

Daniel Perrin – L4: The Nations—Part 1 – Sunday, April 20: Nimrod and Nineveh

1. Everyone who is listening right now lives under the jurisdiction of a national government.
 - a. You ever get the feeling from history books that history on this planet so far has been one war after another?
 - b. It wasn't always that way — and it won't always be that way.
 - c. Garden of Eden — No human government (the way we think of governments: you know, official offices, titles indicating Commander or Monarch, Documents of ownership)
 - d. God established ORDER ... but NOT absolute control or domination
 - God's government went like this: Talk with God in the cool of the evening / led by the in-dwelling Holy Spirit / learn from angels — ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S PERFECT WILL!
 - e. BUT, that system was rejected

2. Both after Eden AND after the Flood, first steps were taken to form man-made, man-centered governments — Power-centers
 - a. First we see is in **Genesis 4:17** — *And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Enoch.*
 - City-building / naming after son / erecting structures
 - b. After the flood, the same spirit breaks out into full-blown expression:
 - Genesis 10 tells “the genealogy of the sons of Noah”
 - Ham had 4 sons, one of whom was Cush / Cush had 6 sons ...
 - **Genesis 10:8–12** — *Cush begot Nimrod;*
 - Genealogies are NOT known for sharing lots of details. But here is a place where we have DETAILS
 - So we know they are significant / Every detail matters in some way
 - ... *he began to be a mighty one on the earth. ⁹He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.” ¹⁰And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. ¹¹From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, ¹²and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).*

3. This is Full-Scale Empire Aspirations — Consolidation of Power UNDER ONE PERSON
 - a. Multiple cities where ONE person holds sway — That person? NIMROD!
 - His opinions become the laws ... Laws that dictate the lives of everyone under his control
 - What right does one sinner have to have SO MUCH POWER over people?
 - b. His name means “Rebellion” — That tells you something, right?
 - Names were a representation of something more than just parental sentimentality
 - c. He was a hunter ... “before the Lord”
 - The Hebrew language could also mean “Against the Lord” (arrayed before in opposition)
 - His life is dedicated to hunting — not just for the purpose of subsistence, but for the purpose of sport — “against the Lord”
 - His life was defined by the thrill of the chase
 - He studied nature NOT to understand it, but to master it
 - He became legendary in His skill of tracking prey
 - He was more wily (crafty and tricky) than anything He wanted to subdue
 - Nothing could outsmart him / Nothing could outrun him / (he was the one who could “get you!”)
 - He built his famous reputation on being a master killer
 - When he went on the hunt, everyone took notice because he always won
 - Everyone knew that he was the top dog in every sense of the word

- He became everyone's leader because he rose above all others
 - This is what we do: Who becomes the rulers? The wealthy / The one who knows how to DOMINATE
 - Naturally, his opinions were the ones people imitated ... because everyone wanted to imitate him
 - He was the sports legend / superhero of his day
- d. He could master ANYTHING the Creator had created
- Nimrod becomes a legendary figure / Famous / Notoriety
- e. Are you getting the picture that Nimrod's pride could begin to choke out anyone who opposed him?
4. Through Nimrod, the governing of people moves AWAY from patriarchy — a FAMILY led by its elder
- a. TO a MAN-MADE MONARCHY — led by One powerful leader
- People of Multiple cities — ALL under His leadership
 - He is in control
 - But at the heart of it all is a man who idolizes his own strength and stands up against God.
- b. NOTE: God's plan with Abram will be to return leadership to the family.
- With God as the ONLY King.
 - What did He say to Abram in **12:3** — *And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*
 - NOT, "all families of the earth shall be RULED."
5. The monarchy Nimrod formed became the foundation for some of the future enemies of God
- a. Babylon was one of the fruits that grew from the root of Nimrod
- Genesis 4:11 mentions Babel and "the land of Shinar" as part of Nimrod's multinational corporation
- b. Israel's prophets also knew that Nimrod's monarchy led to the Assyrian empire
- **Micah 5:6** — *They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, and the land of Nimrod at its entrances...*
 - Genesis 4:11 also mentioned Nineveh, the capitol city of Assyria, as part of Nimrod's empire
6. Ultimately, Nimrod was in rebellion against God because HE wanted to be the supreme ruler.
- a. Remember what God said to Saul through the prophet Samuel.
- b. **1 Samuel 15:23** — *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.*
7. The spiritual battles that play out on national levels (nations and empires) are the same ones that take place in individuals
- a. War is all about Selfishness
8. Fast Forward to the end: **Revelation 22:2** — *In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*
- a. This is NOT restoring human governments — even to a peaceful state
- b. The Greek word is *ethnos* — not governments, but people groups
- c. In Heaven and on the New Earth, the peoples that were divided will be united as one family — under God