

Rediscovering Purpose in a Rebellious World

Genesis 9:18-12:3



**GOOD
NEWS**

**BAD
NEWS**

Because God's purpose was persistently resisted by human rebellion, he determined to call out one chosen people through whom would arise the Messiah and founder of a new humanity of diverse peoples, to populate a new creation and provide for God a home!

Discoverin g Purpose!

THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT
DAYS IN YOUR LIFE ARE
THE DAY YOU ARE BORN,
AND THE DAY YOU FIND
OUT WHY.

MARK TWAIN

God's 'PURPOSE' in Genesis 1

The story of creation is about the sovereign God who orders the world with purposeful design and creates humans to flourish so that they may govern the world as God's representatives, imitating his character

God's 'PURPOSE' in Genesis 2

Humans are a **community** intimately and intricately created by God to serve him by **taking responsibility to govern the world** on his behalf, beginning in God's special garden and expanding their influence **as they grow into diverse and unified peoples**

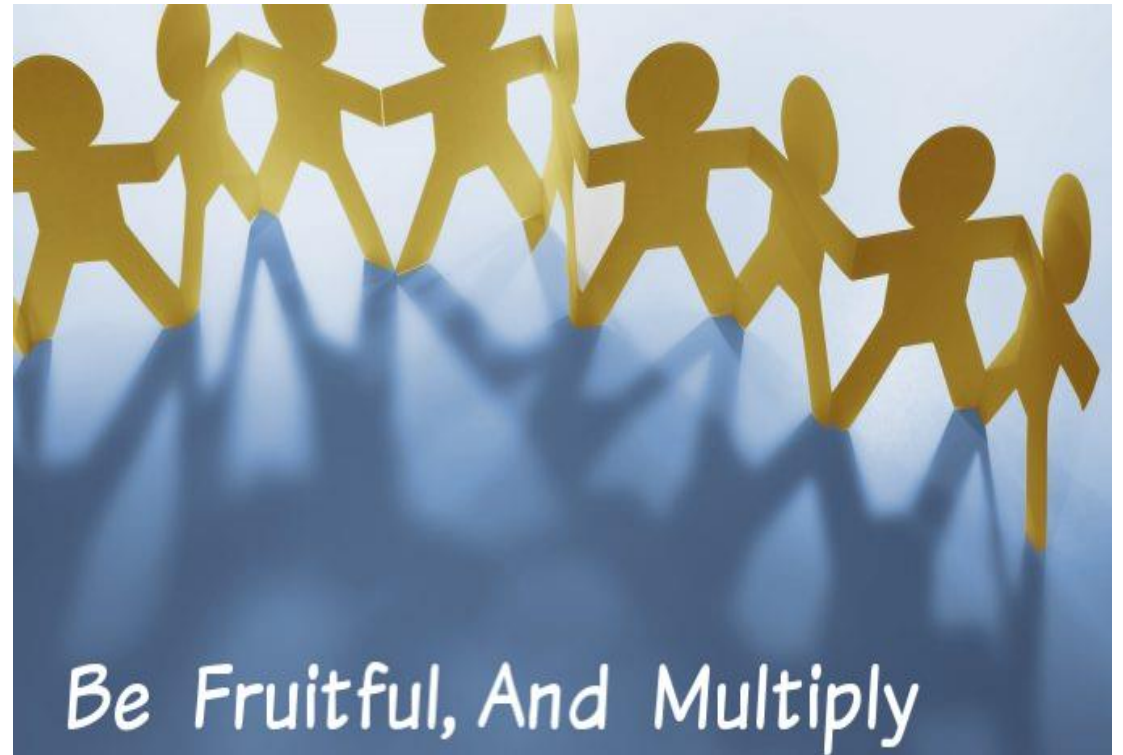
God's Purposes in a Rebellious World!



BAD NEWS	GOOD NEWS	BAD NEWS	GOOD NEWS
Genesis 9:18-28	Genesis 10:1-32	Genesis 11:1-9	Genesis 11:10-12:3

GOOD NEWS IN GENESIS 10:1-32!

God's
PURPOSE is
being
fulfilled!



Be Fruitful, And Multiply

i) The Nations have a shared ancestry



No place
for
superiority
or
inferiority!



"Are not you Israelites the same to me as the Cushites?" declares the LORD.

"Did I not bring Israel up from Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir?"

AMOS 9:7

“From one man he made all the nations,
that they should inhabit the whole
earth; and he marked out their
appointed times in history and the
boundaries of their lands”

ACTS 17:26

ii) Flourishing humanity is marked by diversity



“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb””

REVELATION 7:9

iii) Noah descendants reach a 'full' number

70

Names of
individuals
mentioned in the
Table of Nations in
Genesis 10

Bad News . . . Again!

INDIVIDUAL VIOLATIONS(9:18-28) AND
SOCIETAL RESISTANCE (11:1-9)

Genesis 9:18-28: Individual Violations!

Noah abuses
God's gifts of
creation

Ham abuses
God's gift of
createdness

Noah: Abusing God's gifts of creation!

"Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God"

Genesis 6:9

"Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent"

Genesis 9:20-21

Sex Food & God

Breaking
Free from
Temptations,
Compulsions,
& Addictions



David Eckman

“Everything
involved in
addiction is good”

David Eckman

What was Ham's sin?

"Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his **father's nakedness** and told his two brothers outside"

Genesis 9:22

"When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."

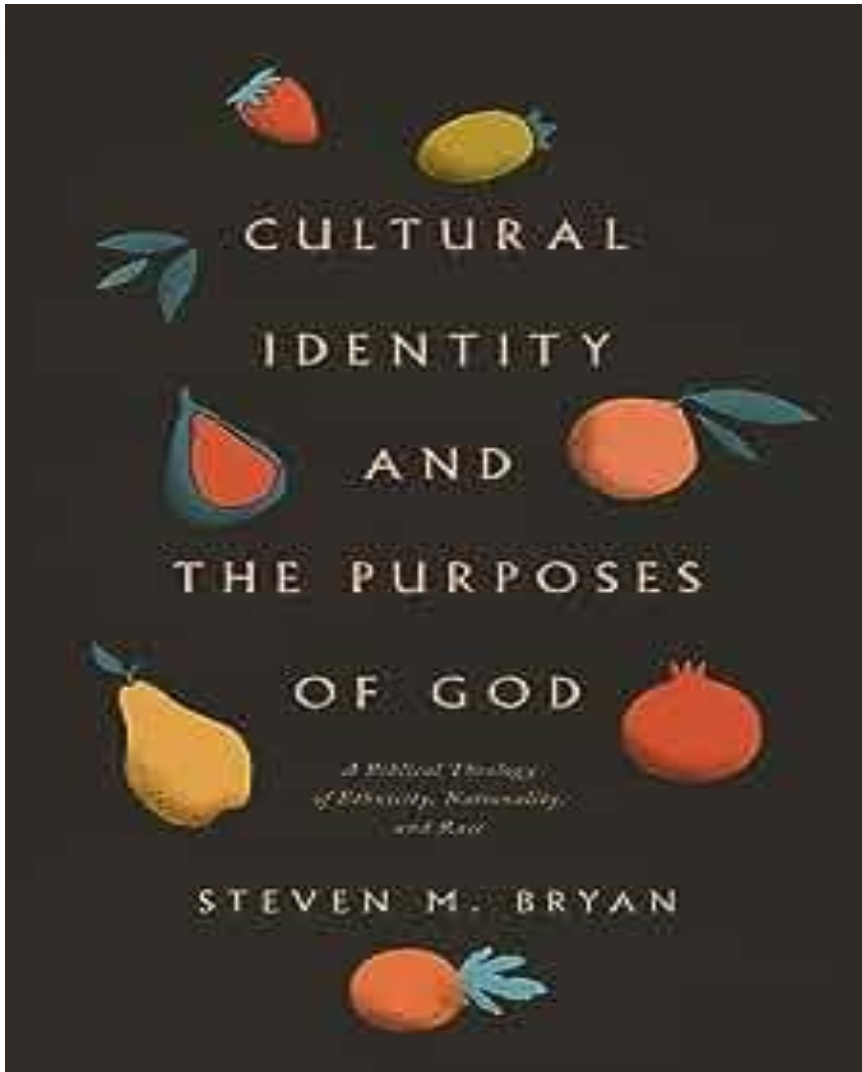
Genesis 9:24-25

What was Ham's sin?

- Voyeurism?
- Homosexual Rape?
- Maternal Incest?

"You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness"

Leviticus 18:7



“The narrator regards the event as so unspeakable that he refuses to speak it, choosing instead to use a known euphemism for maternal incest”

Steve Bryan

If Noah abused the gifts of creation to undermine God's will, we may say that Ham abused the gift of his createdness as a sexual being to violate God's will for human behaviour!

Genesis 11:1-9: Societal Resistance!

The society in Shinar abuses
God's gifts of Culture and
Communication to resist God's
will

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.

As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

They said to each other, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.

GENESIS 11:1-3

God's gifts of communication and culture

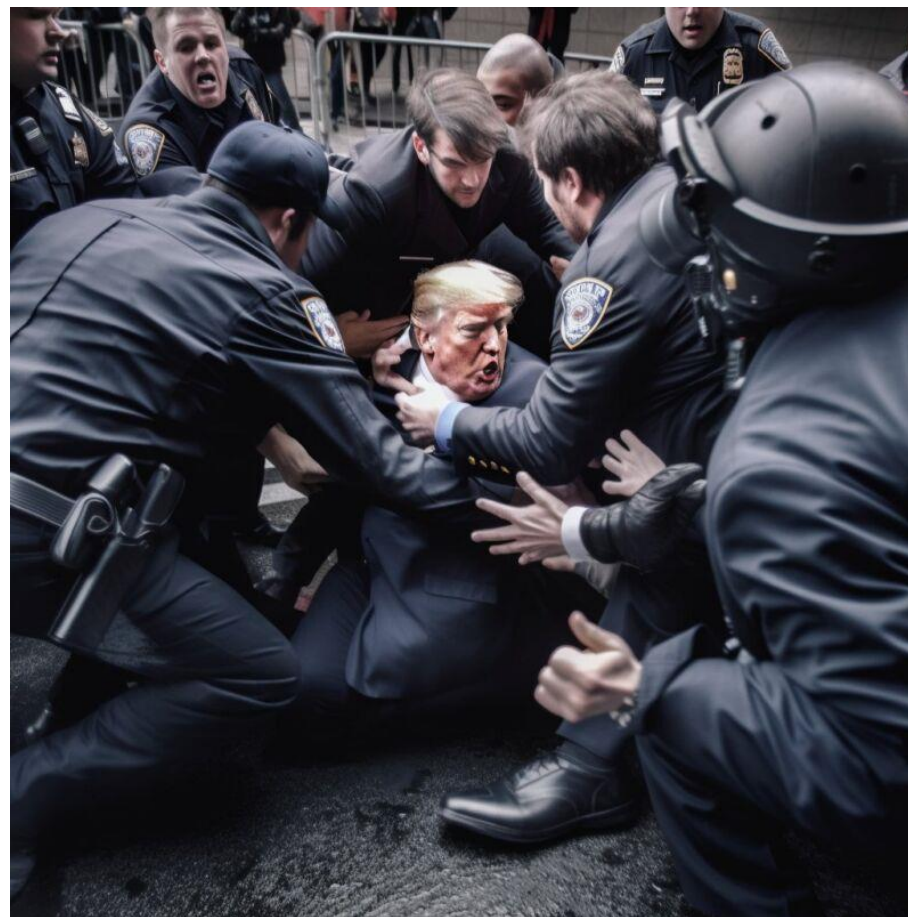
“Now the whole world had one language and a common speech”

“They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar”

Using God's gifts to rebel against God!

"Then they said, "Come let us build ourselves a city with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the earth"

AI generated deep fakes!



The problem is not technological advancement.
The problem is advanced technologies in the
hands of rebellious societies!

Has humanity come full circle?

The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them

Genesis 11:6



And now for some Good News!

HOW THE PURPOSE OF GOD FORGES AHEAD
IN A REBELLIOUS WORLD (GENESIS 11:10-
12:3)

Good News of Hope!

The
Genealogy of
Shem
(11:10-26)

The Call of
Abraham
(11:27-12:3)

Abraham is the new Noah!

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you"

Gen 12:2-3

Abraham to Jesus: the Golden Thread of Salvation

“Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad”

John 8:56



The story of the Bible ends like it begins

Genesis 1-3

- The heavens and the earth (1:1)
 - Paradise Lost
- Banished from the tree of life (3:24)
 - God arranges a wedding for Adam and Eve

Revelation 21-22

- The new heavens and new earth (21:1)
 - Paradise Regained
- Abundant supplies of the tree of life (22:2)
 - God arranges a wedding for Christ and the Church!

Humanity: A home for God?

Now the LORD God had
planted a garden in the
east, in Eden; and there
he put the man he had
formed

Genesis 2:8

And I heard a loud voice
from the throne saying,
"Look! God's dwelling
place is now among the
people, and he will dwell
with them. They will be
his people, and God
himself will be with them
and be their God

Revelation 21:3

Because God's purpose was persistently resisted by human rebellion, he determined to call out one chosen people through whom would arise the Messiah and founder of a new humanity of diverse peoples, to populate a new creation and provide for God a home!



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