



The Story Of Babel

Noah's descendants multiplied, and began building a city with a tower reaching the skies. But they did not succeed because it was not the Lord's plan. Noah's descendants wanted a tower that would be tall, visible from all sides, so that it could serve as a beacon for the city around which they wished to remain united.

But God said that the people speaking one language and wanting to build a tower was just the beginning, and they would do anything they want in future. So he made them speak



different languages and mixed them up so that they did not understand each other.

When they started speaking different languages, the people found it impossible to remain united. The city and tower were left unfinished. The Biblical author called it Babel, a Hebrew word meaning confusion, and described the tower as a place where the confusion of human languages occurred.

Babel showed humans cannot be united by the creation of armies or governments led by ambitious leaders. Human unity can be achieved only from the awareness that God has made us members of one family.

Against the grand plan of Babel stood Abraham, a simple nomad who had no city or empire to call his own. It was to Abraham that God promised more descendants than can be counted, and made him the father of many nations.

The confusion at Babel stands in contrast to the Pentecost, where God's Spirit descends upon humans helping them to communicate with each other in spite of the differences of origin and language.



Word of God

Genesis 11: 1 – 9

At first, the people of the whole world had only one language and used the same words. As they wandered about in the East, they came to a plain in Babylonia and settled there. They said to one another, "Come on! Let's make bricks and bake them hard." So they had bricks to build with and tar to hold them together. They said, "Now let's build a city with a tower that reaches the sky, so that we can make a name for ourselves and not be scattered all over the earth."

Then the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which they had built, and he said, "Now then, these are all one people and they speak one language; this is just the beginning of what they are going to do. Soon they will be able to do anything they want! Let us go down and mix up their language so that they will not understand each other." So the Lord scattered them all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. The city was called Babylon, because there the Lord mixed up the language of all the people, and from there he scattered them all over the earth.

Insight

St Valentine, Patron Of love

Saint Valentine, also known as Saint Valentine of



Rome, is believed to be a third-century saint whose feast is celebrated on February 14, Valentine's Day. There is no historical proof about the identity and existence of St.

Valentine, However it is believed that St. Valentine was martyred and was buried in Rome.

St. Valentine is the patron saint of couples in love. Valentine's Day is celebrated all over the world, irrespective of religious faith.

Notes

Know Now

ISUDAS CUELI: When Jesuit Father Isudas Cueli who translated the entire Bible into Gujarati died in Baroda on August 16, 2018, only then the world came to know the formidable mission this man from Spain accomplished. Born on December 24, 1930, for Cueli it was translation all the way once he mastered the Gujarati language of this north-western Indian state. Jesuit Society of Gujarat entrusted him this mission in 1964. There is a commonplace viewpoint that Cueli's translation of the Bible is the only translation in the whole of India that has the real hue of typical Indian linguistic nuances.

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