

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE 11.27.22

New Heights of Spiritual Depravity; New Measures of Grace | Genesis 10-11

from the series, Worldview Matters: Studies in Genesis 1-11

Chapter ten of Genesis provides a genealogy of the nations. Although Shem is oldest, the lines of his younger brothers are listed first. Shem's line is given last, likely because it is through his descendants that Christ would come.

Genealogies like this help us to understand that all of humanity is one people, descended from Adam through Noah, all designed to glorify God. Racism of any kind was and is wrong.

The genealogies also show that God keeps his promises, working throughout the generations to accomplish his purposes. Since Genesis 3, humanity had been spiraling into deeper and deeper depravity, but man's depravity cannot thwart the purposes of God.

MAIN IDEA: Left to his own devices, man will seek to glorify himself—but, God is still on the throne. God's grace is greater than all our sin.

1. The sin of pride makes us want things that belong to God.

Pride is the soil in which all other sins grow. The inhabitants of Babel exhibit pride in their desire to build this tower, but their efforts are in vain—we can't come close to reaching heaven by our own works.

2. God is aware of all of man's ways, and man's ways are far from God.

If God is a God of order and not confusion, how do we explain his actions in dealing with Babel? Confusing the languages of the people was actually an act of grace. The collaborative mindset had gotten the inhabitants into trouble. Individually, they would not have attempted to achieve this level of rebellion. Individuals sin, but groups can sin with proportionally more severe results. An individual may kill a brother, but groups start wars. The confusion of their languages made it harder for them to sin collaboratively.

3. God's ways and plans are not thwarted by man's sins and plans.

God is working out his promises. Sin divides people, but it is only in Jesus that the church will be united. Jesus is the redeemer born through the line of Shem who would unite his people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does pride relate to all other sins? Have we seen this at work in our own lives or in examples from the Bible?

2. Is it surprising to consider that a punishment for disobedience could also be an act of grace? Can you think of examples of this happening in your life?

3. How does sin divide? How does Jesus unite?



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