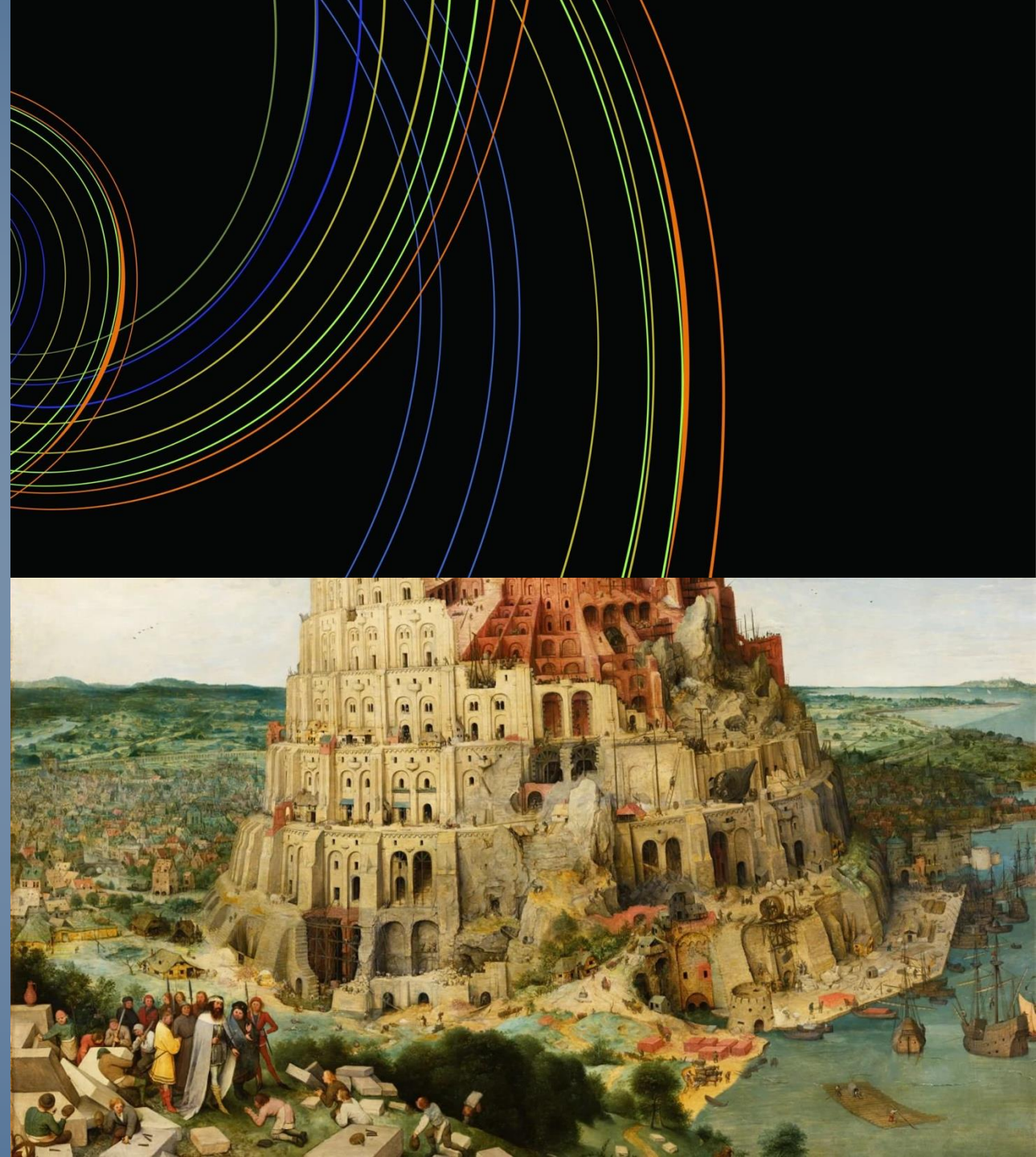


The Spiral of Sin: Creation Continued, Boundaries Broken

Genesis 5-11

Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1563





What are the Genealogies Trying to Tell Us?

Cain's Genealogy (4:17-22)

Adam

➤ Cain

➤ Enoch

➤ Irad

➤ Mehujael

➤ Methushael

➤ Lamech

Jabal-tents/livestock

Jubal-music/arts

Tubal-cain-metallurgy

Naamah-domestic

Adam

Seth

Enosh

Kenan

Mahalalel

Jared

Enoch

Methusaleh

Lamech

Noah

Seth

Ham

Japeth

Abram

Seth's Genealogy 4:25-5:32



Genesis 6:1-4
Broken Boundaries,
Disordered Creation

Sons of God and Daughters of Men 6:1-4

Interpretive Option 1

"sons of God" = line of Seth (ch. 5)

"daughters of men" = line of Cain (ch. 4)

Issue: Marriage between the godly and the
ungodly

Augustine's *City of God*

Aquinas:

Hence by the sons of God are to be understood the sons of Seth, who were good; while by the daughters of men, the Scripture designates those who sprang from the race of Cain.

Sons of God and Daughters of Men 6:1-4

Option 2

“sons of God” = human rulers (Exod 22:8-9)
rulers forcibly taking women for a harem

Issue: Lust; sexual violence; oppression
--Similar issue in Gilgamesh story

Sons of God and Daughters of Men 6:1-4

Option 3

“sons of God” = heavenly beings

Cf. Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7; 29:1

Cf. selected Greek texts

“the angels of God”

“And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day”—Jude 6

Reading Gen 6:1-4 in Its Context

- ▶ Appointed Boundaries—Broken Boundaries
- ▶ Finding Meaning in the Story



Noah, an Ark, and the Flood:

An Infantile Obsession?

Genesis 6-8

The Story of Childhood



Prelude to the Flood 6:5

6:5 "The LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind ('*adam*) was great on the earth ('*adamah*) and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually."

Prelude to the Flood 6:11-13



6:11-13

The earth was corrupt/destroyed (shehat) in the sight of God;
the earth was filled with **violence**.

God saw the earth, and indeed it was corrupt/destroyed
for all living creatures had corrupted/destroyed (shehat)
their way on the earth.

So, God said to Noah,

“I have decided that all living creatures must die,
for the earth is filled with **violence** because of them.

Now I am about to corrupt/destroy (shehat) them and the
earth.”

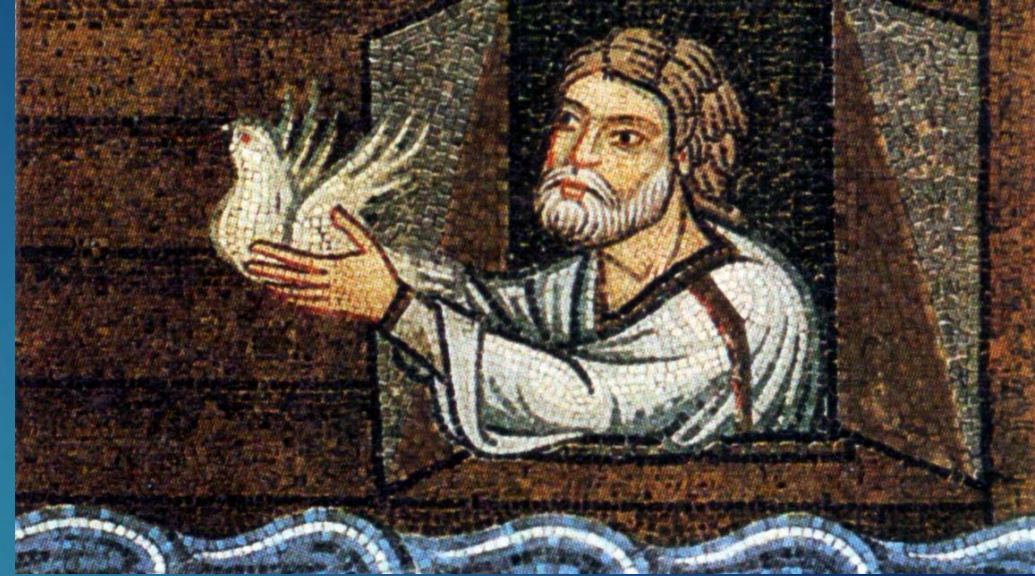
The Flood: Divine Sorrow and Divine Redemption

- ▶ v. 6 “And YHWH was sorry that he had made humankind upon the earth and his heart was grieved.”
- ▶ v. 7 “I will blot out (*mahah*) from the earth the human beings that I have created—people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air because I regret that made them.”

The Flood: Divine Recreation

- ▶ Gen. 1- "a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep and a wind from God swept over the face of the waters."
- ▶ Gen. 8:1- "and God made a wind blow over the earth and the waters subsided."
- ▶ Gen. 1:28- "be fruitful and multiply"
- ▶ Gen. 9:1- "be fruitful and multiply"

But Why Noah?



NRSV— “I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation.”

NIV— “The LORD then said to Noah, ‘Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation.’”

► Hebrew—“I have seen you, a righteous person from among this generation.”

► Implications??

Creation Continues

- ▶ “be fruitful and multiply”
- ▶ Reaffirmation of the Image of God
- ▶ . . . What God understands about humans (8:21)

The Sign of the Bow

- ▶ Hebrew word is *qešet*, “bow”,
as in a bow and arrow

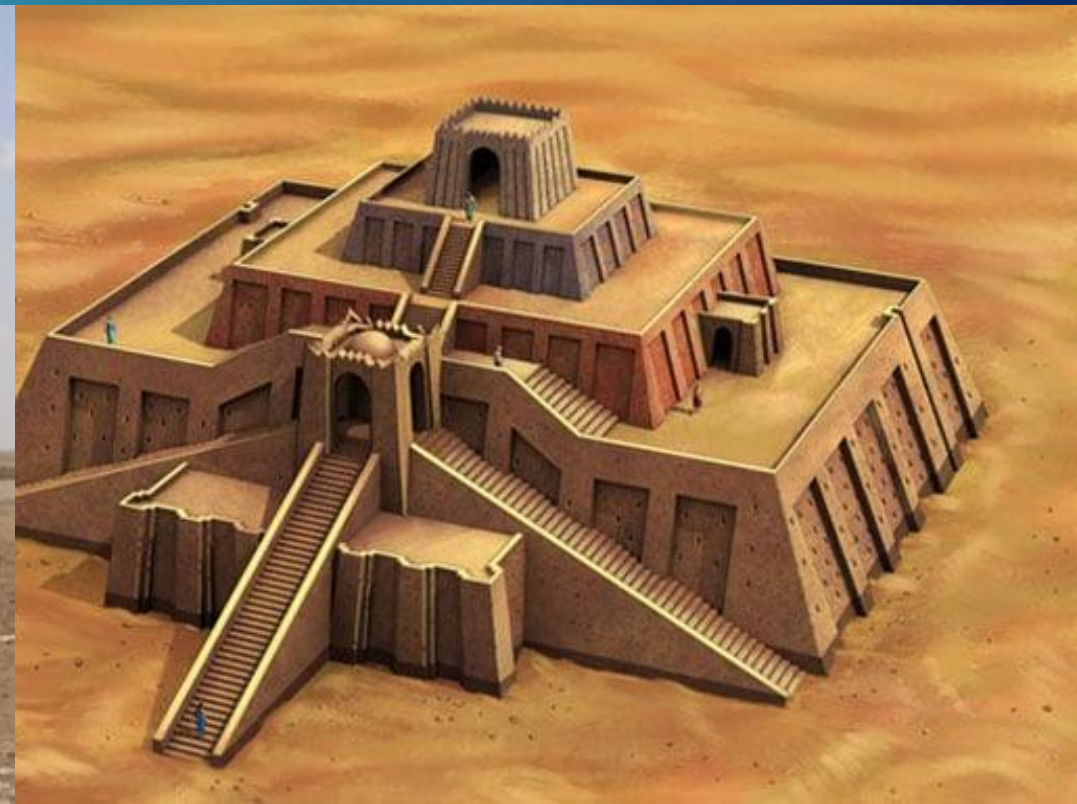
Ashur of Assyria



Tower of Babel

Concluding Frame of Primeval History

Ziggurat at Ur of Chaldees



Tower of Babel:

Human Inclinations and Divine Response

v. 3 Let us make bricks (lebenim)	v. 7 Let us confuse (nebelim) their language
v. 4 a city and a tower with its top in the heavens	v. 5 The LORD “came down” to see their city and tower
v. 4 Lest we be scattered	vv. 8, 9 The LORD scattered them

Concluding Thought

In our waywardness, God always makes a way.