



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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II- One Language, One Speech: Gen 11:1-2

“And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 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.” All the humans of the earth could communicate with each other. They migrated from the mountains to the fertile plains of Mesopotamia. Some strongly suggest that this one language was the Hebrew language; others are less certain and say it was probably just in the Semitic family of languages. The strong argument for it being Hebrew is that all the names of men and places of this time have Hebrew meanings. Human speech is a very remarkable thing indeed. While we constantly see programs about how the dolphins, elephants, ants and other creature communicate with calls, chatter, odors and other means, only humans speak.

III- The City and the Tower to Heaven: Gen 11:3-4

“And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”

The area in which these events take place is the plains and there was not any building material there. They made bricks from the soil, probably sun baked. They established a settlement in the land of Shinar and built cities.

One need only look at the use of the pronoun in this section to see that the rebellion was humanistic, *let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name...*”

So the city is built and they decide to build a tower. Some have a picture of this tower reaching into outer space and being an attempt to reaching into the throne room of God. This is not an accurate picture.

If you will notice in the KJV of your Bible the words, *“may reach”* are italic meaning they were inserted by the translator for clarity and were not in the original Hebrew text. The NASB has the same type insertion with the words, *“will reach”*, again in italic.

So, what is the meaning of this? Harold Willmington says:

“Archaeology evidence suggests that the Tower of Babel was in reality a building given over to astrology, or the heather worship of the heavens. Among the ruins of ancient Babylon is a building 153 feet high with a 400 foot base. It was constructed of dried bricks in seven stages, to correspond with the known planets to which they were dedicated...These stages were surmounted by a lofty tower, on the summit of which were the signs of the Zodiac.” (p 35)

JV McGee says, “...the sole purpose of this tower was for a rallying place for man.” (p 52)



Coordinates:
Genesis 11:1-9

Sights to See:

- 1- Mankind continues to rebel against God after the flood and it lead to another judgment.
- 2- Man is gullible to the lie of Satan that he can be a god. He told this lie to Eve you will remember.
- 3- All religions of the world except for Christianity have their roots at the tower of Babel and the false religions there.
- 4- The confusion of speech is still evident in our world today on many levels.
- 5- Sin still makes it hard for us to communicate even when we speak the same language.
- 6- Pentecost gives us evidence that God, who confused the languages of man, can unscramble them if it fits His purpose.
- 7- What it be wonderful in heaven to understand everyone perfectly clear as we praise God.

