

**Christ Has Conquered our Babylon**  
Genesis 11:1-9, Sunday after New Year  
January 4, 2009

Beloved of the Lord..... No matter how greatly Satan may rage and chaff against the Lord's Anointed, no matter how zealously he may through various means persecute the Church, "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. Christ conquered and wholly defeated all the powers of Babylon upon the cross. His kingdom endures forever. Though the builders of Babel (the predecessor to Babylon) worked and labored in unison against the Lord, He so thoroughly confounded and confused their tongue, they were unable to overthrow the Church. To this day, Babylon still persecutes the Church, and were it not for Christ and the preservation of His Word, you and I would not even believe in His saving merits today. Thanks be to God then, God breaks and hinders all the evil counsels of Babylon against us, and preserves us for His heavenly kingdom above, giving us the crown of His righteousness. In our lesson today the builders of the Tower of Babel represent the three enemies of Christendom, the devil, the world and our flesh. These three enemies continually seek to destroy the Invisible Church, namely they seek to overthrow your faith in Christ, dear believer. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith." I Pet. 5

I. Babylon ever seeks to destroy the Church. At first glance we might wonder, what was so evil about the Babylonians building a skyscraper? Is it a sin to build a tall building? But their sin was not in the building itself, but in the motive of the heart that moved them to build. 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." In their heart was an arrogant blasphemous pride against God in heaven. They were united as one against Him. Instead of seeking to glorify His name, they sought to make a name for themselves. They knew if they did not unite as one against God, God would scatter them to the four corners of the earth. Thus their own conscience testified to their sin, and God's right to punish.

Babylon is erected and built every day in our heart when we become proud of who we are, rather than ashamed of our sin. We are the builders of Babylon when we exalt ourselves to the heavens thinking we are not as other men are, adulterers, fornicators, thieves, better Lutherans, or "even as this publican." We have forgotten that it is not sin that make the sinner, but the

sinner that makes sin. There are times then when God levels our Babylonian tower of pride. He may permit the devil to afflict us or grant us sickness as He did Job. We may lose our income, our job, or be humiliated in front of our friends. He may take away our position or title, or permit great suffering in our life. He need not do such an open miracle as the confusion of tongues, but He has many ways to make sinners low. If He so humbles us, and reveals to us the folly of our Babylonian pride, shouldn't we repent?

Yet this is not for our destruction. God tears down and destroys our tower of pride that we might flee to Christ our High Tower. These tribulations teach us that our own works of mortar and brick cannot stand the test of time but will crumble before God's judgment. Only then will we seek the strength of the High Tower which is Christ. David writes, "The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour." Those who build their faith upon Christ the solid Rock, such dwell secure in the high tower of His grace. True believers do not trust in one single work for salvation, but they have made by faith Christ their High Tower, or better, the Gospel Word has taught them so. Let us then joyfully say with David Christ is "my high tower, my refuge, my Savior."

We need this High Tower, we need to trust in the justification of His blood alone, if we are to endure the assaults of the second Babylonian power, the world we live in. To this day our world builds skyscrapers and towers not for God's glory, but man's. The Eve of this world still desires to be as god. Every son of Adam seeks to make a name for himself rather than saying, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." All unbelievers then are spiritual Babylonians, totally ruled by the devil, blind captives to sin, slaves to his will alone. Hence all Babylonians persecute the Church. "Marvel not brethren if the world hate you." This is why God brought confusion of tongues to the first Babylon, for the preservation of the Church. Had not God confounded and confused the powers of Babylon, THE CHURCH, and THE GOSPEL WORD, would long ago have perished. Were it not for God's mercy, there would be no Bibles in the world today, nor could anyone speak any Bible passage from memory, nor would there be even one minister left to preach the Gospel. Yet to this day His Church endures, and the preaching of His Gospel continues. Praise God that He long ago confounded the powers of Babylon, and "greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

The third Babylon that seeks to destroy the Church is the king of all Babylonians, the devil. The devil and all evil angels, the gates of hell, throw themselves with hellish force against the Church. The devil's mission is to rob each believer of the comfort, that a man is justified

by faith, without the deeds of the law." He wants each man to trust in the works of the law, rather than the works of Christ. "Behind everything that harms the Church are the evil spirits. They bring about the inattention of the hearers of the Word...and the falsification of the divine doctrine, which Christ would have His Church maintain in purity." The devil himself, the king of Babylon is behind all the false doctrines which surround us in this world. Daily this wicked king preaches to us through ungodly friends, unbelieving co-workers, seducing people, images, or pictures, TV, radio, and the internet. In this world of Babylon, where the Prince of the Air rules the powers of darkness, false doctrine is far more prevalent than the full truth of God's Word. The devil even works through various governments, worldly Babylonian powers, so that sometimes even the State persecutes the Church.

II. Christ conquered and wholly defeated all the powers of Babylon upon the cross. His kingdom endures forever. Dear believer, at first glance it might seem that our cause, the cause of Christ is utterly hopeless. Often I'm afraid, we look at the power and force, the unity of these Babylonian powers, and we see only the devil as the victor. But we should not yield to his temptation by thinking that force must be met with force. These Babylonian enemies, as Luther well knew, are easily overcome by one little Word, whose name is Christ! Christ is our King, and as our King Christ rules over His Kingdom of Power! Hence, is there any kingdom, any power which is not under the thumb, the heel of our King, dear Christian? Is there any power that be, that be not subject to Him? Don't the very devils tremble at His Word? Christ conquered and wholly defeated all the powers of Babylon upon the cross. By His death, He conquered death and the devil so perfectly that He descended into hell proclaiming victory! Our King rose again in triumph on the third day, and after restoring, confirming, and strengthening the faith of the disciples, He ascended up into heaven. I Peter 3:22 says, "He is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him." This means not only that all Babylonian governments, all nations of the earth are subject to Him, yea pawns on a chessboard which He moves at will, but even that far stronger Babylonian power named the devil, that king, has been soundly defeated. Satan therefore has no power over those who place their personal faith in the atoning merits of Christ. For we were not redeemed with corruptible things as gold and silver, "but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

When we trust in the power of the redeeming blood of our beloved Savior, Christ our King, it matters not how loud, how great, how numerous the accusations of

this Babylonian king be against us. Such words are nothing more than an echo, a fading and withering voice, which is easily drowned out by the words of our Savior who says, "God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." For Christ on the cross long ago conquered Satan's power of sin against us, so that even now Satan is in his death throes. He can only wiggle and writhe under the heel of Christ. His days are numbered, but we have life everlasting.

Truly Christ is our King! He has well conquered all these powers, these forces of Babylon! To Him alone be all glory! And let us take none of it for ourselves! What power then is there on earth or in heaven which can compare to the power of Christ and His forgiveness of sins and His Word which carries it? What sword then is more powerful than the sword of God's own Spirit? And if we hold this sword by faith, and we employ it against the powers of Babylon, who holds the real power? Aren't we kings and queens in God's sight? For "ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." "He is our King and Protector against sin, death, Satan, and all enemies, both carnal and spiritual. Therefore, He also makes us kings, that is, conquerors and lords over all enemies." So even though we appear to the world as poor beggars, we are precious in His sight, even kings and queens!

Dear Christian, let us therefore comfort one another in the knowledge that though the world despise and persecute us, we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. The Church AND the preaching of the Word will endure to the end of time. We should therefore put up our sword into its sheath, and by faith employ the sword of God's Spirit alone, even love and pray for our enemies. For ten thousand swords employed against the Church by ten thousand devils, cannot overcome nor overthrow the Church which is founded upon Christ and His merits. The voice of our Shepherd continually comforts our souls. It is not the work of man to preserve the Church. It is God's work. His Kingdom of Grace continually endures throughout the rise and fall of the countless kingdoms of Babylon. Therefore "the Lord shall deliver you from every evil work, and will preserve you unto his heavenly kingdom." "The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." CHRIST HAS CONQUERED OUR BABYLON. WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERERS THOROUGH HIM THAT LOVED US. AMEN.

