

Text: Genesis 10:6-12; Ch. 11

## **“The Origin of All False Religion and Unbelief”**

NOTE: Sermon Audio available for this message at [callaochristianchurch.org](http://callaochristianchurch.org). See works cited at end of outline.

INTRO: False religion has always been with us. Unbelief becomes a fad from time to time. We can hear echoes of atheism around the time of David with his Psalm, chapter 14, verse 1: “A fool says in his heart: there is no god.”

Paganism has its attractants because virtually all false belief encourage loose morals and “make it up as you go” behavior in general, atheism included.

Some exceptions include some forms of Islam, modern-day Judaism, and Mormonism.

Though we do not have time to go into detail about each of those religions, suffice it to say this: they all use the Bible in some form and claim it is as a definitive part of their religion. However, they all contradict the Bible, so they are false by self-definition!

Nonetheless, our topic today is a particular character named Nimrod:

The genealogy from Noah’s sons continues here, but for our purposes tonight we are focused on the one grandson of Ham above all others, Nimrod.

Who was Nimrod?

- I. Great-grandson of Noah (Gen. 10:6-8)
- II. Grandson of Ham
- III. Son of Cush

- IV. “A mighty hunter on the earth/before the Lord” (10:8-9)
- V. Built:
  - a. Babylon (cursed and destroyed by God) (10:10-12)
  - b. Assyria (cursed and destroyed by God)
  - c. Nineveh (cursed and destroyed by God)
- VI. Legacy also supported by various extra-Biblical traditional texts; nobody denies Nimrod existed, although some traditions vary in some detail (nothing, in my mind, that is significant).
- VII. The Tower of Babel occurs simultaneously (ch. 11) with this chapter (see 9:19), specifically at the point when Nimrod is building in the land of Shinar (10:10 & 11:2)
  
- VIII. God had told the sons of Noah to scatter (9:1+7)
- IX. Instead, Nimrod defiantly (undeniably under the influence of Satan) rallied all the people together to build a great tower (undeniably with the intent of ultimately using it to glorify himself – 11:4)
  - a. God saw Satan’s move on the chess board here to try to get the sons of Noah to intermarry and settle down together, so Messiah’s bloodline which he had predicted would be corrupt (9:25) and make God out to be a liar and make sure Messiah would not come.
  - b. So God goes down and confuses all the languages of the people so they would scatter. This is exactly what happens (11:8).
    - i. To further cement their scattering, after they had traveled awhile (5 generations from Shem – 10:21-25), God caused the earth to split apart and continental drift occurred (10:25).

- ii. In Genesis 11:10-27, we learn how from Shem God would bring about Abram (9 generations from Shem, well after all the peoples of the earth had scattered and the continents had drifted for awhile).
- iii. This was God's way of ensuring Abram would have sufficient space to travel and settle and still not have overwhelming contact with outsiders.
- iv. Satan would then target Abram, after God tells him that Messiah would come through him! (Gen. 12:3)

X. What else did Nimrod do?

- a. Established the first emperor-worship, himself
- b. His wife, Semiramis followed suit, setting herself up as the goddess of fertility and love
  - i. Semiramis would end up even a more far more sinister character than Nimrod:
    1. She established the practice of the priests of Baal, the "CAHNA-BAALS"
    2. She instituted prostitute-driven "worship" (there was great profit in this, giving Babylon it's early great wealth and influence in the ancient world)
    3. She became the origin of virtually every other false female "goddess" the earth has ever known:
      - a. Hera
      - b. Ishtar (later, the Phoenician goddess, "Easter")
      - c. Venus
      - d. Aphrodite
      - e. Artemis
      - f. Athena
      - g. Diana

- h. Juno
  - i. And virtually all others
4. She setup Nimrod to be ascended to “paradise” to be “god”
- a. Called him Baal
  - b. Became known as:
    - i. Gilgamesh
    - ii. Adonis
    - iii. Orion
    - iv. Apollo
    - v. Osiris
    - vi. And many others!
  - c. “Baal” was the most popular “foreign god” in Biblical times, specifically why God has Elijah have a contest with them 1 Kings 18 to see Baal decimated and his prophets slaughtered

CONCLUSION: There really is so much more to Nimrod (and Semiramis) but we can be safe with this – he was (and is) used of Satan to deceive men into false worship. We may think paganism in an ancient sense is dead, but superstition, spirit worship, ancestor worship, etc. all stems from Nimrod and Semiramis, both of which stem and are sustained by Satan today!

You can tell that...

God does not give us the armor of God for no reason (Eph 6:10-20)

God expects us *to be on the offensive* with the Word of God (Eph. 6:17).

We do need to have an answer when we are asked (1 Pet. 3:15).

Defending the Bible – like defending a lion! It has endured every attack, every critic, and it still stands firm. Even if it were mostly silenced again, as happened from time to time in history, it always reemerges. We need not fear the collapse of the church (some people say the church is just one generation from extinction – but we are told in the Bible that God will preserve it until the end – Matt. 16:18). We only need to fear God and obey His commandments (Ecc. 12), for this is the whole duty of man!

Outline by Joshua Stucki, referencing *The Eternal Struggle* by George L. Faull, Rel. D.