

# WHEN GIANTS WALKED THE EARTH

**About the Series:** The first 11 chapters of Genesis are foundational to the Christian worldview. But when we read accounts that have similarities to myths and works of fiction, it makes one wonder if the Genesis account is really true or not. This series looks into these chapters to see what the Bible actually says and teaches, and explores the relevancy of its message for us today.

## Part 10

### Bitter, Better, Best

Genesis 10-11 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan | Watch ▶

## DISCUSS

Apart from God's clear rules on what is right and wrong, right and wrong is viewed as subjective where everyone has a say on the matter, where the majority opinion is the right opinion, and where wrongs can be justified. Read Genesis chapters 10 and 11 and discuss the following three Biblical principles for how Christians are to assess certain things in life from God's perspective and not from the subjective perspective of the world as it relates to prosperity, success, and plans, to help us live more Christlike lives.

### 1. **Material prosperity and worldly success do not mean God's approval and blessings are with you (v. 10:1-32).**

- Who was Nimrod whose name means "we shall rebel?" What kind of leader was he and what can you learn from his success, prosperity, and demise?
- How does God measure success or prosperity? What can you say about those who are successful and prosperous from doing evil and wicked things? Why doesn't it mean that God's approval and blessings are with them?

- What are heavenly rewards that last forever (Matthew 6:19-23). Are you satisfied and content knowing you have eternal life and eternal rewards? What does having enough or the feeling of contentment mean?

### 2. **Man's great plans and achievements often conceal a prideful and disobedient heart (v. 10:32-11:4).**

- What is the big difference between the entire world in verse 1 and the entire world now?
- What did a group of people who traveled East (modern-day Iraq) propose to do in verse 4? What made such an urban construction project like what they proposed so wrong?
- When does a person commit the sins of pride and willful disobedience in their seemingly noble endeavor and admirable desire for growth and great plans? Give examples of self-serving projects that are built for themselves, and in direct opposition to God.
- What does Proverbs 16:18-19 remind you of the danger of pride? What can be done so that your great plans and achievements don't conceal a prideful and disobedient heart, which will lead to your downfall?

### 3. **God often sovereignly intervenes to overrule man's selfish plans to accomplish His purposes for His glory (v. 11:5-9).**

- Why did God scatter the people and confuse their language? What results came out of this act of God?
- Why should it encourage you that God can choose to intervene to accomplish His purpose? Share how things in your life didn't go as you had planned but by leaving things in God's hands you allowed Him to move and intervene when things were beyond your control.
- How can you keep your heart from becoming hard and cold as you face many hardships in this world?

## REFLECT

Honestly examine if your heart is right before the Lord. Ask yourself if God would be pleased by how you achieved your successes/accomplishments, whether in school, at home, at work, etc. What steps are you taking to guard yourself against pride and disobedience and to live faithfully according to

God's Word? What encourages you to trust God and be assured that His ways are better than your ways?

## **PRAY**

Heavenly Father, Your ways are indeed different from my ways, and I thank you for it. As I see many evil people who are prosperous and have worldly success, it does not mean that You approve of them and that Your blessings are with them. May you help convict me when in my great plans, pride and disobedient heart are being concealed. May you intervene to overrule my selfish plans to accomplish Your purposes in my life for Your glory. In Jesus name. Amen.