

WHY WE PUBLISH THE SCRIPTURES and NIMROD'S FALSE RELIGION

N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D., Pastor, Historic Baptist Church

In Genesis chapter 1 we find that in the beginning God created all things. God created man, and man understood the true nature of God. People were mono-theists, and knew the true God was the Creator. Although not all men worshipped and obeyed the true God, they knew there was only one God (Genesis chapter 6). This standard understanding continued after the fall, and even continues until today; however, a false religion soon appeared after God created Adam and Eve (Genesis 3).

Satan corrupted mono-theism by claiming man could become as gods. This is still the great lie: that man can become a god and never die. These were the lies he spoke in the garden when tempting Eve (Genesis 3).

Consequently, we can prove through study, that:

- All false religions are Satanic and have him as a common origin.
- All false religions can be traced to this same beginning – to Satan himself. He is the corrupter of the true religion of the Creator.
- All false religions are similar in nature and function. They teach that man can be elevated to be *like God*. The second function is to degrade (bring *down*) the true God. Satan's lie (that man can be as God), and his desire that caused his own fall ("I will be like the most high" – Isaiah 14:13, 14) have not changed. Satan wants man to *think* he, too, can be deified. He then wants man to *humanize* God. They are basically both sides of the same coin. If a man thinks he can be like God, he brings God down to his level.

Men continue on this rebellious path away from God. Man strives against the Spirit of God.

In Genesis 6, God repents that he made man and floods the earth in the days of Noah. After the flood Shem carries on the godly seed with the fear of the Lord. But other men reproduce, too, and start to repopulate the earth. As man and the animals multiply, so does the vegetation. The earth is recovering from the drastic flood that destroyed it. As animals reproduce, some become carnivorous. I know not whether this is due to the lack of vegetation keeping up with the animal population, or some other corruption. I do know that God commands Noah that any beast that kills a man should be put to death (Genesis 9:5, 6).

This commandment from God authorizes man to kill deadly beasts. Men who trust God have the courage to obey him, but the disobedient and unbelieving are fearful (Proverbs 28:1). The man-eaters continue to thrive.

People fear the man-eaters (lions and tigers and bears – oh my!). But the grandson of Ham (Genesis 10:8-10) becomes a prolific hunter and rises to become the ruler of kingdoms. His name means "The Rebel" (Hebrew verb *marad* + "n" = the noun "*nmarad*".) Not only was Nimrod a mighty hunter of animals and men, but he was a trapper of men souls by stratagem and force. He was a tyrannical ruler of his people and opponent of the true God. Those who are unrighteous make wicked rulers.

Nimrod sets a new standard for a king. He delivers the people from the many beasts that threatened the earth after the flood. The people say, "Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD" (Genesis 10:9). However, this "deliverer" also desires worship as a god.

We estimate there were only between 5 -25 thousand people on the earth at that time, but a multitude of wild animals multiplied and marauded the lands. Nimrod "protected" the people and provided a safe city (government) with his own religion. Nimrod's Babel (i.e., Babylon) was the first post-flood city. People found a place they could run to and be safe under the shadow of Nimrod. Nimrod was highly honored ("before the Lord"). He was a "nation-builder" in our terms of today. [Micah 5:6 calls Assyria, the land of Nimrod (also I Chronicles 1:10). Nimrod is said by human sources to have built Nineveh after the fall of Babel, Calah (modern Nimrud), Rehoboth-Ir, and Resen]. Nimrod's Babel reached its zenith under Nebuchadnezzar – the gold head (Daniel 2:38) of false religions – and became known as Babylon.

Nimrod became the focus of worship. He positioned himself as a replacement for God after the flood, and steered the people from the true Creator to the sun first (source of life, warmth, food, and drying of the earth after the flood, etc.), and then to himself. Nimrod's name is symbolic of his power and rebellion against the true God. He was a mighty hunter. (His "horns" are symbolic of his power, and become his "crowns.") Nimrod built a tower to the sun, and set himself up as God (Genesis 11).

This tower of ancient Assyria is known today as a "Ziggurat." This is a man-made "mountain-top" with a pagan temple at the top. It was built to worship the host of heaven. From here Nimrod set up his false religion for the world to follow, a rebellion against Jehovah God.

God intervened before the one-world false religion could go forward unabated. God destroyed the tower and confused the language (Genesis 11:7, 8). **This confounding of tongues and scattering of people were God's judgment on Nimrod's religion.**

With the language confused and the tower destroyed, and people migrated to various parts of the earth. Nimrod lost the power over of many of his followers, but not the effect of the rebellious false religion. The people took variations of this false religion to all the corners of the earth.

This was a tremendous shock to Nimrod, his faithful followers, and his false religion with his pagan priests. Imagine the effect of God humbling this "Rebel" before all to see, and confounding their languages. What a judgment on the unbelievers. History says Nimrod was put to death and his false religion outlawed.

At this point, I think a reading of Psalm 2 is quite appropriate:

- 1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
- 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,
- 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.
- 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.
- 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.
- 6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.
- 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.
- 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.
- 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
- 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.
- 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
- 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

But history tells us that Nimrod's wife Semaramis had an idea inspired by Satan himself. She went to her pagan priests and said that Nimrod had risen to the sun and afterward became the father of her child. She claimed to be a virgin with a child. That child was named Tammuz and was born December 25. This obvious perversion of the true incarnation of Jesus Christ has become hard set in the minds of many who still follow false religion. (Semaramis is known by other names depending on the culture: Isis, Molech, Cybele, Fortuna, Ashteroth/Astarte, Diana, Aphrodite, Queen of Heaven, Mother of God, and Mary.)

God's faithful people countered these false religions, and the false religions went "undercover." These false religions used deceit, and learned words and phrases having "mystery" or double meaning. In time they eventually came back with the outlawed religious system, but under various disguises. Even Israel in secret would worship Tammuz (Ezekiel 8:14), and outwardly worship Baal and Molech (Jeremiah 32:35).

Revelation 17:5 speaks of Mystery Babylon the Great. This is that religion that goes back through history through Rome, Greece, Babylon, Egypt, and eventually to Nimrod and Satan himself. This false religion is called the mother of harlots, showing us that all false religions trace themselves to her. She gave "birth" to all these "harlots." This "queen" (Revelation 18:7) is responsible for the blood of the righteous (Revelation 18:24).

Even today, as we research the false religions, we find all the false religions attempt to assign divine qualities to man (the "pope"). *This is the satanic lie.* This is Nimrod's rebellion. This is Satan's rebellion.

Man *had* a common language at the beginning. And as that language started as a means of communication between the Creator and his creation (man), even today we can use our language to know God and understand his will. We come to God through his written word and his incarnate Word Jesus. We have access to the throne of grace through our words (prayers) and Jesus' sacrifice. We need to believe what Jesus said speaking of God's word – "thy word is truth" (John 17:17), and magnify it above all things (Psalm 138:2).

Here, then, is the wisdom:

- 1 Understand that all language came from God, and was originally given to man to converse (or communicate) with God, and God with man. Language is the means by which God gives his word to man.
- 2 That truth has not changed. We should use our language to communicate with God (pray without ceasing) and communicate God's word to men.
- 3 The languages of various civilizations usually devolve, not get better. There are initial periods where rules and words are created, but in time languages go downhill.
- 4 Satan used God's language to lie and create false religions and "mystery" speech (double-speak). From that lie in the garden came all manner of sin in the world. In John 8:44 Jesus called Satan the father of lies.
- 5 Jesus, in contrast, is the truth and the Word of God (John 14:6). Jesus is the total opposite of Satan. Jesus taught with authority what is the true way. He was the "language" God used to bring us to Himself and to the true faith and word of God (John 1:1).
- 6 Our duty as disciples is to preach the gospel to "every creature" – to go into "all" the world, teaching "all" nations (Matthew 28:18-20).
- 7 As we meet people of different languages, we use that language to reconcile them to God through Jesus Christ. We use that language to give them the scriptures (God's word) in their own tongue (Romans 16:26).
- 8 God hates a lying tongue (Proverbs 6). You can understand why – from that came all the sin in the world. When a person lies he is following in the steps of Satan himself, and using his tongue for that which is not created. Additionally, God is not a man that he should lie (Numbers 23:19). Paul said, "Let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).
- 9 Through language man and God are reconciled. As we go further along in history we are unifying the world through many means, and having a common language is a necessity.
10. When Jesus comes he will divide the nations, and we who rule over them with Him (with a rod of iron, I might add –Psalm 2:9, Revelation 2:27) will communicate God's word to those nations – we are kings and priests unto God (Revelation 1:6). I am not convinced we will have a single language in the Millennial Kingdom, but I think we will have a world-wide trade language, with many local languages.
11. People need to come out from among Mystery Babylon, the mother of harlots; and be joined instead to the true church of Jesus Christ. That church is His bride, and He washes her with the water of His word, preparing her as a chaste virgin before Himself (Ephesians 5, 2 Corinthians 11:2).
12. Understanding Satan's lie and Nimrod's false religion gives us insight into why God judges them. Read this text from Isaiah 14:

4 That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

5 The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers.

6 He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.

7 The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.
8 Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.
9 Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.
10 All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?
11 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.
12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.
15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.
16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;
17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?
18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.
19 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.
20 Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.
21 Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities.
22 For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD.
23 I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts.
24 The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:
25 That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders.

Any other thoughts on this subject are appreciated.

NSD 2/15/11