

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD:
GENESIS 11

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Verses 11: 1-9, The Tower of Babel (Babble; Confusion)

Motives and not simply goals matter

Tower of Babel---Great goal but wrong motive

Any goal can take a wrong turn if motive is wrong

Three questions God always asks that we need to learn to ask ourselves and others

What?

How?

Why?

We tend to focus on the first two and neglect the third. However, if we do not ask the third our visions and methodology can become derailed

Two mistakes of the Tower of Babel

1. Wrong motive

St. Augustine, "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee."

2. Impossible Goal

Hebrews 1: 1

Philippians 3: 4b-10

Ephesians 2: 9

3. Relationship between faith and works

James 2: 14-26

Works are the fruit and evidence of faith.

Faith is not simply a noun; faith is a verb

Faith does not simply believe; faith does something with what it believes

Faith is the root; works are the fruit; but the fruit does not grow for itself but to bless the lives of others.

Evidences of the Tower of Babel spirit among believers

Disciples (Luke 9: 46-48; 22: 24-26)

Contemporary church

Competition

Offense

Idolatry of Culture

Self-centered spirit

Turf guarding

Resistance to change

Lessons from two great hymns and a gospel song

To God Be The Glory, Fanny J. Crosby

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,

Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life gate that all may go in
 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood
 To every believer the promise of God
 the vilest offender who truly believes,
 that moment from Jesus a pardon receives

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
 And great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
 But purer, and higher, and greater will be
 Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
 O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
 And give him the glory, great things he hath done!

To God Be The Glory, Andrae Crouch
 How can I say thanks for all the things you have done for me
 Things so undeserved Yet you gave to prove your love for me
 And the voices of a million angels Could not express their gratitude
 All that I am and ever hope to be I owe it all to Thee

To God be the glory, To God be the glory
 To God be the glory, for the things he has done
 With His blood, He has saved me; With His power, He has raised me
 To God be the glory, For the things he has done

Just let me live my life, Let it be pleasing, Lord to Thee
 Should I gain any praise, Let it go to Calvary
 With His blood, He has saved me; With His power, He has raised me
 To God be the glory, For the things he has done

From Every Stormy Wind That Blows, Hugh Stowell
 From every stormy wind that blows, From every swelling tide of woes,
 There is a calm, a sure retreat---'Tis found beneath the mercy seat.

There is a place where Jesus sheds The oil of gladness on our heads,
 A place than all besides more sweet---It is the blood-bought mercy seat.

There is a scene where spirit blend, Where friend hold fellowship with friend;
 Though sundered far be faith they meet Around one common mercy ear.

There, there on eagles wings we soar, And time and sense seem all no more,
And heaven comes down our souls to greet, And glory crowns the mercy seat.

Verses 10-32, Ongoing Legacy

Each generation builds upon the work of the previous generations

No generation does it all

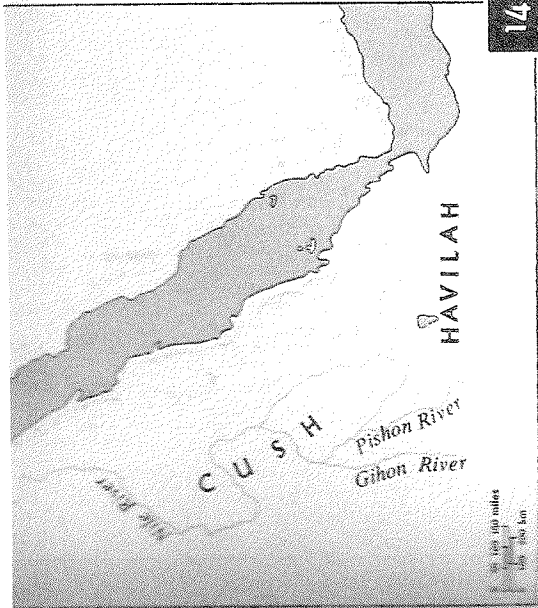
Each generation must begin its journey where the previous generation stops

What are the Haran's' that this generation of adult leaders have reached?

What are the Haran's' where this generation of adult leaders have stopped?

THE FAMILIES OF THE NATIONS IN THEIR LANDS (TABLE OF NATIONS)

In the Bible there has been preserved a unique list of the nations of the world, within the scope of the people of Israel, the list of the family of man ("the generations of the sons of Noah"). The lands of the world and the peoples are divided into three main lines: the sons of Shem in Mesopotamia and Arabia, the sons of Ham in Egypt and within its sphere of influence, and the sons of Japheth in the northern and western lands. Included in the list are also royal cities and important centers within the Fertile Crescent: in the land of Shinar (southern Mesopotamia) and the land of Canaan. Even if not all the identifications are certain — and some of the names have not been identified at all — the general division is quite clear: three spheres of peoples and lands, which meet in the region of the Holy Land.



GEN. 2:10-14

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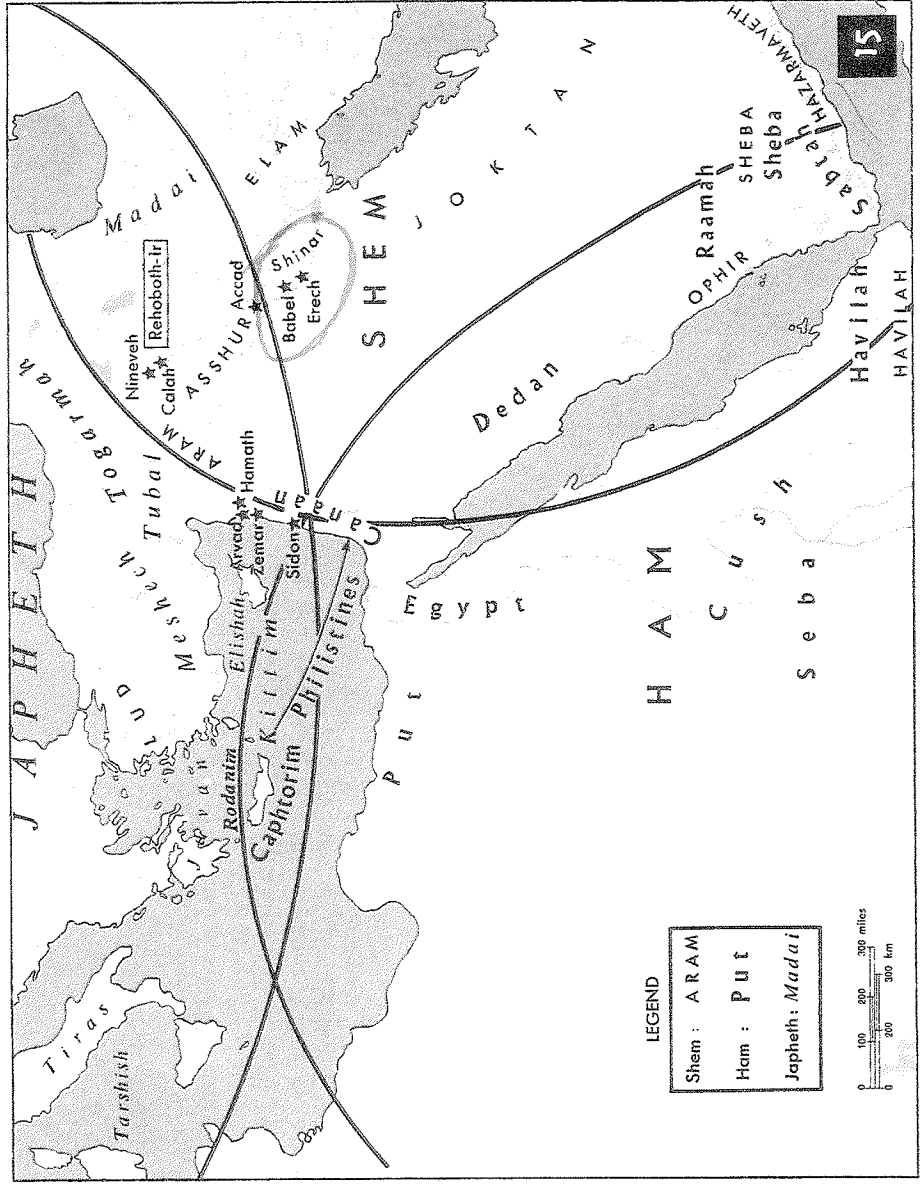
Japheth — (Cretan wall painting of C. 1600 B.C.)



Ham — Ti, Queen of Egypt (Beginning of fourteenth century B.C.)



Shem — Assyrian (Relief from palace of Sargon at Khorsabad)



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