's House, and the language you speak in your home. The Nimrods of our day all preach confusion. But our God is merciful. He overcomes confusion with the truth, the truth taught by the Holy Spirit in the Gospel, the Gospel which is your salvation in Jesus Christ. Amen.