

# **Elder Vernon Johnson**

## **Numbers**

### **Thirteen**

#### **Nimrod the Thirteenth From Adam**

When Noah and his family came forth from off the ark, God told Noah: Gen. 9:1, "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. 2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered." It is plain from this that God intended the descendants of Noah to go forth from the ark and to replenish the earth. They could not replenish the earth by all staying in one place.

Next, we see one of Noah's descendants name Nimrod come on the scene: Gen. 10:8 "And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah, 12 And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city." From this, we gather that Nimrod was a kingdom builder and a mighty hunter before the Lord. He was a mighty one in the earth. In the descendancy from Adam Nimrod was the thirteenth in the lineage. The number thirteen is associated in the scriptures with a curse.

What Nimrod was doing was in direct rebellion against the commandment of God to Noah and his descendents to go forth and replenish the earth. Nimrod was the first of the Kingdom builders. In Gen. chapter 11, we see the results of Nimrod's kingdom building: Gen. 11:1 "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. 3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4 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.

5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."

Thus, men were rebelling against God being the king of all the earth, in that they were trying to rule over the children of men. The purpose of building a city and a tower whose top may reach unto heaven was to make of themselves a name, and to rule over men in an earthly kingdom and to establish their own laws and their own manner of worship and require all men to worship and serve in their prescribed manner. This picture of man's efforts to establish worldwide rule and dominion and to have man-made worship and to force their attempts at worship on all men is found in many places in the scriptures. However, God placed a curse upon men in that he confounded the language of men. Sometimes a curse is a benefit to God's people. Without the curse of confounded languages it would be much easier for Satan and his minions to unite all of mankind under one umbrella and to establish a worldwide kingdom and force all men to worship according to rule of man. All attempts at building a worldwide government including Syria, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persian empire, Greece, and Rome have been in opposition to the humble obedient children of God and to the true worship of God as prescribed by our God in his word. Thanks be to God that he cursed the language of man at Babel.