

Genesis 11

1. Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2. As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. 3. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." 5. But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. 6. The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." 8. So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9. That is why it was called Babel --because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

1. The Builders

a. God's Plan

God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it”
Genesis 1.28

God blessed Noah and his sons, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth”
Genesis 9.1

v. 1 “Now the whole world had one language and a common speech”

b. Man's Purpose

“everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me” 2 Timothy 1.15

1) Residence

vs. 3,4 “They said to each other, ‘Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.’ They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city.’”

Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD." The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon
Genesis 10.8-10

2) Reputation

v. 4 “so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over
the face of the whole earth”

“Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?” The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle...until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.” Daniel 4.30

“God called them ‘man’ or Adam”

Genesis 5.2

“No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you the father of many nations”
Genesis 17.5

“Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel”
Genesis 32.28

“you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins”
Matthew 1.21

3) Religion

v. 4 “a tower that reaches to the heavens”

“Babylon the great mother of the prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth” Revelation 17.5

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19.1

“he made the stars also”
Genesis 1.16

2. The Inspector

a. God Sees

v. 5 “But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building”

“I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve”
Jeremiah 17.10

“God has to stoop low to see this puny extravagance. It is always thus. When you stand on the ground and look up at the great pyramids of Egypt they are immense. But when you fly over them in an airplane, even at a low altitude, they seem like pimples on the surface of the earth. The twin towers of the World Trade Center look great. But from the air they look like miniature dominoes...So with all our intellectual and spiritual achievements. The greatest is nothing compared to the immensity of the universe, not to mention the Creator's. The only truly significant accomplishments are God's (sometimes in and through us), for only these partake of the nature of God and endure forever, as God does”
James Boice

b. God Saves

v. 6 The Lord said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them”

v. 7 “Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other”

“every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood” Genesis 8.21

“It follows that those who choose to go their own way will always end up frustrated. The prize they so earnestly sought after becomes a bubble that bursts at the first touch. The fruit of this desire becomes like ashes in the mouth. We may chafe against this, but it is always this way because we live in God's world, not our own, and because God has determined to make bitter anything prized above himself.”
James Boice

c. God Scatters

v. 8 “So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel, because the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.”

“Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth” Genesis 1.28

“From one man God made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us” Acts 17.27

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” Acts 1.8

“A great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria” Acts 8.1

3. The Repair

a. Come

v. 3 “Come, let us make bricks

v. 4 “Come, let us build ourselves a city”

v. 7 “Come, let us go down...”

“Come now, let us reason together” says the Lord, “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow” Isaiah 1.18

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” Matthew 11.28

“The Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life” Revelation 22.17

b. Church

“Now there were staying in Jerusalem God fearing Jews from every nation under heaven...each one heard them speaking in their own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language...we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues! Acts 2.5-11

“Now in Christ Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two – Jew and Gentile – one” Ephesians 2.13

c. Consummation

“I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a long voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God”
Revelation 21.2

“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language – standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb”
Revelation 7.9

“I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.”
Revelation 21.22-27