**Walk Through the Bible**

**Lesson Number Twelve**

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**Nimrod – The Epitome of Evil and Abram – The Father of Our Faith**

Genesis 10:8-12 (ESV)

8Cush **(Ham – Cush – Nimrod)** fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. 9He was a mighty hunter before the Lord. Therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord.” 10The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and 12Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

Nimrod was the “proverbial” hunter.” People were always likened to him. People would say, “You are a great hunter like Nimrod,” etc.

It is thought that Nimrod hunted, not only animals but, men!

Nimrod established and built several cities including Babel (Babylon) and Ninevah, the wicked city that Jonah was sent to.

**Nimrod**

Nimrod comes from the Hebrew *marad* (HSN-<H4775>), "to rebel." It points to some violent and open rebellion against God. Nimrod began to be a mighty one in the earth by bold and daring deeds. His rebellion is associated with the beginning of his kingdom and suggests that his hunting and mighty deeds were related primarily to hunting men by tyranny and force. He lorded it over others, hunting and destroying all who opposed him in his despotic rule over people. This is the meaning understood by Josephus and writers of the Targums (Aramaic translations of the Old Testament). Josephus says that Nimrod persuaded people to ascribe their happiness to him rather than God. He became a great leader, taught people to centralize, and defied God to send another flood. It is said that Nimrod hunted down wild beasts also, which were killing many people, and taught people to build walls around cities for protection against them.Josephus: THE ANTIQUITIES OF THE JEWS\BOOK 1\Chapter 4\Section 2

The term "mighty hunter" (Gen. 10:9) could refer to a hunter of animals or of men to enslave them. Nimrod was a hunter of both human beings and animals. The Hebrew *gibbowr* (HSN-<H1368>), translated "mighty" here, means a powerful warrior, tyrant, champion, giant, or strong one. It is used of giants who were renown for wickedness (Gen. 6:4), and of other wicked men (Ps. 52:1-3; 120:4; Isa. 5:22; Jer. 9:23). It could refer to Nimrod as a tyrant and oppressive despot. He established the first kingdom and the first universal false religion opposing God since the flood of Noah. This was done "before the Lord," that is, openly: in the presence of God with all defiance. That is why God, when He came down to see Babel, took action to counteract the rebellion of Nimrod (Gen. 11:1-9).

Nimrod said he would build a tower so tall that even if God did flood the earth again, it would not cover it.

**The very name “BABEL” means CONFUSION!**

The Comanche Indians named their children when they were born but later in life, as they began to show their nature, many times their names were changed.

We see so many Bible characters whose names foreshadow what went on in their lives. Either their parents had been given a revelation from God as to what their child’s life would be like or they may have been like the Comanches, even though we don’t see that in scripture.

Josephus wrote:

Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. He was the grandson of Ham, the son of Noah, a bold man, and of great strength of hand. He persuaded them not to ascribe it to God, as if it were through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power. He also said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to reach. And that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers.

Now the multitude were very ready to follow the determination of Nimrod, and to esteem it a piece of cowardice to submit to God; and they built a tower, neither sparing any pains, nor being in any degree negligent about the work: and, by reason of the multitude of hands employed in it, it grew very high, sooner than any one could expect; but the thickness of it was so great, and it was so strongly built, that thereby its great height seemed, upon the view, to be less than it really was. It was built of burnt brick, cemented together with mortar, made of bitumen, that it might not be liable to admit water. When God saw that they acted so madly, he did not resolve to destroy them utterly, since they were not grown wiser by the destruction of the former sinners; but he caused a tumult among them, by producing in them diverse languages, and causing that, through the multitude of those languages, they should not be able to understand one another. The place wherein they built the tower is now called Babylon, because of the confusion of that language which they readily understood before; for the Hebrews mean by the word Babel, confusion ...

Some scholars think that Nimrod was a giant and that through the help of the giants, the Tower of Babel was built! Of course, the Bible tells us the city of Babel was NOT finished.

At some point, we KNOW that angels, once again, fell and had offspring with human women.

Since Nimrod’s father was Cush, the son of Ham, I do not believe Nimrod was a giant.

I am convinced the pyramids of Egypt were built by the hands of giants, after finding hieroglyphics with images of giants in the process of building them.

**Genesis 11:5-9**

5But the Lord came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. 6“Look!” he said. “The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! 7Come, let’s go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won’t be able to understand each other.”

8In that way, the Lord scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. 9That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the Lord confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them I was able to find all over the world.

Came Down – Hebrew – Yah-rad’ – to descend to a lower region. The Lord, Yahweh, came down, literally, to “behold” the tower of Babel.

We will see soon in our study of Genesis how God came down and hung out with Abraham! How would you like for God to come and hang out with you for the weekend?

It would not surprise me if God has come down and “beheld” what is going on in this world,,,maybe what ISIS is doing in Iraq and Syria,,,maybe He has taken a look at the sin in this country, the homosexuality and abortion.

**In our modern day society, we are becoming much like the people of Babel.**

**Jesus said in the last days it would be as it was in the days of Noah and in the days of Lot! Luke 17:26-30**

There are computer programs which will allow you to speak one language and the output is another language of your choice.

Doctors and scientists are constantly looking for ways to allow humans to live forever.

Where God intended for mankind to be separated upon the earth, we are doing all we can to be centralized or joined together like they did in Babel.

There was a great persecution on the Church right after Pentecost where the 120 were baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues.

God does not bring persecution but through that persecution, the Church spread and the Gospel spread throughout the known earth.

Where I went to seminary, it is a comfortable place for Christians.

Many people would move to that city and go to seminary. Then they would stay right there.

*One of our instructors said, if you moved here and you are working for a convenience store, find someone from here who has started a church, move out to help them. You can work in a convenience store there!”*

**ABOUT THIS TIME, ANOTHER MAJOR PLAYER IN THE BIBLE COMES INTO THE PICTURE**

In Genesis 11:27, we see a man come on the scene by the name of Terah.

Terah had 3 sons – Abram, Nahor and Haran

Haran died in his native land of Ur of the Chaldees before his father, Terah.

**Haran was the father of LOT, MILCAH AND ISCAH.**

Abram married Sarai and she was not able to have children.

Nahor married Milcah, Haran’s daughter. So Nahor married his neice.



Some sources believe that Milcah was a different Haran’s daughter. It seems strange to me that there would be a different Haran who would also have a daughter named Milcah who just happens to marry Nahor. To me, the Bible is clear that Nahor married his neice.

Terah took Abram, Sarai and Lot and started out toward Canaan, leaving Nahor, Milcah and Iscah in Ur. They got as fas as a land called Haran and Terah died at the age of 205.

The location of Ur of the Chaldeans is widely debated. It was a city just north of Assyria in Turkey.

Haran was also a city in Assyria or Syria.

God spoke to Abram **while he was still in Ur**, before he ever left to go to Canaan with his father, Terah.

**Acts 7:2 (GW)**
2  Stephen answered, “Brothers and fathers, listen to me. The God who reveals his glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham in Mesopotamia. This happened before Abraham lived in Haran.

Abram’s father and family served false Gods according to:

**Joshua 24:2 (ASV)**
2  And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt of old time beyond the River, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nahor: and they served other gods.

At some point though, it is believed they began to serve YHWH, the God of Abraham.

**Genesis 12:1-3 (KJV)**
1  Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2  And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:
3  And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

**This starts the 4th Dispensation of Men – the Age of PROMISE!**

([Gen. 12:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A1) -- [Ex. 12:37](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+12%3A37))

1. The Dispensation of Innocence (Gen. 2:15 -- Gen. 3:21)
2. Dispensation of Conscience (Gen. 3:22 -- Gen. 8:14)
3. Dispensation of Human Government (Gen. 8:15 -- Gen. 11:32)

**Genesis 12:4-9 (GW)**
4  So Abram left, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. **Abram was 75 years old** when he left Haran.
5  Abram set out for Canaan. He took along his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the possessions they had accumulated and the servants they had acquired in Haran.

Abraham was a wealthy man. He probably had done pretty well for himself and then he, Lot and Nahor inherited all of Terah’s possessions also.

**Hebrews 11:8 (ASV)**
8  By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed to go out unto a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

*This refers to the converts that he made at Haran who wanted to go with him to share God's promised blessings. There were many slaves, including at least 318 trained soldiers and their wives and families, besides those who belonged to Lot (*[*Gen. 14:14*](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+14%3A14)*). The 318 were born in Abraham's house of 636 fathers and mothers who surely had other children also. These families made a great throng, perhaps several thousand people.*Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

6  They arrived in Canaan, and Abram traveled through the land to the oak tree belonging to Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.
7  Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “I'm going to give this land to your descendants.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

**When the Lord does something GREAT in our lives, we should build an altar or do something that will always remind us and others of what God did!**

8  He moved on to the hills east of Bethel, and he put up his tent—with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. He also built an altar to the LORD there and worshiped the LORD.
9  Abram kept moving toward the Negev (moving south).

**The evil Nimrod vs. the righteous Abraham** (from Wikipedia)

The Bible does not mention any meeting between Nimrod and Abraham, although a confrontation between the two is said to have taken place, according to several Jewish and Islamic traditions. Some stories bring them both together in a cataclysmic collision, seen as a symbol of the confrontation between Good and Evil, and/or as a symbol of monotheism against polytheism. On the other hand, some **Jewish traditions say only that the two men met and had a discussion.**

According to K. van der Toorn; P. W. van der Horst, this tradition is first attested in the writings of Pseudo-Philo. The story is also found in the Talmud, and in rabbinical writings in the Middle Ages.

In some versions (as in Flavius Josephus), Nimrod is a man who sets his will against that of God. In others, he proclaims himself a god and is worshipped as such by his subjects, sometimes with his consort [Semiramis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semiramis) worshipped as a goddess at his side. (See also [Ninus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninus).)

A portent in the stars tells Nimrod and his astrologers of the impending birth of Abraham, who would put an end to idolatry. Nimrod therefore orders the killing of all newborn babies. However, Abraham's mother escapes into the fields and gives birth secretly. At a young age, Abraham recognizes God and starts worshiping Him. He confronts Nimrod and tells him face-to-face to cease his idolatry, whereupon Nimrod orders him burned at the stake. In some versions, Nimrod has his subjects gather wood for four whole years, so as to burn Abraham in the biggest bonfire the world had ever seen. Yet when the fire is lit, Abraham walks out unscathed.

In some versions, Nimrod then challenges Abraham to battle. When Nimrod appears at the head of enormous armies, Abraham produces an army of gnats which destroys Nimrod's army. Some accounts have a gnat or mosquito enter Nimrod's brain and drive him out of his mind (a divine retribution which Jewish tradition also assigned to the Roman Emperor Titus, destroyer of the Temple in Jerusalem).

In some versions, Nimrod repents and accepts God, offering numerous sacrifices that God rejects (as with Cain). Other versions have Nimrod give to Abraham, as a conciliatory gift, the slave [Eliezer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eliezer), whom some accounts describe as Nimrod's own son. (The Bible also mentions Eliezer as Abraham's majordomo, though not making any connection between him and Nimrod.)

Still other versions have Nimrod persisting in his rebellion against God, or resuming it. Indeed, **Abraham's crucial act of leaving Mesopotamia and settling in Canaan is sometimes interpreted as an escape from Nimrod's revenge.** Accounts considered canonical place the building of the Tower many generations before Abraham's birth (as in the Bible, also *Jubilees*); however in others, it is a later rebellion after Nimrod failed in his confrontation with Abraham. In still other versions, Nimrod does not give up after the Tower fails, but goes on to try storming Heaven in person, in a chariot driven by birds.

The story attributes to Abraham elements from the story of Moses' birth (the cruel king killing innocent babies, with the midwives ordered to kill them) and from the careers of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who emerged unscathed from the fire. Nimrod is thus given attributes of two archetypal cruel and persecuting kings - Nebuchadnezzar and Pharaoh. Some Jewish traditions also identified him with Cyrus, whose birth according to Herodotus was accompanied by portents, which made his grandfather try to kill him.

A confrontation is also found in the Qur'an, between a king, not mentioned by name, and the Prophet Ibrahim (Arabic for "Abraham"). Muslim commentators assign Nimrod as the king based on Jewish sources. In Ibrahim's confrontation with the king, the former argues that Allah (God) is the one who gives life and gives death. The king responds by bringing out two people sentenced to death. He releases one and kills the other, as a poor attempt at making a point that he also brings life and death. Ibrahim refutes him by stating that Allah brings the Sun up from the East, and so he asks the king to bring it from the West. The king is then perplexed and angered.

Whether or not conceived as having ultimately repented, Nimrod remained in Jewish and Islamic tradition an emblematic evil person, an archetype of an idolater and a tyrannical king. In rabbinical writings up to the present, he is almost invariably referred to as "Nimrod the Evil" (Hebrew: נמרוד הרשע‎).

Nimrod is mentioned by name in the [Kitáb-i-Íqán](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kit%C3%A1b-i-%C3%8Dq%C3%A1n), the primary theological work of the Baha'i religion. There it is said that Nimrod "dreamed a dream" which his soothsayers interpreted as signifying the birth of a new star in heaven. A herald is then said to have appeared in the land announcing "the coming of Abraham."

The story of Abraham's confrontation with Nimrod did not remain within the confines of learned writings and religious treatises, but also conspicuously influenced popular culture. A notable example is "*Quando el Rey Nimrod*" ("When King Nimrod"), one of the most well-known folksongs in Ladino (the Judeo-Spanish language), apparently written during the reign of King Alfonso X of Castile. Beginning with the words: "When King Nimrod went out to the fields/ Looked at the heavens and at the stars/He saw a holy light in the Jewish quarter/A sign that Abraham, our father, was about to be born", the song gives a poetic account of the persecutions perpetrated by the cruel Nimrod and the miraculous birth and deeds of the savior Abraham. (Full original text and an English translation appear in the Ladino Wikipedia article.)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nimrod>