

Genesis

The Story of God And Humanity

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below by the setting or rising sun, creating a vibrant orange and red glow. In the background, a range of mountains is visible, with their peaks and ridges also catching the low light, appearing in shades of orange and red. The foreground shows a calm body of water, likely a lake or a wide river, which reflects the colors of the sky and the mountains. On the right side of the image, a wooden pier or dock extends into the water, supported by several dark wooden posts. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

Living As People Of Faith

Noah Was A Man Of Faith

- He Is listed in Hebrews 11 as a hero of faith.
- He *Walked* with God when everyone else did not.
- He *Worked* for God in building the Ark.
- He *Witnessed* for God in preaching to his world.
- He *Waited* for God before leaving the Ark.
- He *Worshipped* God as his first act on leaving the Ark.

The Covenant



Genesis 8:20-22 (NLT2)

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and there he sacrificed as burnt offerings the animals and birds that had been approved for that purpose. And the LORD was pleased with the aroma of the sacrifice and said to himself, “I will never again curse the ground because of the human race, even though everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil from childhood. I will never again destroy all living things. As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.”

Genesis 9:12-15 (NLT2)

Then God said, “I am giving you a sign of my covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come. I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life...”

Genesis 9:13, 15 (NIV)

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

qě'·šět

bow

קֶשֶׁת

The Hebrew word translated rainbow is also the word for a battle bow. The Hebrew bible refers to storms as bows and arrows. The bow is now “put away,” hung in the clouds, suggesting that the “battle,” the storm, is over. Thus the rainbow speaks of peace. The Bow is now aimed at heaven.

One Might Think That
With This Righteous Family,
A New Beginning, An Opportunity
To Repopulate The Earth
With People Who Have Seen Both The
Faithfulness And The Severity Of The
Lord, That There Would Be A New
Trajectory For The World.

Let's Go Back And Take Another Look At Genesis 8:21

The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

- (NIV) – *“even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood”*
 - God is saying: “Yes, they deserve judgment because their hearts are wicked. And to persist in sin and not learn their lesson from this flood only shows how evil they are. But in grace, I will not send another flood or curse the ground.”
- (KJV, ESV) – *“for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth”*
 - Basically God is saying, “The human heart is incurably wicked. The flood wiped out the transgressors, but it couldn’t change hearts. Therefore, to have another judgment of a flood won’t solve the problem.”

Both Are Valid Options With Equally True Implications Of The Hebrew Word "Kī,"

Humanity Has Not Been Fundamentally Changed By The Flood And Only Grace Can Save Us.

Genesis 6:5 (NIV)

The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

“The Proof of The Pudding Is In The Taste.”

- Noah plants a vineyard, makes wine and gets drunk.
- His youngest son, Ham, sees him in this state and likely commits some sexual sin in “uncovering” or “seeing” (two translations of the same word) the nakedness of his father.
- Generations later this repopulating world is so full of itself and empty of God that He intervenes again.
- God has to remind humanity again who He is and who is in charge.

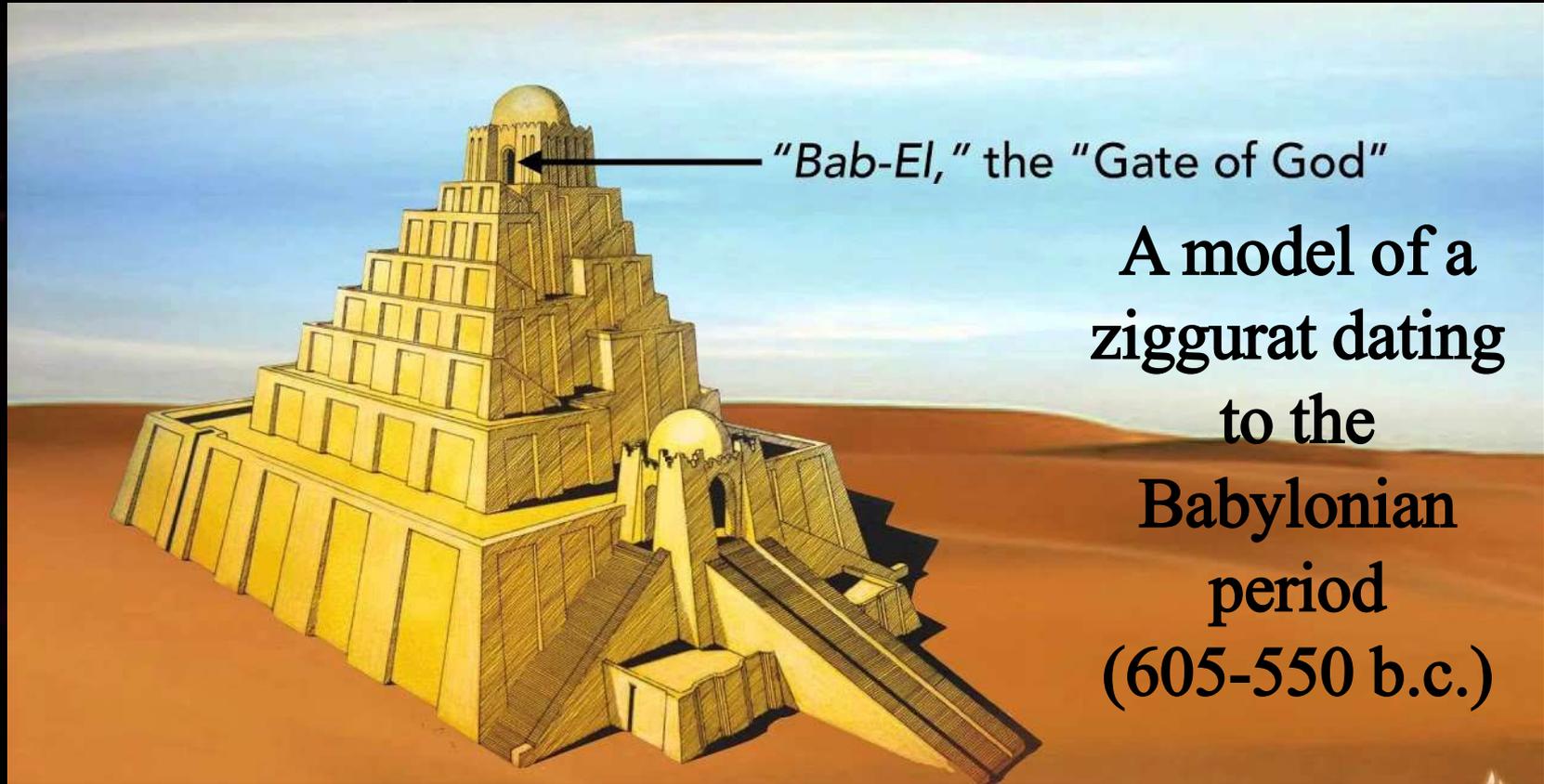
Genesis 11:1-4 (NIV)

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

The Evil Heart Is Again On Display

- Notice that the people use the same phrase that God did in creation. “Let us make...”
- They were creating their own purpose in life without regard to what God had commanded them, that is to “*fill the earth*” not build a city with a tower and “*make a name*” for themselves. Building a city with a tower is simply how they were making their name.
- They thought they could bridge the distance between themselves and God. It is full-blown pride.

Possible Example of the Tower of Babel



— *"Bab-El,"* the "Gate of God"

A model of a
ziggurat dating
to the
Babylonian
period
(605-550 b.c.)

The Problems In Our World Have Always Stemmed From The Heart Of Humanity.

We foolishly think that if we just get the right government, the right leaders, the right laws, our world will be what God wants.

Israel had a government designed by God, leaders chosen by God, and laws written by God. It still was not what God wanted.

Matthew 13:15

For this people's heart has grown callous; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn, and I would heal them.

Mark 7:21-22

For from within the hearts of men come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, arrogance, and foolishness.

Romans 1:21

For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking and darkened in their foolish hearts.

We Saw This On Full Display In Our
Nation's Capital This Week.

And We See It Depicted All Around Us,
In Everyday Life And Movies And
Television And Social Media.

The Only Way To Change This World

God Does It

One Person And One Heart At A Time!

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NIV)

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Deuteronomy 30:6 (NLT):

“The Lord your God will change your heart and the hearts of all your descendants, so that you will love him with all your heart and soul and so you may live!”

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

On Pentecost, Peter Proclaimed That Jesus Was Both Lord And Christ...

Acts 2:37-39 (NIV)

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off— for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Romans 10:10-15 (NLT2)

For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”