



October 11, 2009

Exercises In Futility

In Genesis chapter 11 we are told about an attempt on the part of mankind to create a structure that would fortify them and prevent God from scattering them across the face of the Earth. This was a command of God to the family of Noah after the flood. **“And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.” (Gen 9.1)**. God created the world to be inhabited and used, not ignored. As the family of man grew, they had an idea. **“And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.” (Gen 11.4)**. Let’s just think about this for a moment. We have a command from God to replenish, or fill the Earth with life. We have individuals who believe that they can alter the command of God and do so through construction of a physical structure. Now think about it. This is the God who spoke the universe and everything in it into existence. This tower is going to stop him from dealing with mankind? I think not. Now there are many folks who read this story and conclude this is a myth; just a piece of ancient folklore handed down through the ages. For those who believe the Bible we understand this in a broader perspective and see that the thinking of mankind really has not changed. This was an exercise in futility as God confused the language of man and scattered them across the globe, as was intended. Today there is the assumption that there is no God and the only limits are those that we allow to remain in place. In other words, the sky is the limit, or the moon. This past week NASA crashed a rocket into the moon, setting off a detonation intended to liberate frozen water molecules from beneath the lunar surface. There has been opposition and hysteria concerning this event and the possible outcomes. The intent was to gather research for the possible establishment of a lunar colony. If elemental water is found trapped below the surface of lunar craters, the idea is that water could be extracted and used to produce drinking water, hydrogen for fuel and other things. Two things. First I don’t believe that any lasting damage will come to the

moon. As God set limits on mankind building a tower to Heaven, so the Lord has created a universe that is a bit more solid than what his created being man can do to it. It’s solid. The second thing is that I don’t discount the possibility of lunar exploration and colonization. We can try. After all we are created a little lower than the angels (**Psm 8.5**). However as a whole, mankind exhibits the same characteristics of those involved in the construction of the tower of Babel. We think we can set God aside, do as we please, sit back and reap the benefits. While we may have the ability to do something, that doesn’t mean we have the right to do it. I believe there are limits on our abilities and if we continue to use technological advances to discount God, we’ll find out who is running the universe. But the real problem is the underlying reasoning for this. Denial of God has led to the formation of theories that the world is coming to an end due to exhausted resources, social and physical chaos, pandemics and other things which are going to consume us. To that end we must find another place to live. These ideas are based on assumptions drawn from unproven theories that defy reasonable thought. There are a number of things we don’t know about the world we live in and the universe. Last month or so the discovery of an additional ring system around the planet Saturn, visible in limited frequencies of light, demonstrate that we have more to learn than what we know. Knowledge and advancement are fine but we need to remember where it all came from. As Paul stated, the things that were written aforetime were written for our learning (**Rom 15.4**). While we’re trying to blow holes in the moon, and scaring the rest of the world, we need to remember who made it.

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