

Life Group Notes
Sunday 14 January 2018

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Series: Confident Adventures as we pursue God

Title: Nimrod vs Abram

Passage: Genesis 10-12

In Genesis 10 we witness many families, nations and languages, fulfilling the divine mandate to “be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth.”

Genesis 11.1-4. Nimrod, the first “big man” begins to found Babylon. Babylon enslaves, controls, forces people into its mould. Bricks and a city give the impression of security, indestructability. The foundations of Babylon are arrogance and fear.

God comes down, gives the enslaved peoples back their languages, and re-disburses them over the earth. One of the families that comes out of Mesopotamia is Terah’s family. They are “called out ones.” They are also a small, weak, unimpressive family, a genetic dead-end. Yet God chooses Terah’s son Abram (Gen 11.27-30).

God’s call of Abram (Gen 12.1-3) shows that his salvation plan is the opposite of Nimrod’s plan.

<u>Nimrod</u>	<u>Abram</u>
Big	Small/ barren
“Come”	“Go”
Settled	Never settles
Conform to one temple	Build altars wherever you go
Built a city	Left a city
Bricks	Tents
Powerful	Vulnerable (reliance is entirely on God)
‘Make a name for ourselves’	Entrusts his honour to God – I will make your name great
Resists fear of being scattered	Embraces fear of unknown
Disobedience	Obedience
Judged	Blessed
Nations enslaved	Nations blessed

Jesus Christ, Abram’s descendent, was, like Abram, insignificant, vulnerable, surrounded by enemies. He embraced risk and danger, became of no reputation, had nowhere to lay his head, a lamb amongst wolves, and in the end, gave his life to save the world.

Questions for application

- Babylon wants to squeeze you into its mould; in what ways can you be different, live as a “called out one?” When is this difficult for you?
- God loves cultural diversity. In what ways can we encourage diversity as the RFC community?
- God chose small, unimpressive Abram. How do you feel about God’s choice of you?
- In what ways are you tempted to settle? How can you keep journeying onwards with God in 2018?
- Nimrod trusted in bricks – they were his security. How can you put your trust in unseen things, not material things, this year?
- Do you feel alone, afraid, vulnerable, surrounded? Pray for one another.