

The Birth of Secular Humanism

A Supplemental Bible Study by Kevin S Lucas, Bible Teacher

Genesis 10:8-10; 11:1-9

Genesis 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.”

Genesis 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 throughly. 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.”

If you spend any time at all in the passage that is before us, you will note that there is a great deal of information on human ethnology here. The birth of nations and kingdoms are here. This rightly gives the area of Mesopotamia the name of the “cradle of civilization.” You will no doubt be glad that we shall not cover the entire passage first by verse. Many scholarly works have been written in days long ago concerning these passages. They are not unimportant, and I do not wish to give the impression that they are unimportant, or inferior to the rest of the Word of God. But for the purpose of this study, it is not necessary to examine the distribution of the human family.

I am much more concerned with examining and exposing an error which finds its beginnings in our text and is gaining control of the world in which you and I live today. I am referring to the philosophy of Nimrod, the founder of what is today called “secular humanism.” His story is found in Genesis 10:8-10 and 11:1-9. The philosophy and faith that he’s bond are with us yet, and it is my purpose to warn you about what is happening in the world around us today as a result of following that philosophy and the godless faith of secular humanism. I will quote the humanist directly from their writings and will attempt to show you what the devil is busy doing today.

I. The Background of Secular Humanism

Secular Humanism has its roots in rebellion against God. Ham’s son, Cush, had a son named Nimrod. “Nimrod” means rebel. And Nimrod lived up to his name. He became the first world dictator by force - “he began to be a mighty one in the earth.” This language indicates that he ruthlessly dominated all who opposed him until he became the great power in the world after the flood.

The humanism founded by Nimrod is still ruthlessly attempting to conquer the world. Humanism, while claiming to be broad-minded is actually extremely narrow-minded. It ruthlessly opposes anything which stands in its way. As a student in a secular state University for 2 ½ years I saw humanistic professors who attacked the Bible and anyone who would dare to stand up for the faith. Growing up in West Virginia I was exposed to the ugly textbook wars where the parents were told that they were too ignorant and puritanical because they question the textbooks which their children were being instructed from. Many Christian schools are under attack today because they dare to go against this humanistic philosophy of the world.

The Bible says that Nimrod became “a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.” The idea here is that he was a mighty rebel against the Lord and a hunter of the souls of men. His whole philosophy was opposed to God. He sought to eliminate God entirely from the minds of men. This is the very foundation of secular humanism.

The rebellion of Nimrod appears to spring from two sources:

- The Judgment of the Flood-the survivors from Noah's family saw the awful destructive power of God in the flood. It was at this point that they decided that they would not serve such a God, even though by grace their family had been spared. They refused to heed God's warning and unfortunately returned to the errors of the past.
- The Judgment on the Family of Ham-Nimrod came from the line of Ham who had been judged for his sin against Noah. While Japheth and Shem were granted their father's blessing, Ham and his family got none of this blessing. The breakdown of the family proceeded the birth of humanism and it has been hastened ever since by the same philosophy.

The Beliefs of Secular Humanism

Nimrod built a city-an ordered, structured society with one distinct and unique feature, God was entirely left out. Today the goal of secular humanism is to build a great society, but without God. Listen to what they have to say:

"As in 1933, humanists still believe that traditional theism, especially faith in the prayer-hearing God, assumed to live and care for persons, to hear and understand their prayers, and to be able to do something about them, is an unproved and outmoded faith. Salvationism, based on mere affirmation, still appears as harmful, diverting people with false hopes of heaven hereafter. Reasonable minds look to other means for survival."

Or these words from the original Humanist Manifesto:

"Man is at last becoming aware that he alone is responsible for the realization of the world of his dreams, that he has within himself the power for its achievement. He must set intelligence and will to the task."

Or as the Humanist Manifesto II states emphatically:

"But we can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species. While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves."

The humanist state very frankly that the principles by which they operate are so designed to set up “a secular society on a planetary scale” (Manifesto II)

What is the blueprint for such a society? “Religious humanism maintains that all associations and institutions exist for the fulfillment of human life. The intelligent evaluation, transformation, control, and direction of such associations and institutions with a view to the enhancement of human life is the purpose and program of humanism. Certainly religious institutions, their ritualistic forms, ecclesiastical methods, and communal activities must be reconstituted as rapidly as experience allows, in order to function effectively in the modern world.”

They maintain that traditional religion is an obstacle to human progress, though not the only one.

To put their principles into practice there actively working to bring about the following changes in our society:

1. Science will replace Revelation.
2. Ethics and moral behavior will be based on situationalism without a theological basis.
3. Human reason will be exalted over Faith-especially the Christian faith which demands total commitment to the one true and living God which they deny.
4. Allow for freedom of sexual behavior which includes some things now considered “perversions”-this demands abortion on demand to eliminate any possible consequences from casual sex.
5. Supports the termination of unwanted, unneeded, or imperfect human life
 - a. Abortion-the termination of imperfect or unwanted human beings.
 - b. Suicide-the termination of life when it becomes unwanted, painful, or difficult.
 - c. Euthanasia-the termination when life becomes unproductive, tedious, or unneeded by self or society.
6. Parental authority is to be gradually diminished and replaced by equality of all people as peers-this is to be facilitated through public education, media, culture.

7. Taxation and control of the church and or organized religion as a means of eliminating the power and influence of religion.
8. Guaranteed annual minimal income for all human beings.
9. Children should not be taught about God or religion but they should be taught to look to science for the answers to life's problems.
10. National boundaries are to be erased and replaced with a new one world government.
11. All weapons are to be eliminated so that there can be no effective resistance to the humanist regime.

Please note the society contemplated by the secular humanists happens to be very much like the one that was ruled by Nimrod and is identical in purpose, philosophy, and character to the one that is to be set up by the antichrist during the Great Tribulation, prophetically spoken of by our Lord and by the apostles and prophets.

But Nimrod did more than build the city-a society. He also built a tower, huge, impressive and massive. It is called the Tower of Babel. It was to be the center and rallying point for Nimrod's new society. God had drowned all the world "that then was." Nimrod is saying in effect, "we will build a tower to heaven all by ourselves and free ourselves from you and your judgments." It was a religious symbol that Nimrod was creating. It was a secular religion. Nimrod would build a tower by which he could elevate man to the place of God, to escape judgment, and to pull, if necessary, God down from His Throne! Likewise, the humanists are attempting to build a new faith or a new religion.

"There is great danger of a final, and we believe fatal, identification of the word religion with doctrines and methods which have lost their significance and which are powerless to solve the problem of human living in the Twentieth Century."

Here is what the Humanist religion says about God: "We believe, however, that traditional dogmatic or authoritarian religions that place revelation, God, ritual, or creed above human needs and experience do a disservice to the human species. ... We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of survival and fulfillment of the human race. As nontheists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity...While there is much that we do not know,

humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.” In effect, they like Nimrod are attempting to dethrone God!

The Secular Humanists reject the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for them on the cross. And here is what they say about our precious Bible and those of us who believe it: “we do not accept as true the literalist interpretations of the Old and New Testaments...” and they call “fundamentalist, literalist, and doctrinaire Christianity” a “disturbing development.”

Here is what they teach about salvation: secular humanist reject the idea that God is intervened miraculously in history or revealed himself to a chosen few or that he could save or redeem sinners... Promises of salvation are both illusory and harmful... There is no credible evidence that life survives the death of the body.”

So what are the tenants or teachings of the religion of secular humanism? There are five:

1. Man is a product of random chance and the process of evolution and hence, is a biological, material and temporal creature without an immortal soul and no real purpose or design in the world.
2. Therefore, human beings should not be concerned about such concepts as death or judgment because the first is unavoidable and the second is unprovable.
3. Human beings should seek then to reproduce, seek pleasure, and focus on the here and now only.
4. Humanity should be dedicated to the enjoyment of life and the only restriction that should be attached to human freedom is any activity that limits human freedom or attempts to limit the freedom of others to express and enjoy their humanity.
5. The only way to live after death is that we are to pass on our offspring a purer and less restrictive world than the one in which we live.

Thus Nimrod and his modern-day counterparts are attempting to build a secular society and a secular religion leaving God out of the picture.

Now let's consider the Breakup of Secular Humanism-

The Fruit of Humanism explored: what is secular humanism doing to our society today? The humanists have a goal of a utopian society. They have been firmly in the driver's seat of most of our influential institutions and political organizations for over seventy-five years now. They run our colleges and our courts, our schools and our media-so what kind of world are they building?

1. Over one million Americans and countless others throughout the civilized world are in need of treatment for cocaine addiction alone-other forms of recreational and non-medicinal drug use are in epidemic proportions. Much of the world is high on drugs most of the time.
2. Human life is growing more and more undervalued in this world. For example, the number of abortions in the US since 1973 has been estimated at 56,662,169 but the Guttmacher Institute that has pushed abortion on this country concedes that it might undercount the number by 3%. Add that 3% and it yields a total of 56,662,169 abortions since 1973. Based on available state-level data, an estimated 974,000 abortions took place in 2014—down from approximately 983,000 abortions in 2013 and 1.02 million abortions in 2012. That is about 2,668 a day, 111 per hour, and about 2 every minute, or 1 every 30 seconds. About 18% of all pregnancies end in abortion. Add to this fact that 40.7% of all births in the US are out of wedlock according to the latest figures-so many of the babies that are actually being born in the US are being born in distressing circumstances.
3. The divorce rate now exceeds the marriage rate.
4. Africa faces near depopulation because of the spread of the HIV virus and AIDS and not any major city in the United States is without an HIV epidemic.
5. The family is crumbling.
6. STDs are on the rise and at an alarming rate.
7. The world is in a mess since God was banished from the school, the public square, and our system of morality.
8. Our jails are overflowing.
9. The streets of our major cities are infested with gang activity.
10. Teenage suicide is at an all-time high.

All these things are the byproducts of a cheap, materialistic, Darwinian view of mankind is espoused by the secular humanists. It is not hard to come to

the conclusion that secular humanism has not only failed, but failed in a major way.

The Failure of Secular Humanism - God had to step in and in the first attempt to build a secular humanist society and He will have to do it again. He confounded the speech of reunited humanity on the first occasion. The second attempt to bring about a secular humanist world is going to end with the Antichrist. But this attempt to more quickly and when the humanists will find out just how wrong they have been. God will be left to pick up the pieces. Secular humanism is real. It is the philosophy of our world today. But it is most assuredly a colossal failure. We need to continue to expose it, save others from, and oppose it until Jesus comes or calls us home.

You may read the Humanist Manifesto I and II for yourself at:

http://americanhumanist.org/Humanism/Humanist_Manifesto_I

http://americanhumanist.org/Humanism/Humanist_Manifesto_II