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### "The Church and Mission"

Genesis 11:10-12:3

Sunday | January 29th, 2015 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

#### CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

Genesis 11:10-12:3

(See also Jn. 10:14-16, Acts 1:8, Gal. 3:15-29, 6:16, Rom. 4:13-17, 9:1-8)

#### CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[R. Kent Hughes] "Abram's call ends with the soaring promise that 'all the families of the earth' will be blessed through him. The buildup to this blessing is explicit: Abram alone is blessed—then Abram's name is used as a blessing—next Abram's blessers are blessed—and finally all families find blessing in Abram!"

...It was only with Christ, the ultimate seed of Abraham, that the fulfillment came and blessing went out to all people. The Apostle Paul explains, "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'In you shall all the nations be blessed.' So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith" (Galatians 3:8, 9)... This gospel announced in advance to Abram and fulfilled in Christ is now the church's responsibility to proclaim, so that the so-called Gentile Psalm (the shortest Psalm in the Psalter) will be sung by multitudes... "Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord! (Psalm 117)."<sup>1</sup>

#### DISCUSS

1. What have you enjoyed most about the "Origins" series?
2. Pastor Patrick quoted a line from the movie, *The Patriot* (Mel Gibson, 2000), "Aim small, miss small."<sup>2</sup> What does the quote mean and how does it apply to our study of origins?
3. Pastor Patrick said that the study of origins aims us. What did he mean? How does that apply to us today?
4. Compare the similar genealogies found in *Gen. 5* and *Gen. 11:10f*. What is one of the standout differences between the two records?<sup>3</sup> Why is that significant?
5. Read *Gen. 12:1-3* and identify the promise (i.e. hope). Who is the promise ultimately for?
6. Pastor Patrick said that in *Gen. 11:10-12:3* we see the origin of "the church and mission" (sermon title). As a group rehearse the connections drawn (see *Gal. 3:15-29, 6:16, Rom. 4:13-17, 9:1-8*).<sup>4</sup>
7. Pastor Patrick shared a quote from author Francis Chan (*Crazy Love*), "Christians are like manure: spread them out and they help everything grow better, but keep them in one big pile and they stink horribly" (p. 168). How does this apply to the church and the mission?
8. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

<sup>2</sup>The line in the movie is an instruction a father gives to his sons regarding shooting a rifle. The idea is this, for example, don't aim at the enemy soldier, aim at the button on his jacket (i.e. "aim small"). Why? Because if you miss, you will still hit the target.

<sup>3</sup>The account in *Gen. 11:10f* omits the line repeated in the account in *Gen. 5*, "and he died." Instead we read, "and had other sons and daughters."

<sup>4</sup>The church is the new Israel, the "Israel of God" (*Gal. 6:16*). The mission is the fruitful multiplication of the spiritual people of God (see *Mt. 28:19*).

<sup>1</sup>R. Kent Hughes, *Preaching the Word: Genesis* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004), p. 184-185.