

The Real Reason for the Tower of Babel Story?

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Introduction

The Tower of Babel was a large temple planned for and possibly constructed on the plains of Shinar somewhere in ancient Mesopotamia by the peoples descended from the sons of Noah. Virtually everyone at the time spoke variations of the same language, possibly proto-Indo-European which may in turn have been based on proto-Hebrew.

A large tower/temple was being planned and constructed by the rulers. In response to this Genesis 11 indicates that God confused the language of the people into ancient versions of the languages we speak today. The reason given for this action by God was that society had become centralized and “nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.” This seems to be a rather strange and cryptic reason for the action that God took. Perhaps the phrase “nothing would be impossible for them” should be understood in terms of the potential for a one-world government. Power was effectively centralized under one king (possibly Nimrod) after a series of military conquests. Human government is necessary but also has the potential for incredible evil, and a one-world government is one of the worst things that could ever happen. This may well be the real reason why God took the action that He did, and the significance it had for society.

Background on Noah, Shinar, and Babel

Archaeologists typically question the Bible and dismiss it as myth because they generally believe that “absence of archaeological evidence = evidence of historical absence,” and so they attempt to arrogate to themselves authority over ancient history. But archaeologists should be more cautious because many ancient locations have never been found, such as the capital of the famous empire of Akkad, and many others are far from being fully excavated. In contrast, the Bible has been shown to be incredibly accurate down to the smallest details when details are mentioned. This is not to say that our translations of the Bible through the centuries were 100% accurate, or that our understanding of a given text means exactly what we think it does. But it does mean that we should consider Biblical takes on historic events much more carefully rather than dismissing them as myth.

The Bible tells us that after the flood of Genesis 6, the ark eventually came to rest, *not* on “Mount Ararat” but rather on the “mountains of Ararat” which are located in eastern Turkey (Genesis 8:4 – see the map below). In other words, the specific landing site of the ark is not identified. Noah and his family then moved to the plains of Shinar and started farming (the following article discusses the strange story of Noah getting drunk and exposing himself: [\(Sorensen, 2020a\)](#)). Children were born, society began to grow, and people began to spread out. The migration patterns are not clearly known, but many people apparently stayed on or near the plains of Shinar.

Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly.” And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. They said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth” (Genesis 11:1-4).

There has been much scholarly debate on the location of Shinar, and some feel that it was located north of Mesopotamia (i.e., in southern Turkey or Syria), nearer to the mountains of Ararat. The ancient sites of Göbekli Tepe, Urfa, and Harran all lie to the immediate south of Ararat and could possibly have been the location where Noah and his sons originally settled rather than traveling

many miles to the southeast. Akkad was an ancient city dating to the time after Noah and was possibly located in Shinar, but it has never been found. So the kingdom of Akkad may therefore have been located primarily in Syria, possibly at or near the contemporary site of Tell Brak, which is yet to be excavated – its location could be a key to the location of Shinar ([Habermehl, 2011](#)). Another possibility was that the lost city of Akkad was synonymous with Charchemish, Ugarit, possibly Babylon, or located under what is now the city of Baghdad ([Petrovich, 2020](#)).



Map of the Middle East with both ancient and modern cities and areas noted.

However, most scholars feel that the plains of Shinar were located farther south, somewhere within in the area known as Mesopotamia (the “land between the rivers,” i.e., between the Tigris and the Euphrates) which in turn is located primarily in the country known today as Iraq, with the northern region in Syria as shown above. The word “Shinar” is probably related to “Sumer,” the first civilization which was located in southern Mesopotamia. Genesis 11:2 states that Noah’s family and descendants journeyed from the east, so if Shinar was located in Mesopotamia, then they must have come from what are now known as the Zagros mountains of Iran. The “mountains of Ararat” where the ark landed are also difficult to precisely identify. Ararat is the tallest mountain in a chain located in eastern Turkey but could be considered as part of the Zagros mountains of Iran which run from the northern border of Turkey and Iran along the

western border of the latter. Therefore, the Zagros mountain range could possibly be considered as part of the mountains of Ararat.



Mount Ararat

There are several reasons why Noah and family could have settled in southern Mesopotamia:

1. The fertility of the soil for growing crops: “Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard” Genesis 9:20. The watered areas of southern Mesopotamia support a variety of grains (wheat and barley) as well as fruits such as pomegranates and dates.
2. Fish would have been available from the Persian Gulf and wildlife were plentiful for hunting.
3. The soil provided building material – mud brick was used extensively for construction.
4. Genesis 4:16-17 indicates that after the murder of Able, Cain traveled to the east and built a city named “Enoch”; that town/region may have later been known as Erech or Uruk. The first true cities and larger population areas were in southern Mesopotamia near the Persian Gulf in the region known as “Sealand” (Eridu and later Uruk and Ur).

This raises questions such as:

1. Noah and his family would probably have known about those early settlements and possibly traveled there intentionally after the flood. Was Sealand therefore the original

land of Shinar, and was the city of Eridu founded by Noah?

2. Did the term “Shinar” instead originally designate the plains of southern Turkey and/or Syria near the actual mountain of Ararat?
3. Did the term “mountains of Ararat” include the Zagros mountain range so that Shinar originally designated an area on the plains somewhere to the west of the range? This may indicate that the ark landed somewhere far to the south of Mount Ararat.
4. Did the land of Shinar originally mean a small area occupied by Noah and his family, but eventually referred to a larger area? In other words, did Shinar eventually become Sumer?

Thus the location and size of Shinar is somewhat amorphous and at different times may have referred to a smaller or larger region.

Like the flood of Noah, there are many versions of the Tower of Babel (TB) story from cultures around the world, including Mesopotamian, Hittite, Egyptian, Phoenician/Ugaritic/Canaanite, Arab, Armenian, Irish Celtic, Russian, Greek, Roman, Iranian, Indian, Hunnish, Nepalese/Assam/Myanmar, Tibetan/Mongol/Chinese, Siberian, Japanese, Polynesian, Cherokee, Mexican, Peruvian/Andean, Rwandan, Tanzanian, and others. Sean Bambrough’s article referenced here details thirty-eight versions from around the world ([Bambrough, 2022](#)).

Sumer and Akkad were the first civilizations of the ancient world. Sumer, the older region (as indicated, Shinar may be another name for Sumer) was in the south and eventually became known as Babylonia, whereas Akkad was in the north and eventually became known as Assyria. The major cities of Sumer included Eridu (the first), Uruk (Erech), Ur, Babylon, and Aggad (Akkad). There were a number of takeovers by neighbors, such as Ur which later conquered and consolidated the above cities, until their realm was in turn conquered by peoples from northern Mesopotamia ([Gertoux, 2015](#)).

It should be noted that the TB site was not necessarily known as “Babel” prior to this incident taking place. Genesis 11:9 has a wordplay between the name Babel (bābel) and the verb (bālal) which means “confused” – hence our word for confused speech – “babbling.” Using the term “Babel” for the location may therefore have been an epithet or a description of what happened that came into use afterward, rather than the original name; only later was that term or derivative terms applied to cities in Mesopotamia, such as Babylon. Thus there are at least seven or possibly eight locations in Mesopotamia named “Babel” so a definitive identification of the TB site has proven to be a difficult task that is still not settled ([Petrovich, 2020](#)). There are a number of possibilities:

1. The Great Ziggurat of Ur, in southern Iraq. It is a smaller temple with another problem being that the city of Ur developed and came to prominence long after Eridu and Uruk, and after the associated migration (see below) ([Austin, 2015](#))

2. Etemenaki – temple of the foundation of heaven and earth which was a ziggurat dedicated to the god Marduk in Babylon. It was rebuilt in the 6th century BC by the neo-Babylonian empire but had fallen in disrepair by the time of Alexander the Great ([Gertoux, 2021](#)). However there are also problems with this site. The 1st dynasty of Babylon is later than the dynasties of the Sumerian king list, and there is no king named Nimrod in the 1st Babylonian dynasty, unless an old rendering of Hammurabi could be a reference to Nimrod ([Gertoux, 2021](#)). A more serious problem with this location is that Babylon developed and came to prominence much later than Eridu and Uruk.
3. Borsippa (Birs Nimrud) It is near the city of Babylon which associates it with a Babel-like name, and the name means "Tongue Tower" recalling the biblical story. Also the name "Birs-Nimrud" links it with Nimrod, and Nebuchadnezzar's inscription statement about this site has matches with the Biblical account. The vitrification traces could be from the destruction described in the Bible, and the ruins found here are quite large (about 150 feet above the surrounding plains with a base circumference of 2300 feet). But there is no evidence that Borsippa or its ziggurat was called Babel, or that it dates to the time of Nimrod.
4. The White Temple in Uruk was said to "get closer to the heavens" and "it connected heaven and earth." Uruk/Erech has also been linked with the city that Enoch or Irad built by Cain before the Flood. Enmerkar, a king and builder of Uruk whose name means "lord storm (hunter)," could match the biblical Nimrod, but there are doubts that Uruk matches Babel ([Bambrough, 2022](#)).
5. Perhaps the best possibility is Eridu in southern Mesopotamia. Eridu is probably the oldest Sumerian city. The ancient historian Berosus seems to match Eridu in the Sumerian King List with Babylon in his own king list. One myth locates the Tower of Babel nearby a body of water which could be the Persian Gulf, and which was said to extend to Eridu in Sumerian times. Like Erech, Eridu has also been linked with the city of Enoch or Irad built by Cain. The story of the Babylonian god Ea building Eridu is similar to Nimrod building Babel after the Flood ([Bambrough, 2022](#)).

In Eridu there are ruins of a large temple which was expanded in a number of phases. But even more interesting is a large platform which may well have been the foundation of the TB – construction that was started but never completed at the time, and on which another structure was built hundreds of years later. Eridu was later referred to as Babel and was abandoned after the late Uruk period ([Petrovich, 2020](#)).

Background on Languages

There is general agreement among philologists that the Near East was the cradle of language.¹ The phrase from Genesis 11 above that “the whole earth used the same language” is a generalization of the situation at that time and does not necessarily mean that every person then alive on the entire planet spoke exactly the same language, as there may well have been dialects. This common language has been described as proto-Indo-European and may well have been based on or had elements of an ancient version of Hebrew.

Hebrew is interesting because unlike others it is inherently conceptual. The individual letters of the language are not only phonetic, they are also are “sememic” (“sememe” = unit of meaning). Each Hebrew letter has meaning, and the meanings of the letters form the basic unit of semantics in the language. Comparing this to English, the letters “a”, “b”, “c”, etc. carry no meaning in themselves, and denotation is determined only by an aggregation of letters that have, by agreement, come to carry a given definition or meaning. So, for example, the letters “d”, “o”, and “g” in combination has come to mean the furry domestic animal that many people keep as pets. In contrast, the individual letters of the Hebrew alphabet each carry meaning within the letter itself and therefore form the semantic basis of the language. For example, the first letter of Hebrew alphabet is “aleph” (א), corresponding to the English “a”, and it means “strength” or “leader.” The second Hebrew letter is “bet” (ב), corresponding to the English “b”, which means “house” or “home.” Putting the two letters together (i.e., “ab” or “ב א” – Hebrew is written right-to-left), means “leader of the house” and is the Hebrew word for “father.”

Hebrew words are the combination of one to three letter roots, each of which also have a distinct meaning. Even Hebrew names carry meanings – for example, the Biblical name “Abigail” means “my father is joy” and “Abimelech” means “my father is king”. Thus, Hebrew is possibly the most intelligent and meaningful language ever devised and may have been the language of Adam and Eve. This may have been the significance of Adam giving names to the animals in Genesis 2:19-20. He may have used this facility of the language to assign a name to each animal that was inherently meaningful and represented the essential nature of that animal.

Another powerful feature is that the Hebrew alphabet (i.e., the symbols used for each letter) are phonetic, meaning that each letter has a specific sound, so that written words can be read and pronounced by knowing the sounds of the letters. Most of today’s languages are phonetic in their written forms (our word “alphabet” comes from the first two letters of Hebrew – aleph and bet), but that was not the case for ancient writing such as both cuneiform and Egyptian hieroglyphs, which seem to have been designed by the elite to conceal rather than to reveal, and to preserve ancient hierarchies. A less prominent but similar phenomenon is present in the languages of today in that professional groups such as doctors and lawyers have a specific vocabulary that must be learned in order to become a member of that group.

Both cuneiform and hieroglyphs were “scripts.” The symbols of the former scratched into clay, and the painted or carved pictures of the latter represented units of meaning that had to be memorized in order to be turned into spoken language. Cuneiform was the first known form of

¹ See, for example, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proto-Indo-Europeans>

writing to be developed and was invented and/or popularized after the TB debacle and during the Uruk migration (described below). The hieroglyphs of Egypt may well have been created by individuals familiar with cuneiform but who decided to use pictographs rather than lines. No other forms of written communication predating the Uruk migration have ever been found, so prior to that time it seems that language was only spoken. With no forms of writing available to record events, ancient peoples therefore put a much higher premium on memorization and oral history than we do. After TB when people suddenly started speaking different languages there was now a much more pressing need to have a written form of communication in order to facilitate trade and record economic transactions.

As indicated above, the earliest forms of writing were scripts; writing was therefore not phonetic and could not be directly or easily converted to and from spoken language. The first language with a phonetic alphabet was Hebrew ([Petrovich, 2016a](#), [2016b](#)) and the alphabet was developed around 1840 BC during the time that the biblical Joseph was vizier of Egypt. Versions of this writing were discovered in the early 20th century by the architect Flinders Petrie carved on walls in turquoise mines located in the Sinai Peninsula where Hebrews had carried out mining expeditions. The Hebrew language has 22 letters in its alphabet (all of them are consonants with vowels being implied), and the pictograph for each letter was similar to various Egyptian hieroglyphs. This scheme was probably devised by Joseph and/or his sons Ephraim and Manasseh. The sons were adopted by Joseph's father Jacob and came to live with their uncle's families, so they would have learned to speak Hebrew and potentially used the script that they or their father had devised to record the stories of their ancestors on papyrus. What they recorded could then have been passed down to Moses who lived several hundred years later when he wrote the Torah. The Phoenician alphabet was said the first phonetic alphabet in existence, but it appeared around 600 years later and was therefore derived from Hebrew rather than the opposite ([Petrovich, 2021](#)).

Over the centuries the Hebrew letters were gradually modified and stylized so that they became easier to write quickly, but the ancient versions were essentially pictographic with each picture representing the meaning of the corresponding letter. For example, the letter "aleph" was originally written in the shape of a bull's head with horns, so both the meaning of the letter as well as its written symbol meant "strength" or "leader." The letter "bet" written was written in the shape of a house which also corresponds to its meaning, and so on. Language is speech so when the written version of a language easily corresponds to the spoken version it becomes much easier for ordinary people to read and thus greatly enlarges the number of literate individuals in societies using that language. This may well account for the Jewish emphasis on and respect for the written word. Hebrew writing is also self-parsing – there were no punctuation symbols, and the first versions did not have any spaces between the letters. Vowels were implied and not designated until the Massoretes added vowel points to written Hebrew in the ninth century AD, so documents as well as copies of documents could be completed more quickly than other languages.

Background on the Dispersion following the Tower of Babel incident.

The Bible indicates that a large migration took place at this time:

So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth (Genesis 11:8-9).

This migration seems to match the “Uruk expansion” which took place around 3,000 BC in which people left southern Mesopotamia in all directions. The city of Uruk was populated at the same time that Eridu was being abandoned, making Eridu the likely site for Babel ([Petrovich, 2021](#)). It is also here that the first evidence of writing has been found (early cuneiform text), as discussed above. Many of the pottery and building techniques of ancient Sumer were copied and then modified by societies that spread out, such as the Ziggurat form of temple construction which was adapted by many cultures around the world, including Egypt, Central America (Mayan and Inca), Thailand, and elsewhere ([Petrovich, 2021](#)). The Uruk expansion also led to segregated living groups which was a natural consequence of peoples with different languages who couldn’t easily communicate with each other, and which we still see today as a preference for ethnic enclaves in urban areas ([Petrovich, 2021](#)).

This is not to say that every person in the world lived in Mesopotamia prior to the dispersion, as there is evidence of older settlements and unrelated languages elsewhere, but the largest number apparently remained closer to their place of origin.

Background on Nimrod

Noah's son Ham was the father of Cush, who in turn was the father or ancestor of Nimrod.

Now Cush became the father of Nimrod, and he became a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore, it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord." The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city (Genesis 10:8-12).

Like the TB, historians have never been able to place the Biblical Nimrod into the history of Mesopotamia, but many believe that the name "Nimrod" (meaning "rebellious one") was a description of his character or an epithet rather than his name. He was referred to in Genesis 10:9 as "a mighty hunter" but probably a better translation would be "a mighty slaughterer or tyrant" ([Petrovich, 2013](#)). His cruelty along with that of the early rulers of Sumer may well have set the general Mesopotamian tone for the behavior of leaders and armies. For example, the Assyrians engaged in mass executions and depicted the torture of their enemies in great detail on the walls of their palaces. They cut off limbs, gouged out eyes, flayed people, and impaled them on large stakes, leaving them to die a slow death. Such sights were a showcase of their power, instilling fear and terror into the rest of the population, and resulted in a cultural milieu of coarseness, cruelty, and violence ([Preskar, 2020](#)).

These attitudes of extreme egotism and general disregard for morality and human life (except as it served the interests of the rulers) are echoed in the characteristics of the gods worshipped by the Sumerians and Akkadians (Bel/Baal, Marduk, Ishtar, Inanna, etc.) Like the gods of later nations they were anthropomorphized, and were capricious, cruel, and self-serving. According to the Sumerian and Akkadian creation epics, people were created to take over the drudgework of the gods (e.g., provide them with food) and to serve the gods in temple rituals (e.g., provide them with worship). If they failed to do so, people were in danger of attack by these demonically inspired gods ([Walton, 2015, pp. 82-91](#)). The Epic of Gilgamesh states that the reason for the flood was that "people were making too much noise and disturbing the sleep of the gods."

Some believe that Nimrod was Sargon king of Akkad who was a great (and vicious) ruler who conquered cities in Sumer and farther north in what became to be called the region of Akkad ([Petrovich, 2013](#)). Sargon lived long after the time of Noah (his life is dated to c. 2320–2265 BC), so if Nimrod was Sargon, then he could not have been associated with the TB. It would also mean that Nimrod would have had to have been Cush's descendent rather than his literal son. After Cush's sons are specifically named, the next verse (Genesis 10:8) states, "Now Cush became the father of Nimrod", allowing for the possibility that Nimrod was a later descendent. An intriguing connection is that Sargon's original power base was the city of Kish which is very similar to "Cush," the father or ancestor of Nimrod.

Genesis 10:10-12 further states: "The beginning of his [Nimrod's] kingdom was Babel [Eridu], Erech [Uruk], Accad [Akkad] and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that

is the great city.” Sargon’s kingdom was based in Shinar, but he expanded it and created the world’s first empire from the cities that were ascribed to Nimrod in the above text.

Others believe that Nimrod lived earlier at the time of the TB and was the ruler who inspired its construction. He therefore would have been the literal son of Cush, and the cities mentioned above would then have been conquered and/or established by his successors. Nimrod’s real name may have been, or later became, Gilgamesh ([Livingston, 2003](#)). Gilgamesh is mentioned as an early king of Sumer in the Sumerian king list ([Gillan, 2022](#)). The Epic of Gilgamesh describes him as very large, aggressive, sexually obsessed, and semi-divine (possibly having a Nephilim bloodline?) ([Sorensen, 2020b](#)). Second Temple writings, the Talmud, and Arab sources including the Quran have a lot to say about Nimrod and allege that he was the builder of the TB. Several examples:

And when Nimrod had joyfully returned from battle, after having conquered his enemies... they placed the regal crown upon his head. And he set over his subjects and people, princes, judges, and rulers, as is the custom amongst kings. Book of Jasher 7:34

And all the princes of Nimrod and his great men took counsel together...and they went to seek an extensive piece of ground to build the city and the tower, and they sought in the whole earth and they found none like one valley at the east of the land of Shinar about two days' walk, and they journeyed there, and they dwelt there. And they began to make bricks and burn fires to build the city and the tower that they had imagined to build. (Book of Jasher 9:21-24)

And in the seventieth year of Reu the building of the Great Tower in the land of Shinar began, and Nimrod, the son of Kush, fed the builders on the beasts which he hunted. And forty years after the Tower was finished God sent a wind and the Tower was overturned, and Nimrod died in it. It was he who after the flood reigned in Babel. (Bar Hebraeus)

Regardless of whether Nimrod was Sargon or Gilgamesh, and whether the Tower of Babel was constructed under his aegis, Nimrod is prototypical of many rulers and dictators of later history, who sought to deify themselves in various ways in order to justify their authority in the minds of the people.

The Real Reason for God's Action in Response to the Tower of Babel?

Having experienced the flood of Noah a few generations previously, the leaders may have wanted to build upward, even though God promised to never again destroy the world via a flood. Furthermore, the phrase "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven" as quoted from Genesis 11:1-4 above, does not mean that the builders expected their tower to be tall enough to actually "reach heaven." It probably was not even high enough to reach the clouds. It is more likely that building a religious tower was intended as a symbol of the power and potential divinity of the leader(s) who wanted to become god, take on the power of heaven, and construct a monument to the god(s) for which they were a representation or an avatar. This is especially true considering the dictatorial nature of kingship and the gods in that day, as indicated above.

There are individuals in all societies who crave power over others, and if they are clever and ruthless enough, they will tend to rise to the top. The average person who goes to work, pays taxes, and raises kids, has little conception of the passion that those at the top of society have for power. So the consequence for the general population was not a judgment as in the case of the flood. No one was hurt except Nimrod and/or the leaders who planned the TB as a monument to their self-professed greatness and divinity.

The craving for power cuts across all ethnic and racial lines. The same desire for control that motivated Nimrod also motivates black dictators like Mugabe in Zimbabwe, Germans like Hitler, Chinese like Mao, Cambodians like Pol Pot, Arabs like Saddam Hussein in Iraq, Hispanics like Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, and so on. Are there leaders in Europe and the US who are equally power hungry? Of course, but due to democratic political systems, individuals in those nations need to conceal their desires, and become cleverer and more deceptive in trying to reach their power goals.

If we understand that those in power are some of the most intelligent and driven among us, that they often will stop at nothing, and that the chief goal of those who have achieved power is to stay in power, then we can start to open our minds to hidden history, because these individuals are often prepared to use every means at their disposal available in the society in which they live, to defeat their enemies (who are often equally intelligent and rapacious) and stay in power ([Sorensen, 2012](#)). Indeed, much of what we read in history books is the human struggle for supremacy.

Most of the individuals throughout history who managed to gain significant power were ultimately cast aside, often during their own lifetimes. Nimrod reputedly died in the ruins of the TB, Alexander the Great died of drink at the age of thirty-three after conquering much of the known world; Julius Caesar was assassinated; Hitler overreached himself through greed and stupidity and ultimately committed suicide in his Berlin bomb shelter; Mussolini and Ceausescu were strung up and shot full of holes; Stalin died in his bed after a life of imposing his cruel and Orwellian vision of communist socialism on Russia, but was discredited a few years later after his deeds were publicized; and so on. Nations and empires have lasted longer, but all of them since the time of ancient Sumer and Akkad have failed to achieve world-wide power. The last

comprehensive attempt at complete world conquest was carried out by the forces of Islam in the seventh through the eleventh centuries, and they also came up short of their objective despite their continued goal of jihad and world conquest.

Nevertheless, the desire of power continues and like crack cocaine it is a highly addictive and corrupting influence as indicated by Lord Acton: "All power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." For example, studies of famines indicate that the main reason for famine is war and violence, which is typically caused by power struggles (starving your opponents can be an effective power tool). Rarely, if ever, has there been a famine in a democratic country that has a free press.²

Perhaps the most chilling statement about the consequences of a government having absolute power, and the deceptions they employ to conceal it, are from George Orwell in his book *1984*:

"Where does the past exist?" asked O'Brien

"In records – it is written down... And in the mind – in human memories" replied Winston.

"We, the Party, control all records and we control all memories... Whatever the Party holds to be truth is truth. It is impossible to see reality except by looking through the eyes of the Party." [American postmodern philosophy as adapted by a dictatorship (RBS comment)]

O'Brien continued, "The Party seeks power entirely for its own sake. We are not interested in the good of others; we are interested solely in power. Not wealth or luxury or long life or happiness; only power, pure power... The German Nazis and the Russian Communists came close to us in their methods, but they never had the courage to recognize their own motives. They pretended, perhaps they even believed, that they had seized power unwillingly and for a limited time, and that just around the corner there would lay a paradise where humans would be free and equal... But we know that no one ever seizes power with the intent of relinquishing it... One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship. Power is not a means; it is an end... You must realize that power is power over human beings. Over the body, but above all, over the mind" ([Orwell, 1949](#))

Those who think that Orwell was exaggerating need to consider the life and death control over people's lives exercised by communist and socialist governments such as those led by Mao, Stalin, Ceausescu, Pol Pot, and others. The government of China is now in the process of implementing a "social credit" system ([Canales & Mok, 2022](#)) to reward people for "good" behavior" (e.g., "praising the government") and penalize them for "bad behavior." The latter

² See, for example, <https://www.cloudave.com/1668/democracies-don-t-suffer-famines-implications-for-corporate-governance/> First, in democracies governments are accountable to their populations, and their leaders have electoral incentives to prevent mass starvation. The need to be reelected impels politicians to ensure that their people do not starve. Second, the existence of a free press and the free flow of information in democracies prevents famine by serving as an early warning system on the effects of natural catastrophes such as floods and droughts that may cause food scarcities, as well as holding politicians more accountable.

includes "Posting anti-government messages," and "illegally protesting the government" (perhaps criticizing Joe Biden and his transgender and social justice agenda, or confronting critical race theory?), "Spreading rumors on the internet" (perhaps discussing the danger of covid19 vaccines?), and "Participating in anything deemed to be a cult", (perhaps attending church, going to a prayer meeting, or celebrating Easter instead of Kwanza?) Social justices advocates in America want to do what China is doing ([Rufo, 2021](#)). Consider this scripture: "[The beast] forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name" (Revelation 13:16-17).

Many in positions of power have good intentions and positive motives, or at least start out that way. But as government becomes more powerful (i.e., less democratic, more leftist and socialistic, and less accountable) those who crave power then have more opportunity and a larger scope to shove others aside and impose their will.

It seems as if Nimrod or the early rulers of Sumer were on their way to achieving a one-world government. So God in His mercy prevented that from happening, as well as providing incentives for people to spread out across the entire world. In our day we see continual efforts to enlarge and socialize government such as the European Union. It is therefore incumbent on us to resist the growth of government as we are able in order to prevent it from growing into a monster.

The biblical book of Revelation speaks of the future rise of a one-world government led by a dictator who is referred to as "the antichrist," and "the beast." His power and control is described as follows:

And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. (Revelation 13:16-17)

This government is called "Babylon the Great," and the associated religious system is referred to as "Mystery Babylon"; they may or may not be situated in the city of Babylon in Iraq, which was partially rebuilt by Saddam Hussein during the period of 1979 to 2003. Regardless of the physical location, this government will be a replay of the human craving for absolute power which was thwarted by God in Nimrod's era, but allowed to take place at the end of days prior to the battle of Armageddon. Only God can be trusted with absolute power.

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