

to deal with it if he had desired to do so. Whatever the process was from the scientific point of view, the writer's only thought is regarding the moral or religious significance of the fact that various languages had come to exist, and his teaching on that point is the only thing we have any right to consider. To make him an authority on the scientific question is a thing of which he himself never would have dreamed. He would no doubt have promptly repudiated it had it been suggested to him.

By a curious perversity of mind on the part of both theologians and scientists the religious truth intended to be set forth in the story has been very largely overlooked. It has not been discerned simply because it has not been inquired for. It has not been sought for simply because most people are ever disposed to occupy themselves with the letter rather than with the spirit, with the lower questions rather than with the higher. When men are in pursuit of religious truth it is too often the case that almost any small game will be sufficient to cross the scent and divert them from their proper quest. When we set ourselves seriously to find out the religious teaching here meant to be conveyed, there is no great difficulty about it. In brief, it is simply this, that God did not approve of the formation of one great world-kingdom and used the diversity of languages to prevent it.

Let us look at this a little more in detail.

That God did not approve of the formation of one great world-kingdom is very clear from the whole trend of the story. The plan of the builders of the Tower of Babel was to make themselves a name and to prevent themselves from being scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. The frustration of their plan meant that the Lord did "scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth." They became broken up into separate nationalities and dwelt apart from each other. The reasons for this divine policy have been widely misunderstood or ignored. In the Greek mythology we have the parallel story of the war of heaven against the Titans, and there the attitude