

From Babel to Pentecost

“Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; *otherwise we will be scattered* over the face of the whole earth.”

“the sin of pride has its roots in anxiety. We sense our frailty, our impotence, our vulnerability; we see dimly before us the spectre of our own deaths and we grow anxious. To defend ourselves against these threats to our being, we build towers of self-sufficiency and self-protection; we construct erector sets of pride. We try to make ourselves grand! Put our name in lights. Then maybe nobody can put us out. Towers of brick become our strength. We do not see their folly. Bricks can build a house, but a tower to heaven? Come now. Nevertheless, we build them and think ourselves impregnable, inviolable, invincible, grand.” Reinhold Niebuhr

What does God do with our towers?

But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The LORD said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.” So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.”

Deuteronomy 6:4 - *Shema Y' Israel*, Hear, O Israel

– the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.

“I listen therefore I am.”

The judgment of Babel is that they no longer listen to God, nor do they listen to one another. They cannot *Shema* together.

Pentecost is Babel upside down, inside out, right side up!

Two miracles of Pentecost:

- i. Speaking
- ii. Hearing
 - o *each one heard them speaking in his own language (v.6)*

- *how is it that we hear (v.8)*
- *We hear then telling in their own words the mighty words of God (v.11)*
- *give ear to my words (v.14)*
- *when they heard this, they were cut to the heart. (v.37)*

They could "Shema" again!

"BC Pentecost" and "AD Pentecost"

Difference Between Babel and Pentecost

1. BABEL DISPLAYED A SPIRIT OF ARROGANCE AND PRIDE.
PENTECOST DISPLAYED THE POWER OF LOVE.
2. AT BABEL, IT WAS "LET US", AT PENTECOST IT WAS "LET GOD"
3. BABEL DIVIDED PEOPLE THROUGH LANGUAGE.
PENTECOST UNITED PEOPLE THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND A NEW LANGUAGE
4. BABEL BROUGHT CONFUSION, A SCATTERING.
PENTECOST BROUGHT PEACE, A UNIFYING
5. BABEL BROUGHT ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TOWER.
PENTECOST BROUGHT THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH.
6. THROUGH BABEL, PEOPLE WERE SCATTERED OVER THE FACE OF THE EARTH TO TELL THE WORLD OF GOD'S JUDGEMENT
THROUGH PENTECOST, BELIEVERS WERE SCATTERED OVER THE FACE OF THE EARTH TO TELL THE WORLD OF GOD'S GRACE.

CONCLUSION

"And you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Are you busy building your babel tower, or are you building God's Kingdom?

Are you (being) filled with the Holy Spirit?