

Adult Bible Study 2024
Week Nine Notes
9/15/Sunday
Genesis 11 Tower of Babel

Main Ideas

- Look for these in Scripture like pieces in a puzzle
 - Motifs
 - Problems
 - Structure
- Motifs in Genesis 11
 - Reversal
 - “I will be like God”
 - Chaos & Order
 - Migration to the East
 - Seed
 - Nations
 - Tower
 - An attempt to return to lost origins because a tower is like a mountain. Eden was a mountain
 - Babel is supposed to be a man-made utopia
 - Made by the hands of man
 - Contrasts from all of creation which was made by a Spoken Word, without hands
 - God creates people, the holy city, and miraculous images out of nothing (the tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe)
 - Spoken Word motif
 - Language is key here
 - God speaks and there is creation. A word meant what it means
 - The Sign (a tree) pointed to what it signified (image of a tree)
 - The snake speaks and it’s a lie!
 - Everything is arbitrary
 - Consider slogans and wars which are guided by cultural differences
 - Latin is the universal language of the Church - a common tongue
 - We can sing, pray, and worship in a single unity
 - City
- Problems in Genesis 11
 - Autonomy & Pride
- There is a Chiastic Structure to this (a Chi is the Greek letter. The symbol is “X” - a cross)

- A, B, C, D, E, F
- G
- F', E', D', C', B', A'
- The Tower of Babel is a type of magic mountain, a tower of power trying to reach to the spiritual realm with the heavenly deities, rising from the earthly divinities, and the underworld gods
- It has an intercourse structure which connects to the magic of fertility gods - perverse
 - The tower is a symbol of intercourse between gods and men
- Rather! Consider this - Church spires used to be the old towers of major cities. Now, bank and business towers rise higher than any other -
 - We build high what we worship
- 10 generations from Adam to Noah & 10 generations from Noah to Abraham (not exactly 10, but 10 is important because it is a number meaning judgment)
- Antediluvian (before the flood)
- Postdiluvian (after the flood)
- Our discussion led us to share the Foust legend (a German tale)
 - Foust commits the irrevocable sin of having sexual relations with a demon
 - Harkens back to the nephilim, the daughters of men having relations with the fallen angels
 - The creation of culture comes from these generations
 - Working of metals
 - Music
 - Inventors of culture
 - Hebrews are highly suspicious of technology
 - Technology is usually based from:
 - Human Autonomy
 - Human Transcendence, which negates Divine Transcendence
 - Manipulating matter by a scientific method
- Mary, the obedient Mother of God, bears the Christ, the Son of God by the Incarnation
 - Mary helps us to understand how good the body is and how good the soul is, both humanity and divinity