

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Genesis Chap. 11

From the Old English translation of the Hexateuch, ed. J. Crawford.

Truly all people spoke the one language

1 Soðlice ealle menn spræcon ða ane spræce.

When they travelled from the eastern regions, they found a field in Senaar-land,

2 Ða ða hi ferdon fram eastdæle, hi fundon ænne feld on Senaarlande,

and dwelled there.

ond wunodon ðæron.

Then they said among themselves: "Let us make tiles and bake them in fire."

3 Ða cwædon hi him betwynan: Vton wyrcean us tigelan ond ælan hi on fyre.

Truly they had tile instead of stone and tar instead of mortar.

Witodlice hi hæfdon tigelan for stan ond tyrwan for weall-lim.

and they said: "Let us build a city and a tower up to the high heaven,

4 ond cwædon: Vton timbrian us ceastre ond stypel oð heofon heahne,

and let us honor our name before we are scattered throughout all the earth.

ond uton wyrðian urne naman, ær ðam ðe we synd todælede geond ealle eorðan.

Truly the Lord stepped down to where he saw the city

5 Witodlice Drihten astah nyðer to ðam ðæt he gesawe ða burh

and the tower which Adam's children constructed.

ond ðone stypel ðe Adames bearn getimbrodon.

and he said: "This is one people, and they all speak one language

6 ond he cwæð: ðis is an folc, ond ealle hi sprecað an leden

and they have begun to make this; nor will they abandon it before hit is finished.

ond hi begunnon ðis to wyrcenne; ne geswycað hi ær ðan ðe hit geara sy.

Truly let us come and scatter their speech."

7 Soðlice uton cuman ond todælan ðær heora spæce.

Thus the Lord scattered them from that place throughout all the earth.

8 Swa Drihten hi todælde of ðære stowe geond ealle eorðan.

and thus one called the place Babel, because all languages were scattered there.

9 ond for ðam man nemde ða stowe Babel, for ðam ðar wæron todælede ealle spæce.