



2022 2Q Genesis—Lesson All Nations and Babel

by Tim Jennings

SABBATH

Read Memory Text:

“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 the face of all the earth” (Genesis 11:9 NKJV).

Why did the Lord confuse their languages?

Was this punishment for sin or something else? What was God’s purpose in doing it?

Was it an act of vengeance or an act of love and mercy?

Read second paragraph, “However, the line is broken...” What law lens do you hear “judgment” through? What kind of judgment is this?

This is diagnostic and therapeutic judgment, judging what is transpiring, the impact, consequences, what is necessary to minimize the eternal loss of human beings and ultimately keep open avenue for Messiah so humanity can be saved from sin.

There is nothing judicial going on here. It is sad that the lesson keeps using the “judgment” language because it lends itself to reinforcing the deep seated infection of imperial law thinking.

What was the cause or motivation for them to build the tower?

What is the theme of Scripture? Is this event at Babel a stand-alone story to teach us some point, or is it an event that is part of a larger story, a single battle in the middle of a larger war? What is that larger war? Genesis 3:15, the promised Messiah needs to come lest the entire human species is eternally lost. Satan is working to obstruct the coming Messiah. He needs to unite the world—the entire world—into rebellion against God again, just like at the time of the flood. The tower of Babel is part of Satan’s attack against God’s plan. Thus God intervenes to thwart Satan’s attempt to unite the entire human population in rebellion against God and keep open the avenue for the Messiah.

Were the people building the tower because, as a group, the entire world stopped believing in God, or because they did believe but didn’t trust Him?



What does this say about the use of power? Can God achieve His goal of loyal followers who love and trust Him and who are also trustworthy by the use of might and power, by inflicting punishments upon those who disobey? Why or why not?

If God cannot get what He wants with use of power, then what does it mean that He used so much power in Old Testament times? Why would He do it? Was He trying to achieve something else in those circumstances? In other words, when God used might and power was He trying to win people to love and trust by the use of might and power or seeking to achieve something else?

Read last paragraph, “In the end, in spite...” I do not like the wording here, that “God turns evil into good.” Can God turn evil into good? Or is evil evil and good good? Evil cannot be turned into good, but God can bring good outcomes of the evil actions and intentions of His enemies.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28 NIV84).

For instance, Lot’s daughters getting their father drunk and sleeping with him and each having a son. Amon the father of the Ammonites and Moab the father of the Moabites, was not good but evil. That act will always be not good but evil. However, Ruth was a Moabitess and the grandmother of King David and one of the ancestors of Christ. So God did bring good out of the evil, but that doesn’t make what Lot’s daughters did good.

What do you think about the idea that the confusing of the languages was a curse from God that will eventually be turned to a blessing?

They reference Genesis 11:9 to support the idea, which is our memory text, but let’s reread it. Does it say God cursed them?

“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 the face of all the earth” (Genesis 11:9 NKJV).

I don’t read where the confusing of the languages was a curse. In fact, understanding reality, God’s design law, the great controversy, the plan of salvation, to NOT confuse the languages and to allow them to stay united would have been a curse. Why? It would have resulted in greater wickedness, more people hardening against God and more people failing to find salvation.

Thus confusing the languages slowed the spread of Satan’s lies and the ability for humans to unite in rebellion against God which was a blessing, total and complete.

Why do you think some view God confusing the languages as a curse?



SUNDAY

The lesson title is The Curse of Ham, what do you understand this to be?

Let's read about it from Scripture, Genesis 9:18-27:

The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the earth. Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness.

When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, he said,

“Cursed be Canaan!
The lowest of slaves
will he be to his brothers.”

He also said,

“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem!
May Canaan be the slave of Shem.
May God extend the territory of Japheth;
may Japheth live in the tents of Shem,
and may Canaan be his slave” (Genesis 9:18-27 NIV84).

What do you make of this account?

Who gets cursed in the account? Was it Ham or his son Canaan? Why?

Who did the cursing God or Noah? Was the cursing causal? In other words, is Noah a shaman with some magical powers who when he places a curse on someone it is like voodoo and has the ability to magically ruin that person's life and the life of their descendants? If not what is the curse?

How does design law understand the curse? Was it a prophecy, a vision into the future? Was it a prediction based on understanding reality?

When God makes prophecies that concern people, like various prophecies for the nation of Israel—are those prophecies causal? Meaning does the prophecy take away liberty and predestine people to act



out what was prophesied? Or can people still act in ways that cause the prophecy not to occur? Are there such things as conditional prophecies?

Could this curse by Noah be nothing more his view of what was likely to happen because of the nature and character of Ham?

What did Ham do here that would cause Noah to curse his son?

Canaan was the youngest son of Ham, does that give any suggestions as to why he was the one cursed?

Here is Genesis 9:18-27 from *The Remedy*:

The sons of Noah who came out of the boat were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) These were Noah's three sons, and from them came all the people who populate the earth.

Noah began farming and planted a vineyard. Some of the grape juice had fermented, and when Noah drank the wine, he became drunk, took off his clothes and laid naked inside his tent. When Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father lying drunk and naked, he ridiculed him; and rather than respecting his father and protecting his reputation, he went out and mocked him to his two brothers. But Shem and Japheth respected their father: they placed a robe on their shoulders and then walked backward into the tent and covered their father's nakedness. As they did this, they turned their faces away and did not see their father naked.

When Noah awoke from his stupor and found out what his youngest son had done, he said, "Your disrespectful, critical and contemptuous ways will be a curse to your descendants, starting with Canaan – your youngest, who is still young enough to be molded by your example! Abusive, exploitive and selfish, your descendants will not be trusted members of the family but will become like servants – no closer than slaves – to their brothers."

Then Noah said, "Praise and adore the Creator God of Shem! But Ham's descendants, beginning with Canaan, will not be trusted members of the family; they will be like servants – no closer than slaves – to their brothers. God will increase Japheth and his descendants, and they will get along well with Shem and his descendants; but Ham's descendants, beginning with Canaan, will not be trusted members of the family; they will be like servants – no closer than slaves – to their brothers."

Read last paragraph, "In addition, the curse..." So are they saying that what Ham did was actually a good thing so that the curse would happen and then become a blessing to all nations?

Or is it better to say that despite the curse that sin causes God can still bring out a blessing that will eradicate sin and its curse?



Moses speaking to the people said,

“This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses” (Deuteronomy 30:19 NIV84).

In Hebrew parallelism life is equated with blessings and death is equated with curses.

And from where does death come?

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23 NIV84).

Note the contrast between the curse and the blessing—death the curse comes from sin, life the blessing comes from God.

“The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life” (Galatians 6:8 NIV84).

Again, the curse of death comes from sinfulness and the blessing of life comes from the Spirit of God

I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” (1Corinthians 15:50-55 NIV84).

- The curse of death does not come from God as punishment for sin. It is what sin unavoidably causes unless sin is eradicated by God. And this is what Jesus has done. He has eradicated the death causing principle from the humanity He assumed and restored the life causing principle into humanity and thereby destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light and is now the Savior, Healer, Restorer, Purifier, Deliverer, Remedy for all who trust Him, (Hebrews 5:9).

MONDAY

What is the purpose of the genealogies in Scripture?

- Historical veracity
- Connection through time, generation to generation—a real living link of people from ancient to modern times
 - This is valuable for many reasons one of them this human link, generation to generation from Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, David, Jesus to Jews living today who still observe the Bible Sabbath confirm exactly which day of the week is the



Sabbath for any who question. This is one example why the historic human link in Scripture is valuable.

- Remind us of our fleeting individual existence
- Documents Jesus' is a part of the human family all the way back to Adam

How did Satan pervert the use of genealogies and for which Paul had to write:

- “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God’s work—which is by faith” (1 Timothy 1:3-4 NIV84).
- “But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless” (Titus 3:9 NIV84).

What is going on? What was the problem?

Paul tells us in these two passages the key to the controversy between Christ and Satan through history, which continues to this day. It is the same issue that derailed the 1888 General Conference. It is the conflict between faith and law. In 1 Timothy Paul said: “These promote controversies rather than God’s work—**which is by faith**” And in Titus he said: “But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and **quarrels about the law.**”

Faith is from the Greek *pistis* and this one single word is translated into *faith, trust, believe, belief, assurance, fidelity*. It means conviction, confidence, certainty, trust.

The issue is about whether we have confidence or trust in God such that we let Him into our hearts to heal and restore us and will humbly listen to His instructions and trust Him enough to change our views, practices, methods, values, and follow Him? This is the design law view, healing the distrust caused by sin and restoring us to trust so that we open the heart and allow the Spirit to heal us. This is on contrast to Satan’s view which is the law view, law must be kept, someone has to pay a price, some legal mechanism must be accomplished, some ritual performed, some payment made, some book of records cleansed, some judicial ruling occur.

It is rooted in which view of law one holds, design law or imposed law. The view of law one holds changes how one views the character and methods of God. And because of the law of worship changes who we become and what methods we practice.

The faith group and the law group both use the same language such as:

- salvation by faith in Jesus
- righteousness by faith
- Jesus as the saving and atoning sacrifice
- Justification by faith



But they have different meanings depending on whether one worships the Creator whose laws are design laws or one worships the dictator whose laws are made up rules like sinful human beings make.

The root is the lie about God's law that Satan introduced, which when believed results in people believing God is the source of inflicted punishment for sin and thus they view the Bible record as God cursing, God punishing, etc.

So one key to identifying those who hold to Satan's view about God and the lie about God's law is to inquire what they believe happens to the wicked in the end. Those who view God's law as Satan says, believe that God will use His power to inflict pain, suffering, torture and death upon the wicked.

Those who worship the Creator God whose laws or design laws believe the unrepentant in the end will suffer terrible and die eternally, but as an unavoidable result of unremedied sin in them when God no longer shields and protects them from the damaging results of sin.

Note, both groups believe the wicked will suffer and die but one group worships a god who is the source of inflicted pain and suffering to punish sin, the other group worships a God who is the source of life and health and happiness and that the suffering and death comes from people separating themselves from God who is the source of life.

And the reason the one group insists God must punish is because they believe Satan's lie about God's law. So this is a key to identify who still clings to the lie that originated in heaven by God's number one enemy.

We are to be taking the 3 Angels' messages to the world which is to call people out of worshipping the dictator God which Rome made orthodoxy within Christianity and back to worshipping the Creator who made the heavens, earth, sea and fountains of water.

But back to how the Jews were using the genealogies to cause controversy, it is because of the promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob about their descendants being a blessing to the world.

The Jews came to believe that genetic descendancy determined virtue and righteousness or merit with God. To be able to trace one's genetic line back to Abraham through Jacob and Isaac, was thought to mean one was automatically blessed by God and entitled to the inheritance promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

But Paul says this is foolish thinking, why?

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise** (Galatians 3:26–29).



Did Jesus have anything to say about this?

Jesus Himself explicitly told the Jewish leaders of His day that genetics did not determine who is considered an heir of Abraham and who would inherit the promise. We find Jesus' explanation to the Jewish authorities in John 8:34-45; my comments are in red:

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a **slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.** [If we don't experience freedom from sin through Jesus, then we are not part of the family of God—that is, not part of Abraham's family.] So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word. I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you do what **you have heard from your father.**" [Jesus tells them plainly that even though they are genetic descendants of Abraham, God doesn't see them as being children of Abraham, but children of a different father. Note, the Jews, to whom Jesus was speaking, understood this point and protested, claiming their genetic heritage.]

"Abraham is our father," they answered. [Jesus' response disallows their genetics as being a valid basis for being considered a descendant of Abraham.]

"If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did. [Those recognized by God as children of Abraham are those who have the same faith in God as Abraham did and who act on that faith as Abraham did.] As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. You are doing the things your own father does." [Jesus again tells them that their heritage is not determined genetically but characterologically. They have embraced another father, but again, they protest and claim a higher father than Abraham.]

"We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself." [The Jews claimed God as their Father because God created humanity. But Jesus disallows this claim as well, for we are born in sin (Psalm 51:5) and Jesus already said that those who remain slaves to sin have no permanent place in the family of God. Only those who, through Jesus, are freed from sin become part of the family of God and are considered children of Abraham. Note Jesus' answer.]

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. **You belong to your father, the devil,** and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:34–45 NIV84). [Jesus unequivocally destroys the idea that genetics determines who is an heir of Abraham, and He makes it clear that it is all about faith, character, love, and trust like Abraham.]



Then what do we understand the promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to mean?

The covenant with and promises to Abraham focus on two promised lands and I wrote a blog about this [Israel and the Promised Land Today](#) in which I give more details. But the promises to Abraham had a local application and a global application. The local application is the one in which Abraham's genetic decedents are the branch of the human family through whom God accomplishes the promise of Genesis 3:15 and through whom the Messiah is born. This local regional promise to Abraham informs him that his children would inherit the land in Canaan **for the purpose** of fulfilling their mission of being the avenue through whom Messiah would come **so that** Jesus can fulfill God's greater promise, the covenant of grace given in Genesis 3:15, and crush the serpent's head **so that** the "meek will **inherit** the earth" (Matthew 5:5)—the true Promised Land.

- The *genetic* descendants inherited Canaan *in order* to be the avenue for Jesus our Savior to be born and fulfill the covenant given to the entire human family in Genesis 3:15 so that ...
- ... the *spiritual* descendants of Abraham—all those who have faith like Abraham—will inherit the entire planet, the earth made new.

TUESDAY

The lesson points out that the builders of the tower of Babel wanted to make a "name" for themselves.

What does this mean?

The lesson points out they wanted to replace God with self.

Where did such a motive originate?

Let's read Isaiah 14:12-17:

How you have fallen from heaven,
O morning star, son of the dawn! [Who is this?]
You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!
13 You said in your heart,
"I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.
14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High." [What is described? What is the motive? Where does it originate?]
15 But you are brought down to the grave,



to the depths of the pit. [By what?]

16 Those who see you stare at you,
they ponder your fate:
“Is this the man who shook the earth
and made kingdoms tremble,
17 the man who made the world a desert,
who overthrew its cities
and would not let his captives go home?” (Isaiah 14:12-17 NIV84).

What is described here? This is describing when the righteous who see through the lies of Satan as he is exposed as the source of pain, suffering, death. And all responsibility for sin and death is placed back upon Satan.

Is this acted out anywhere in the ceremonial system? This is at the Day of Atonement when the high priest places his hands on the head of the scapegoat and it is led into the wilderness. This is not placing individual acts of sin on the scapegoat, but placing the lies of Satan that caused the sin back upon his head with all the subsequent responsibility for the pain and suffering his lies have caused in God’s universe.

This is what is happening in the minds of people today as the “blood” of Jesus, which symbolically means His character, the truth and love of God that He revealed, is internalized into our hearts and minds and we discern the difference between God and Satan. As we reject the imposed law lie with all of its subsequent perversions and distortions about God and the plan of salvation, we are being cleansed and the **responsibility for all the pain, suffering and death is placed back on Satan’s head and we stop teaching that God is the source of death that He inflicts upon the wicked!**

WEDNESDAY

Read third paragraph, “The descent of God reminds...” After Adam sinned could the human race be saved without Jesus, without the promised Seed of Genesis 3:15? No!

No question, without Jesus becoming human, humbling Himself all the way through the cross and grave to come out victorious having destroyed death no human being could be saved.

But, did Jesus’ death at the cross save every human being? Why not?

Jesus came as the second Adam and as such redeemed the species human, put the species human back into sinless perfection and right connection with God, the source of life, IN HIS PERSON, in the humanity that He took upon Himself. Simultaneously, Jesus revealed the truth about God that destroys the lies of Satan solidifying the unfallen angels in their loyalty.



For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to **reconcile to himself** all things, whether things on earth or things **in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross** (Colossians 1:19-20 NIV84).

And He procured the remedy necessary for any individual sinful human being who places their trust/faith in Him to receive eternal life, a new heart and right spirit, the character, methods, and law of God restored within them.

once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him (Hebrews 5:9 NIV84).

So Jesus saved the species in His own person, revealed truth to stop Satan's lies from spreading and securing the unfallen beings in their loyalty, and procured the remedy for fallen humans that we receive by faith when we trust Jesus we open our hearts and the Spirit enters bringing the victory of Christ to us and we are reborn with new motives, desires, and power to live lives of love and truth rather than fear and selfishness.

So why are some saved and some are not? Because some partake of the truth and trust Jesus, open their hearts and receive the regeneration of motives from fear and selfishness to love and trust and then choose to live differently, in harmony with God's principles, and with each choice to follow and apply God's methods in their lives they receive divine power to succeed and their characters are transformed, and some do not partake the truth and open their hearts in trust to receive this indwelling presence of God which transforms them.

THURSDAY

Read the first paragraph, "God's design.." Now consider for a moment, if God did not confuse their languages would their tower have reached into heaven? No, they would have remained on earth, but what would have likely resulted?

Would a human government have formed? And what kind of government would it likely have been with people motivated to make a name for themselves?

Would it have resulted in a few powerful elites dominating and exploiting the masses of people? And what impact does that have on individual development?

So, do you see that God confused their languages and spread them around the world to prevent a single dominating and exploitive human government from developing?

The lesson states in the second paragraph, "Indeed, whenever humans, in open defiance of God, want to 'make a name' for themselves, we can be sure it won't turn out well. It never has."



This is well stated and absolutely true. What about today? Do we see society decaying as godless evolutionism replaced a Creator God worldview in schools and society at large? And is our cultural value system today based on “making a name” for self, getting the most fame, the most clicks, the most followers? And what is the result, are we seeing more virtue, gentleness, kindness, meekness, love, patience, goodness, righteousness, or ever-increasing vileness, wickedness, exploitation and evil?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

May 6-7, 2022: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Lakewood Seventh-Day Adventist Church 1382 Arthur Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107.

- Friday evening: Healing the Mind
- Sabbath SS time: The God Shaped Brain
- Sabbath Church: Growing up in Christ—the 7 levels of moral decision making
- Sabbath afternoon: The Developing Brain followed by Q&A

Materials in Australia: Simon and Maani Harrison have a Facebook group in Australia and have the following Come and Reason resources available in Australia:

- CIBTS
- God is Love Children’s book
- The Heavenly Sanctuary for the Modern World
- The Final Message of Mercy
- The Remedy NT
- The Remedy of the Lord in Song
- First set of tracts

You can email Simon at australia@comeandreason.com

Materials in South Africa: Jacques van den Heever has materials available in South Africa you can email him at southafrica@comeandreason.com