

The Tower of Babel - TWR 79

One of the mysteries of the age is how and why the first eleven chapters of the Book of Genesis have been so thoroughly downgraded. The notion is widespread, both beyond the Church and within the Church, that these chapters are only a mixture of myths, legends and jottings from various sources, having little to do with historical reality. Their value, we are told, lies in the theological WHY we are all here, rather than anything to do with the historical or scientific HOW we are all here. Indeed anyone who dares to murmur that there might just be rather more to these chapters than is assumed these days tends to be ridiculed, patronised or ignored.

This is all very odd, for there is a mass of evidence, on both scriptural and scientific grounds, for taking these chapters very seriously indeed. Such evidence is rarely presented before the Lord's people or the wider world because of the extraordinary domination of Darwinian evolution in so many walks of life.

So let us lay aside for the moment any instincts we may have to dismiss early Genesis, and briefly consider the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11.1-9), for it explains so much about global events of today.

After the Flood (let us assume this occurred just as described), dated at 2469 BC (eg., "Miracle of Time", Frank Paine, page 149), God told the people to spread out and repopulate the earth. They refused to do so (Genesis 11.1-4), choosing instead to stick together, and to build a great tower into which they could retreat *when the next Flood came!* So once again, defiance against the one true God was rampant. The Lord came down, divided their languages, stopped the building of the city, and obliged them to scatter.

Now as they spread out from what is now Mesopotamia (literally, "between the rivers", of the Tigris and Euphrates in modern Iraq), those people took with them a jumble of knowledge. They would have known, by both oral and written tradition (see below at *), the records of the Creation, Adam and Eve, the Fall, the Promise, the Curse and the Flood. They therefore took with them a great deal that was true about the Lord God their Creator.

As they moved apart, as the generations passed, as sin continued to spread its ugly stain, and as Satan got quietly on with his wrecking tactics, so that knowledge gradually became more and more twisted. Within the many "folklores" that arose, there would be nuggets of the old, real truth, in the midst of a morass of falsehood.

And those nuggets are exactly what anthropologists have always found. We only have space here for a few examples.

Throughout the world there is a deep recognition amongst tribal peoples that God or the gods have to be appeased by sacrifices.

Stories of a worldwide Flood abound, in literally all parts of the world today, such as the American Indians, the Babylonians, the Maoris, the Egyptians, the Eskimos, the Fijians, the Chinese, the Mexicans and the Hawaiians. Details vary, not surprisingly by now, but throughout we have mention of a boat, a few people being rescued along with animals, "the land was not", and the main man involved had a name such as Nuh or Noh.

The aborigines have stories concerning an original man and woman, a time of no death, then a curse, then a flood. Where did all those come from? There is a Babylonian legend concerning "the lady of the rib".

The early missionaries to China were astonished to find clear references within the characters of the Chinese languages to the creation events of early Genesis. For example, the verb "create" in Chinese is made up of symbols meaning: dust / life or motion / mouth or person / speak / walk; "devil" is made up of: garden / man / secret / life or motion; "tempter" is made up of: cover / tree / devil; "covet" is made up of: woman / two trees; "boat" is made up of: vessel / eight / mouth or person; "to judge" is made up: mouth / words / lamb.

If early Genesis has nothing to do with historic facts, then how on earth are all these pieces of evidence to be explained?

We close this time with one vital realisation: All the non-biblical "World Faiths" of today, including those recognising God and those denying God, are greater or lesser corruptions of the one, original, true Faith, as revealed by Almighty God to humanity, through His words and His deeds, in the first chapters of the Book of Genesis.

It is no exaggeration to claim that the key to our understanding the competing, clashing Faiths of today's world lies quite simply in Genesis Chapters 1 - 11.

(* It is another evolutionary myth that our forebears were basically grunting, flat-headed idiots (though a few current politicians may come to mind). Jubal and Tubal-Cain were highly skilled (Genesis 4.21-22), and later on, Moses "wrote all the words of the Lord" (Exodus 24.4). There is no reason to assume that writing did not exist before the Flood).

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