

# PASTOR RAY'S BIBLE SCHOOL 201

## THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

(How To Apply The Prophetic View Of Scripture To The Book Of Genesis)

### Session Nine

#### **“The Two Cities”**

##### I. Kingdom Politics

###### A. Review And Preview

1. We now have the foundation laid for the “Prophetic View” of scripture.
2. We have the “seeds” of all things described in Genesis, the first book of the Bible:

The 2 Trees>The 2 Choices>The 2 Remedies>The 2 Seeds>The 2 Religions

3. We’ve considered the first 3 great events of Genesis 1:11: The Creation and The Fall; we will deal with the Flood in another class...to consider the implications of the great “Dispersion” of Genesis 11-12.

4. As we leap forward some 900 years or so, we can see the proliferation of Adam’s race forward from Cain and Abel and their siblings.

5. We can see how man, as a social creature, will tend to collectivize himself to establish *cities*-and thereby comes the great issue of *government* and *politics*\*

*\*The term “politics”, from the Latin “politicus”, refers to government or that pertaining to government.*

###### **B. The Two “Cities” Or Governments**

1. The Bible consistently presents two contrasts, as seen in point A.2. above.
2. When it comes to politics or government, scripture is again consistent: The 2 choices of government are:
  - The Kingdom of God
  - The Kingdom of Man (or, anything OTHER than the Kingdom of God)

3. Just as Jesus says He is “THE” (only) way to God, meaning there are only 2 real choices in religion, so it is with politics and government!

4. The term “Kingdom of God” is a governmental term, answering the question, “Who is in charge”, or “Who has the final authority here?”

### C. Nimrod And Abraham

1. In Genesis 11, we meet Nimrod; in Genesis 12, we are introduced to Abraham; the two men are “types” of the Christ (Abraham) and the Antichrist (Nimrod).

2. Each is seeking a “city”:

- Nimrod’s dream is domination through one-world government; Building the Tower of Babel (later called “Babylon”) as his headquarters
- Abraham’s dream is expressed in the New Testament Book of Hebrews:

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going...confidently looking for...a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

Excerpted from Hebrews 11:8-10      New Living Translation

3. So here we have the two “cities” or the two “governments” (political systems) presented in “seed form”.

4. St. Augustine’s classic book, “The City Of God”, rightfully sets forth human history as reflective of man’s participation in or the other of these two “systems”!

## II. The “Babylon” Principle

### A. Building The City Of Man

These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood\*. Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. 2 And it came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, " Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. 4 And they said, " Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name; lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

Genesis 10:32-11:4      NASB

*\*We will not detail the reconstitution of the earth through Noah’s sons Shem, Ham and Japheth after the flood. God sovereignly chose the line of Shem to continue the “scarlet thread” of redemption in scripture, the lineage through whom Messiah would come. The prophetic importance of the repopulation of the earth is that God decreed the establishment of nations and races, the distinctions of which (via skin color, ethnicity or nationalization), would forever impede the establishment of the Kingdom of Man, a possibility that existed here because of Genesis 10:32!*

1. The abundant proliferation of the human race now reaches the logical issues created by the collectivization of people into cities, necessitating government.

2. The Bible says little of Nimrod, the “father” of Babylon, but what is said reveals him to be a “type” of the Antichrist.

- He was a descendent of Noah’s son Ham through Cush, the branch of Noah’s family which was under God’s curse
- His name means “The Rebel”, and so the antecedent of “the Lawless One” spoken of in 2 Thessalonians 2:8
- He was a “king” and the “beginning of his kingdom was Babel”, so we can know that he was the “head” of all being done in Genesis 11 (Genesis 10:10)
- He was a “mighty hunter” (Heb. “of the souls of men”), “before the Lord” means his rebellion was to lead a great confederacy in open revolt against God
- Babel means “the gate of God”, but later, because of the judgments God inflicts here, it means “confusion” to this day (To “babble” still means to speak incoherently)

3. The blessing of Genesis 10:32, the unity of the race, alas, was used against God, and therefore had to be judged.

5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the Lord said, " Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." 8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

Genesis 11:5-9 NASB

## B. The City Of Man

1. What we see here is man attempting to unify himself for the purpose of creating a government without God.

2. The lessons include:

- Coming together for the purpose of power-“Come”
- Building something through the works of their hands-“Let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly”-the strategy of force conformity, instead of the City of God, which is made of “living stones” (1 Peter 2:5)

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:5 KJV

- Using “bricks for stones”, and “slime for mortar”-Held together by man-made mixture instead of love

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:16 KJV

- **“Come...let us build for ourselves a city...”**-The inner motive of sinful man is always to build something *for himself*!
- **“A tower whose top will reach into heaven”**-Man’s sinful desire is to get to heaven on the works of his own hands...on something he can unite together with other men to build. The dream of “Utopia”, which means “a place of ideal perfection in laws, government and social conditions”, originated with the saint Sir Thomas More, who coined the term from a compound of two Greek words meaning, “Nowhere”!!! The age-old dream of man is to unify politically in order to create a “utopian” society where government runs all things and where all human needs will be met...by man!
- **“And let us make for ourselves a name...”**-Sinful man utterly abandons the glorification of God for the glorification of SELF. The motive behind all human governments, sooner or later, is POWER and SELF-PROMOTION

3. God’s solution for this “sound”, which would be endlessly echoed down through human history, is to “confuse their language”!

a. Only the “confusion” of the nations and their inability to communicate and work with each other restrains the creation of the Antichrist spirit’s age-old, diabolical dream of a powerful (one-world) government so man can achieve utopian benefits without God!

### III. Connecting The Dots

#### A. Abraham: The Man And The Nation

1. In stark contrast to Nimrod’s dream of Babylon, we meet Abraham, a man seeking for the City of God.

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:8-10 NASB

2. The Bible reveals the distinction in the two “cities” in striking contrasts:

- A unification based on the “common language” of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)

- Built by God not man; New Jerusalem, not Babylon, the “Great Whore” of Revelation 17:1-5
- Made of uniquely individual “living stones” instead of “bricks”
- Built to honor and glorify God, not man
- A Kingdom “not of this world”, or a government whose source is heaven, not earth

## B. Extrapolating The Principle

1. These two “cities” or “governmental systems”, or “politics” continue to this very day.
2. But let’s see the choice in scripture in the events of the establishment of the Kingdom of Man in the nation of Israel.

- God called Abraham to be the “father of multitude”
- The royal line went Abraham-Isaac-Jacob>The 12 Sons of Jacob becoming the Patriarchs of the 12 Tribes of Israel
- Sin brought Egyptian bondage to the 12 tribes, but God delivered them 430 years later, bringing them to Mount Sinai where the tribes became a nation\*

*\*It seems apparent to us that God “nationalized” Israel at Mount Sinai in giving them His law. A nation is really nothing more than people living under common law. In this sense, Israel had been just a collection of tribes and clans until the giving of God’s law identified them politically!*

- God’s nation was a “Kingdom-Nation”; It was governmental in a very specific way. It was not a Democracy, or a Republic, nor an Anarchy, nor a Dictatorship...it was a *Kingdom*, with God as the King. The proper term for this is Theocracy, which means “God-ruled”

3. Fast forward in history. Israel is dwelling in the Promised Land as a Theocracy, where Prophets and religious leaders (called Judges) speak for God. But in 1 Samuel 8, a terrible thing happens, the implications of which hold implications for us today:

## C. The Day They Broke God’s Heart

1. To the prophetic eye, the 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Book of 1 Samuel might be titled, “The Day They Broke God’s Heart”.

8 And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel..His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice. 4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; 5 and they said to him, "Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations." 6 But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, " Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord. 7 And the Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them." 8 Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day —

in that *they have forsaken Me and served other gods— so they are doing to you also.* 9 Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them."

Excerpted w/ Emphasis from 1 Samuel 8:1-9 NASB

2. God's vision was to rule His people through His holy Word, as given through the Law of Moses and interpreted, as needed, by His prophets and priests.

3 And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, " Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 5 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel." 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the Lord had commanded him. 8 And all the people answered together and said, " All that the Lord has spoken we will do! "

Exodus 19:3-8 NASB

2. But here we have the account of Israel's rejection of God's Kingdom-rule. They demanded an earthly King, (a change of government or politics), "so they could be like all the nations".

3. This was displeasing to Samuel, who understood that the adoption of any earthly political system than the Kingdom of God was a rejection of himself as God's leader, but more than that, from God's perspective, *it was nothing less than a rejection of God Himself!*

4. This was a rejection of a Theocracy in favor of a "city of man".

5. God's response was an accommodation to their rejection of Himself.

a. Of all the nations, in all of history, thus ends the Theocratic rule of God, and stands as an object lesson to God's people for all of time.

6. God's accommodation was accompanied by a heartbreaking prophesy of what man's political systems would do to the people of God.

#### D. Echoes Of Babylon

1. The Tower of Babel in Genesis 11 becomes the "seed" of the establishment of "Babylon", which in the prophetic view is more than a geographical city. Indeed, it becomes a principle of human politics for all time.

2. Just as Nimrod's Babylon was an alternative to the City of God, so now we see the result of yielding to the politics of man.

3. Here is God's prophecy to Samuel, interpreted from a prophetic perspective, with our comments in italics:

1 Sam 8:10-18 NASB

10 So Samuel spoke all the words of the Lord to the people who had asked of him a king. 11 And he said, "This will be the procedure of the king who will reign over you: *Here is what you will come to discover about yielding yourself to earthly political leaders*. (1) *He will conscript your children for his military service, vv. 11-12* "He will take your sons and place them for himself in his chariots and among his horsemen and they will run before his chariots. 12 And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and of fifties, and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. (2) *He will bring your entire family into subjection to serve his system*. 13 He will also take your daughters for perfumers and cooks and bakers. (3) *He will seek dominion over your private property*. "And he will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. (4) *He will establish an oppressive system of taxation*. 15 And he will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards, and give to his officers and to his servants. 16 He will also take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys, and use them for his work. 17 He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants. (5) *You will not like the result of his "big government approach. You will cry out against it, but God will not answer, because you have rejected God's Kingdom-rule in favor of an earthly political system and leadership*. 18 Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

#### E. Practical Applications For Believers

1. Jesus, standing before Pilate, who represented the political system in power in that day, "My Kingdom is not of this world". (John 18:36)

2. He was not saying that His "government" was some heavenly, spiritual thing without earthly impact and implications! He was simply saying that His Kingdom's purpose, source, and origins were in sharp distinction to the "kingdoms" (political systems) of man.

3. If history teaches anything, it is that all forms of earthly government will tend downward and produce bad fruit, regardless of how expressed:

- Authoritarian Dictatorships
- Socialist/Marxist
- Republics, Democracies or Libertarian

4. No more earthly "kingdom-like" government has ever existed than the United States of America, and yet today, after 235 years of success, we see the inevitable fruit of the kingdoms of man turning downward:

- The ever-increasing power of government seeking dominion over every aspect of life
- The exposure of the real motive, which is government empowerment, behind what is presented as 'social justice' and 'progressive humanism and compassion

- Using the tool of “envy of other nations” to establish socialistic agendas which only require greater governmental control and regulation to fulfill
- Using the tool of “envy” of the rich to justify a “fair” redistribution of wealth through the application of incremental taxation
- The facilitation of the philosophy of the “elite”, the political power brokers dedicated to their own careers and prolong their terms of office

### Quotes From “Idols Of Destruction”, By Herbert Schlossberg

- **“...the ‘new class’ of the intellectuals who ride to power on the coattails of the welfare state (consists of) lawyers, bureaucrats, and social scientists who gain nothing from private action, but much from the continuation of social problems that can be said to require their ministrations...the worldwide march to centralization the creation of positions of power for politicians and bureaucrats to which they could not aspire in a society without an intrusive state apparatus.” (Schlossberg quotes P. T. Auer in “Dissent On Development: Studies and Debates in Development Economics”)**
- **“Bernard Frieden has noticed that, in contrast to the old-line regulatory agencies...the new ones thrive on compulsion...(which is) likely to be the exclusive style of state officials in the future...the redistributive and regulatory mechanisms (will) insist on affecting every area of life, the elite being secure in the superiority of their values. The wishes of people expressed in the marketplace must be frustrated if the planning and control mechanisms are to make any sense...The political authorities and their mentors of the new class consistently and deliberately fail to say that their policies are intended to exercise their will over the masses.” (Schlossberg quotes Ernest van der Haag from “The Planners and the Planned”)**
  - **“The dual effort to raise the lower classes and debase the higher has long been called “leveling”...(under) the awkward name of ‘equalitarianism’...The old socialist idea was the great dissatisfaction of the masses could only be assuaged by a socialist redistribution of wealth...(however) as society erases social distinctions and moves toward a leveling of income differentials, the demand for equality is not satisfied, but intensified...The leveling movement has nothing to do with justice, because its impulse is not to raise up those who are down, but to topple those who are up; resentment is the motivational factor.” (Schlossberg, Idols For Destruction, p.55)**
- **“A society exchanging Christian principles for humanist ones begins praising things it once would have condemned.” (Ibid, p. 86)**
- **“If the biblical understanding of evil is driven from the field, then the Christian legitimization of social order, law and communal self restraint cannot be maintained very long either. Morality based on individual human sentiment means anarchy and the disintegration of society. Humanists cannot have this, and their writings are filled with emotional arguments in favor of a powerful central state. ...Thus, far from bringing liberation, the anarchy of humanism brings enslavement. (Schlossberg quoting Christian historian Paul Johnson in “Enemies of Society”).**
- **Humanitarianism is saviorhood, an ethic perfectly suited to the theology that divinizes man. But this theology only divinizes some men. The objects of humanitarian concern become less than men, so...the humanitarian can exercise the prerogatives of a god. The god that failed is man.” (Ibid, p. 87)**

5. It is easy to see how some nations are obviously ruled by the spirit of antichrist. What is even more sobering, however, is to see how “godly nations”, such as Israel under Saul, or the United States as a Republic, can BEGIN well, but only to descend into the same fate as all nations not ruled by God and His law-word.



6. The politicians come to power by offers of “change” or “hope”, or over-promising what they can never deliver, because what man really needs only finds satisfaction in God.

7. The complex “systems”, policies and programs they create have destruction built into them. Governmental power and control can only be perpetuated by the failure of the very programs they seek to create...actual solutions of the problems would eliminate the very reason they were elected in the first place.

#### IV. The Politics Of The Kingdom

##### A. The Way Back

1. When we realize we are lost, we will instinctively seek to return to the last place where we knew we were on the right track.

2. The way back to the Kingdom can only come when we “see” as God sees...that the politics of God is a Kingdom politic, and all other systems are one and the same in that they stand as a “choice” other than the “benevolent Dictatorship” of the Kingdom of God.

##### B. The 4 Spheres Of Government\*

\*This is a huge subject and a proper study of this subject is beyond the scope our 201 Course. But we mention it here in the context of our introduction to civil government so you can have a proper perspective for deeper study later in our “God and Government” series.l

1. Self-Government (under God) is the primary and foundational sphere for all other government.

a. In this sphere, we are governed by God and His word

b. Before man can fulfill the “Dominion Mandate” of Genesis 1:26, he must first commit himself to God’s law (ethical system) and authority

c. The law (word) of God is our “tool of dominion”; salvation is by grace through faith, but dominion comes by obedience

2. Family Government is the second sphere of government.

a. God established the family before He established the Church or human (civil) government, so the family is the foundational building block of society

b. The home is where self-governed parents teach their children God’s word and where the child is first exposed to authority and learns the principles of obedience

3. Church Government is the natural extension of the 4 spheres of government, and is ideally constructed of families.

4. Civil Government is established by God with the primary assignment of restraining evil.

### C. Key Things To Remember

1. All earthly government, (i.e., political systems) are in juxtaposition to the Kingdom of God.

2. Earthy government is God's accommodation to man's sinful demand to be self-ruled.

3. Participation in a political system in a (relatively) free country like America is a Christian responsibility.

4. To allow ourselves to be identified as Republican/Democrat, Conservative/Liberal, Right Wing/Left Wing, is to fail to function from a higher perspective; That all man's systems and politics fall short of the Ideal. Our task and duty is to be the "voice" of the Kingdom of God, which transcends all other considerations:

- We vote, knowing those we vote for are imperfect
- We vote not according to gender, political affiliation, or race, but according to WHO most stands for the values God stands for
- Allowing ourselves as Christians to be "identified" with either "side" invites stigmatization from the other "side", and blunts our opportunity for real change as representatives of another "Kingdom"!

5. In Genesis 11 we find the story of the building of the Tower of Babel, (later called "Babylon"), and is a "seed" principle developed through the rest of the Bible story and finding its climax in the Book of Revelation. It always represents man's attempts to build a Utopian society *without God*.