

# UNITY CAN BRING JUDGMENT OR REVIVAL!

## (The Tower of Babel vs. the Early Church)

INTRODUCTION: The Scriptures record that unity has great power. Godly unity can bring revival, yet ungodly unity can bring the judgment of God! Let us study these two kinds of unity, to gain discernment on how to avoid ungodly unity while promoting godly unity.

### I. UNGODLY UNITY THAT BRINGS JUDGMENT: THE TOWER OF BABEL, Gen.11:1-9

#### A. The PREPARATIONS:

1. They had natural unity: one language, v.1
2. "They said to each other," v.3. They didn't seek God's counsel & will, they made their own plans!
3. "Let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly," v.3. They chose to use clay bricks, not stones, for building the Tower of Babel. Clay = the adamic nature, Gen.2:7. The clay was burned: their adamic nature, hardened and burned, was the building material for their unity & works. This is the opposite of how the Temple of God is built with stones, speaking of the nature of Christ, 1 Pet.2:4-6.

#### B. The PURPOSE:

1. "Let us build a city," v.4. The city of Babylon. Babylon is the manmade beginning of false religion and corruption, the opposite of the City of God, the New Jerusalem. Abraham was content to wait for God's city (Heb.11:10), but carnal man decided to build their own.
2. "build a tower up to heaven" A religious structure, to lift the persons on the top to be close to heaven. There they could offer sacrifice or practice astrology. Modern religious denominations build structures of authority which lift the uppermost leaders to become like spiritual giants or 'popes.'
3. "Let us make a name for ourselves" They wanted to achieve greatness & unite around that great name.
4. "Lest we be scattered over the whole earth," v.4. Their plan rejected God's plan, which was to spread out and fill the earth, Gen.1:28 & 9:1.

#### C. The POWER:

1. God said, "Now nothing that they purpose to do will be impossible for them," v.6.
2. The Lord judged them with confusion so that they did not understand each other, v.7.
3. The Lord also scattered them, to stop their building together, v.8-9. Their unity released judgment so that they could not finish what they started!
4. That place was named Babel, v.9. Translated from the Babylonian language, Bab-El means "gate of God." However, verse 9 equates this word with the Hebrew word for "confusion." To carnal people, Babel looks like the way of God to achieve unity, greatness, and spirituality. But people of the Spirit discern it is the way to judgment, confusion, and disunity, Rev.18:1-5.

### II. GODLY UNITY CAN BRING REVIVAL: THE DAY OF PENTECOST

#### A. The PREPARATIONS:

1. Gain Unity of the Heart, Mt.22:37-38, Ps.139:23-24, Ps.86:11.
2. Keep the Unity of the Spirit, Eph.4:3, 1 Jn.1:7, Mt.18:15-18.
3. Grow towards the Unity of the Faith, Eph.4:13.

#### B. The PURPOSE:

1. That we may together abide in God, I Jn.4:12, 16, & 20
2. To demonstrate the gospel to the world, John 17:21, Acts 2:46-47

#### C. The POWER:

1. The Day of Pentecost- they were united in prayer (Acts 1:14) and revival fell, Acts 2:1-4.
2. The curse of Babel began to be reversed through the speaking in tongues, which brought a united testimony (Acts 2:5-11) and helped lead 3000 people to salvation, Acts 2:41.
3. As they continued in fellowship & worship the Lord continued to move and save souls, Acts 2:42-47.
4. As the early Church's leadership remained united in worship and prayer (Acts 13:1-3), the Holy Spirit continued to move and save souls even out to the nations, Acts 13:2, 4, & 9-12.

CONCLUSION: Unity has great power to bless and curse! We should seek for godly unity, while avoiding all compromising with unrighteousness. We want to prepare for revival, while staying far away from backsliding and judgment.

## UNITY CAN BRING REVIVAL... UNITY CAN BRING JUDGMENT!

INTRODUCTION: The Scriptures record that unity has great effect. Godly unity can bring revival, yet ungodly unity can bring the judgment of God! Let us study these two kinds of unity, to gain discernment how to promote godly unity while avoiding ungodly unity.

### I. GODLY UNITY CAN BRING REVIVAL

#### A. The PREPARATIONS:

1. Gain Unity of the Heart,  
Mt.22:37-38, love the Lord with ALL of your heart  
Ps.139:23-24 search me o God, and know my heart; & see if there be any wicked way in me  
Ps.86:11. unite my heart to fear thy name
2. Keep the Unity of the Spirit,  
Eph.4:3, *endeavor* to *keep* the unity- God gives it, but we must keep it!  
1 Jn.1:7, our fellowship is not based on *amount* of light, but our *obedience* to the light  
Mt.18:15-18. steps to keep the unity of the spirit
3. Grow towards the Unity of the Faith, Eph.4:13. the unity of the Spirit enables body ministry (v.11-12) which helps us grow into the unity of the faith & spiritual maturity (v.13)

#### B. The PURPOSE: Jn.17:21

1. That we may together abide in God, 1 Jn.4:12, 16, & 20
2. To demonstrate the gospel to the world, Acts: 2:46-47

#### C. The POWER:

1. The Day of Pentecost- they were united in prayer (Acts 1:14), revival fell (Acts 2:1-4), and 3000 people were saved, Acts 2:41
2. The Dedication of Solomon's Temple- they were united in worship (2 Chron.5:13), the glory of God filled the temple (2 Chron.5:13-14), and God blessed Solomon's kingdom & made it a testimony to the nations (1 Kings 10:1-9 & 23-24).

### II. UNGODLY UNITY THAT BRINGS JUDGMENT: JEHOSEPHAT & AHAB'S ALLIANCE

Jehoshaphat was a righteous king who was blessed by God, 2 Chron.17:3-6 & 10-12.

Ahab was a wicked king who was judged of God, 1 Kings 16:29-33, 17:1.

#### A. The PREPARATIONS:

1. Jehoshaphat allied himself with Ahab by marriage, 2 Chron.18:1
2. Jehoshaphat joined his army with Ahab's army, 2 Chron.18:2-3.
3. Jehoshaphat joined with Ahab's son, King Ahaziah, to build ships together, 2 Chron.20:35-36.

#### B. The PURPOSE:

1. The marriage alliance brought peace: a false family peace! Do we compromise with mixture?
2. Joining their armies brought military power- political power!
3. Building the ships was a business partnership, to become wealthy.

### C. The POWER:

1. Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram, married Ahab & Jezebel's daughter: he backslid (2 Chron.21:5-6) & caused his nation to backslide (2 Chron.21:11). **COMPROMISE CAN CAUSE YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR CONGREGATION TO BACKSLIDE!**
  - \* God judged Jehoram and he became sick & died (2 Chron.21:12-15 &18-19), and God judged the nation and their enemies overcame them (2 Chron.21:16-17). **SIN & DEVILS CAN DEFEAT US!**
  - \* Jehoshaphat's daughter in law (who was also the daughter of Jezebel) corrupted & killed the future generations of Jehoshaphat's children and ruled as an evil queen (2 Chron.22:2-4, 10, 12)
2. God caused the kings to be deceived by the false prophets (2 Chron.18:4-28). Ahab died, Jehoshaphat was almost killed, and the armies retreated in defeat (2 Chron.18:29-34).
3. The business partnership that Jehosaphat had with the wicked son of Ahab was judged by God and became a total failure, 2 Chron.20:37.

**CONCLUSION:** Unity has great power to bless and curse! We should seek for godly unity, while avoiding all compromising with unrighteousness. We want to prepare for revival, while staying far away from backsliding and judgment.