

The Beginning of Conflict

Genesis 11:1-9

May 25, 2008

Intro: Today is Memorial Day, a day set aside to remember the men and women of our nation who served and died in wars, primarily on foreign fields. We have men where that go back as far as World War Two, dubbed the “War to End all Wars.” Unfortunately it did not live up to its’ billing. From this war we have heroes like George Patton, probably the most driven of all generals, and John MacArthur whose memorial is here in Norfolk, and after whom the Mall is named. Then there were the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War, although neither were formally declared wars, hundreds of thousands of men died in them. There have been acts of terrorism, like the bombing of the Army barracks in Beirut, then Desert Storm and Desert Shield, Afghanistan and Now Iraq. Many men have served in war and given their lives to promote freedom and a form of government we call democracy. Which really means a government that trusts its’ people to be civil toward one another, allows for differences, and does not inflict controls on the autonomy of the soul. But you may ask, “Where did it all start?” Conflict, war, death, the battle for dominance, the loss of life for the purpose of power, has existed for a long time. For the generations before the flood it went back to Cain and Able, for the generations after the flood we will see in today’s scripture. What is it that is common to lives lost in battle? What is it that is common to the heart of mankind that would lead him to raise his hand in battle or shake his fist at God?

Interog: What do you see in the families of Noah that rings true to you? What are you trying to accomplish in your life? And whose name is most important to you?

Read Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

Background: The sons of Noah and the genealogies of Genesis 10. Like Genesis 1 and 2. There is a general description and then a specific outline of one particular part. The curse of Ham is a significant part of the post flood account and has an affect on all that follows. Ham’s oldest son was Cush, and the first son of Cush was a man named Nimrod. (Gen 10:8-12). Another of Ham’s sons was Canaan. Both of these men play an important role in the work of God.

1. Man tries to make a name for himself. Verses 1-4

Nimrod literally means, “let us rebel.”

Resentment about the curse on his grandfather was passed to him by his father (promise or curse)

The Canaanites and the family of Ham, Deut 7:1

Exodus 20:5-6

2. God is not willing to share the Glory of His Name. Verses 5-8

We were created to find our fulfillment in serving God not making a name for ourselves.

God’s pleasure gives us our true fulfillment.

The Ten Commandments Exodus 20:1-8 – His name is the Name

God gave Jesus the Name above all names Phil 2:9-11

3. Lifting ourselves up over God leads to division and separation. Verse 9

We were meant to fill the earth, Nimrod tried to keep the human family together.

God will go to whatever lengths necessary to achieve his will.

John 10, the good shepherd was going to reunify the family of God, not by language but by blood.

The crucifixion was the undoing of Babel.

The resurrection will fix the language, 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

Conclusion: God wants to undue the breakdown in communication with Him and with each other. Are you still trying to make a name for yourself, or will you trust in the name that is above every name?