**Truth Sowers Life Group**

November 18, 2012

**God’s Secret Kingdom – The Law of Unity**

**Genesis 1:26**

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

**Introduction:** Unity is central to the way the world works. Perhaps the most powerful illustration of that is found in God himself, in the Bible’s account of creation. “Then God said, ‘Let *Us* make man in *Our* own image, according to *Our* likeness….’”

1. What does it mean in Gen. 1:26 that God will make man in “Our” image?
	1. Certainly is a reference to the Godhead.
	2. Perhaps it could refer to the angelic court of God?
	3. Perhaps the multifaceted majesty of God?
	4. Not references to polytheism or henotheism.
2. The Godhead was in Unity.
	1. Agreement
	2. Harmony
	3. Where there is agreement and harmony, there is great power.
	4. When there is harmony, God’s unfathomable power is unleashed!
3. Satan lied to Adam.

**Genesis 3:5**

*"For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

1. This was always Satan’s problem, wanting to be LIKE God!
2. Satan’s lie was a “half truth”.
	1. They would be like God in that they would know good and evil.
	2. The “Age of Innocence” would end when Adam and Eve ate of the fruit.
	3. The “Age of Innocence” lasted less than seven days.
	4. We are unable to grasp the enormity of the fall.

**Genesis 3:22, 23**

22Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— 23therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

1. Justice and judgment flowed from the unity of God just like creation.
2. God moves in Unity.
	1. Harmony is key to the unleashing of God’s incredible power!
	2. Unity in the invisible world governs the visible world.
	3. If it works in Heaven, it works on Earth.

**Matthew 6:10**

*Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

**Matthew 18:18**

*Truly I say to you, Whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

**Matthew 18:19, 20**

*19“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”*

* 1. Jesus was not only calling for “agreement” but for “unity”.
	2. Unity should be an external manifestation of an internal agreement.
	3. If we lay down our preconceived ideas of God and agree on the Word, we will see God move greatly!
	4. Agreement causes exponential power!

**Deuteronomy 32:30**

*How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them, And the Lord had surrendered them?*

* 1. Moses spoke toward the end of his life about how there is a multiplication factor in unity! It is exponential in its working.
1. Unity in the Early church.
	1. After the resurrection, the believers were in unity.

**Acts 1:14**

*They agreed they were in this for good, completely together in prayer, the women included. Also Jesus’ mother, Mary, and his brothers.*

* 1. Jesus prayed that the church would be in unity.

**John 17:23**

*I am in them, and you are in me. So they are completely united. In this way the world knows that you have sent me and that you have loved them in the same way you have loved me.*

* 1. There was unity in the early church Acts 2:41, 47
	2. 3,000 people were added in just one day to the church
	3. The believers all walked in unity.
	4. The modern church needs to walk in unity and then we will see God move mightily.
1. Unity can be used for Good or Evil.
	1. After Noah’s flood, the world used one language.

**Genesis 1:1-9**

*At first, the people of the whole world had only one language and used the same words. 2As they wandered about in the East, they came to a plain in Babylonia and settled there. 3They said to one another, “Come on! Let's make bricks and bake them hard.” So they had bricks to build with and tar to hold them together. 4They said, “Now let's build a city with a tower that reaches the sky, so that we can make a name for ourselves and not be scattered all over the earth.” 5Then the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which they had built, 6and he said, “Now then, these are all one people and they speak one language; this is just the beginning of what they are going to do. Soon they will be able to do anything they want! 7Let us go down and mix up their language so that they will not understand each other.” 8So the Lord scattered them all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9The city was called Babylon,[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+11&version=GNT" \l "fen-GNT-273a" \o "See footnote a)] because there the Lord mixed up the language of all the people, and from there he scattered them all over the earth.*

* 1. There is some belief that Hebrew was the original language.
	2. This was in the 100 years after the flood.

**The Tower of Babel**

There are no words in the Hebrew for "may reach," which means there is nothing in the text to suggest that its height was to be as high as heaven. Rather, the top would be dedicated to the heavens, with signs of the Zodiac portrayed as visible objects of worship. Up to this time the whole race not only had one language, but one form of idolatrous worship. When God confounded their language they began to disagree on religion and other matters, branching off into sects and parties.

A Babylonian description of the tower of Babel discovered in 1876 indicates there was a grand court 900' X 1,156', and a smaller one 450' X 1,056', inside of which was a platform with walls around it, having four gates on each side. In the center stood the tower with many small shrines at the base, dedicated to various gods. The tower itself was 300' high with decreased width in stages from the lowest to the highest point. Each stage was square. The first stage measured 300' square and 110' high; the second measured 260' square and 60' high; the third 200' square and 20' high; the fourth 170' square and 20' high; the fifth 140' square and 20' high; the sixth 110' square and 20' high; and the seventh 80' long, 60' wide, and 50' high. On the top platform measuring 60' X 80' was a sanctuary for the god Bel-Merodach.

The builders evidently finished the tower, becaause the work was stopped on the city only ([Gen. 11:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+11%3A4),[8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+11%3A8)). One ancient Babylonian tablet reads, "The building of this illustrious tower offended the gods. In a night they threw down what they had built. They scattered them abroad and made strange their speech. Their progress was impeded. They wept hot tears for Babylon."

The builders were supposed to have been giants who waged war with the gods. Nimrod himself is called "a mighty one" and the giants in [Gen. 6:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A4) are called "mighty men." These came from the fallen angels and daughters of men after the flood ([Gen. 6:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A4), notes).

* 1. **Deut. 32:8**

*The Most High assigned nations their lands;
    he determined where peoples should live.
He assigned to each nation a heavenly being,*

* 1. God did not intend for the people to stay in one place.
	2. They weren’t building it to Heaven where God lives but rather to the sky.
	3. Meillet and Cohen in "Languages of the World" list 6,760 tongues and systems of writing.
	4. This confusion of languages was done before the earth was separated into continents and islands. **Genesis 10:25**
	5. Babel actually means “confusion”.
	6. The people were building a monument to themselves and their false gods.
	7. *God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble*. **James 4:6b**
	8. The pride of any unified group in rebellion to God will ultimately draw opposition from God.
	9. Secular humanism, atheist groups, etc.

**Conclusion:** Unity must begin in ourselves. We must have internal harmony. James said, a double minded man is unstable in all his ways and that he won’t receive anything from God (**James 1:6-8**). We must be like Abraham who, when God told him, at 100 years old he would have a child, he believed and did not waver in his faith (**Romans 4:13-21**)! Jesus said that every city or house divided against itself cannot stand (**Matthew 12:25**). Unity produces strength and disunity produces weakness. This is just as true within ourselves as it is in a group of us. We may not completely agree with each other but find the places we can agree and remember the statement, **“In the ESSENTIALS, UNITY. In the NON-ESSENTIALS, LIBERTY!”**