

BABEL

- Not a random story – repeating motif
- Is the tower bad?
 - Working together = good
 - Cities are OK
- What’s wrong?
 - Moving Eastwards
 - Let us make
 - A name for ourselves
- Babel =
 - Rebellion – we don’t need God
 - Pride – look what we can do alone!
 - Futility – doesn’t last, God has to “come down” to see it
- Is “futility” fair? Isn’t it God who wrecks the plan? No, just accelerates the inevitable.
- Recurring motif
 - Shinar = Babylon
 - Rebellion (Isaiah 14:12)
 - Pride (Dan 4:28-30 – is this not the great Babylon)
 - Futility – where’s the city? Where’s the hanging gardens? Where’s the civilisation?
- Psalm 127 – unless the Lord builds the house
- What does this motif mean for us?
 - The self-centred world
 - How fitting that Israel’s exile for godless idolatry was to Babylon – given over to their desires, just like in Romans 1
 - They were given generation immersed in rebellion, pride and futility
- In your life, you are either building Babel or you’re building the Kingdom of God. How do we know?
 - Christ can’t be Lord by accident.
 - Do we know what God wants from our lives, and are we doing it? If not, building in rebellion.
 - Are we in the habit of submitting? Can we point to instances of God having crossed our will? Do we submit to other believers? If not, we are building in pride.
 - Are we building for eternity? When we write down the goals we are striving for, will they last into the next age? If not, we are building in futility.
- So – take a look at your life. Are you building Babel in your life? Stop work on that tower, and build the Kingdom!

- What does that look like?
 - Your full-time job might not feel very “Kingdom”; you might be flattened at the end of a day of parenting, and just want to collapse.
 - It’s not that some activities can be Kingdom and others can’t. What matters is how we choose what to do, and who we do it for!
 - Does God get a say in our career path? Our house-moves? Our relationships?
 - Is the primary goal of each day to avoid hardship, trouble, pain – preserve a decent level of comfort, ...
 - Or is it to give God as much pleasure and glory as we possibly can? *That’s* the Kingdom of God.

- It doesn’t have to look like anybody else’s – just needs to be God-centred.
 - Skip on to Abraham – just a nomadic herdsman – but covenants, nations!
- Disappointment
 - Some of you wanted to be Kingdom-builders and haven’t seen what you hoped for
 - Some of you are saying – all very well, but I’m getting on a bit, I’m retired, I’m not as healthy as I used to be, ...
- God is not finished with you yet!
 - Shelah – 403 years, so what?
 - Jared – 962 years, so what?
 - Abraham – 175 years, only really starting at 75. 100 before he even saw the *start* of what God had promised. One of the greatest heroes of the faith.
- However long you have left – and none of us truly knows
 - Don’t add another brick to the Tower of Babel
 - Pick up your tools again, and set about building for eternity