

Genesis 11 - The Insanity of Man

Genesis 11:1-9 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ²And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." ⁵And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. ⁶And the Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

❖ Introduction (You guys up for a lengthy introduction?)

➤ 1) The Importance of Genesis

- **We can not understate the importance of you reading this book.**
 - We can not understate the importance of teaching it to your children.
 - Almost all major sin issues in our day are addressed in the book of genesis...
 - The stumbling blocks to faith are in the book of Genesis...
- **Many may object to teaching children this book...**
 - They will call it indoctrination... they will call it manipulation and brainwashing
- **But, if it is true...(and I think we have more than enough evidence that it is)...**
 - If it is true... It is a CRIME to not know and teach this book
- **On top of all that... it may be the most interesting book in all of the Bible...**
 - It is a very enjoyable read...
- **Is it a stretch to say: The great sins of our world today**
 - Can be traced to a lack of attention and belief to Genesis?
 - The book of the Beginnings of Man...
 - **The book that tells us:**
 - ◆ In the beginning God... (wipes out unbelief)(rids us of evolution)
 - ◆ Created them male and female (teaches true marriage and puts sex in its proper context)
 - ◆ All men come from one man... Black, white and many shades of brown all from one blood...
 - Wipes out the pride and ignorance of racism
- **Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.**
 - **How do we train them up? In the Word of God...**
 - Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
 - Are we doing this?

➤ 2) Genesis so Far: Creation of Earth and Man, The Fall, The Murder of Abel, The Increased Wickedness of Man, The flood.

➤ 3) Genesis 9 and 10

- **Genesis 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth."**
 - This will be very important today...
- **Then the covenant God makes with Noah and his descendants... Never to flood the earth again**

- **Then we see Noah plant a vineyard... and he drank too much of the wine...**
 - And Noah got a bit drunk... and then Ham his son did something horrible...
 - When Noah wakes to find out... Noah curses one of the sons of Ham..
 - ◆ Canaan... who would be the father of the Canaanites that Israel would drive out
 - ◆ Black people from Africa WERE NOT cursed here
- **In Genesis 10 we see the Nations as they descend from Noah...**
 - This is one genealogy that you should all read and study...
 - It is fascinating to see the beginning of the nations and languages of our day
 - But we do not have the time to consider this today...
- **I Think there are 7 Major Events God has done with the People of this Earth**
 - Creation... the Flood... The Tower of Babel... The Raising up of the Nation of Israel... The Coming of Messiah into the World... The Return of Jesus... The Final Destruction of Evil and New Creation.
 - Today we study one of them.
- **The Tower of Babel Account is one of the Most Fascinating things you could ever study.**
 - It is also one of the most applicable events for you in your personal walk with God.
 - **I want you to work hard to follow me... God's Word Deserves your full attention...**
 - And there is much to say here...(I have pictures for you right when you are about to lose the ability to remain focused)
 - I'm gonna get through this sermon... I'm hoping you will get there with me!
 - I'm not going to say as much as I want about as many things as I want...
 - ◆ So some of the points I make will simply be summary statements

❖ 1) The Two Insane Ideas of Man

- **⁴Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."**
 - 1) They wanted to disobey the command of God.
 - 2) They wanted to make a name for themselves.
- **Why do I use the word Insane?**
 - **Definition 1:** in a state of mind that prevents normal perception, behavior, or social interaction; seriously mentally ill.
 - **Definition 2:** shocking; outrageous
 - **How insane it is for man?...** in light of the Glory of God... and His previous Judgments...
 - To disobey such a God... and instead try to make a name of themselves?
 - God had just wiped the whole earth clean because of man's wickedness....
- **The Backdrop...**
 - So here... Noah and his family have come down out of the ark and begun to fill the earth
 - And they begin to travel east... and they find this plain they called the valley of Shinar
 - There is much debate over where this place was located...
 - **But we could just generally say somewhere in the middle east....**
 - ◆ Maybe in Iraq somewhere...
 - ◆ Likely what we know of as the fertile crescent of Mesopotamia
 - ◆ North East of Africa... south east of Europe and to the west of China
 - **The flood occurred over 4,400 years ago... or around 2,400 b.c.**
 - **So... this could have been as early as 100 years after the flood...**
 - Could have been longer... but 100 seems to be a fair estimate...
 - And by this time... you could have had as many as 100 different families...
 - Some say... there could have been about 400 to 10,000 people gathered here
 - I do not know for sure...

- **1) They wanted to disobey the command of God.**
 - God had told Noah and his children... **“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”**
 - **But instead... what do we see here in the land of Shinar?**
 - They had come together... Now... we do not know that every person on the earth did this...
 - I assume Noah and his three sons may have done as God told them...
 - But there was a significant amount of the whole population that came here...
 - **Look at the text... it says...**
 - Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens....
 - ◆ Lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.
 - **This is in exact contradiction to the command of God!**
 - So... instead of following God’s good plan for them... they came up with something different...
 - **Illustration: God’s commands are for our good... not for our bad... for freedom not slavery**
 - Its like when you tell your child something because you know it is good and safe for them...
 - Yet... as children often do... they think for themselves... which in itself is ok...
 - But they don’t always have the capacity to think wisely for themselves...
 - So... they do things different... and you end up with broken bones and scars and lost teeth
 - ◆ And many tears!
- **2) They wanted to make a name for themselves.**
 - **Notice the collective thought of this gathered group of people...**
 - **“Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves**
 - **What is happening here?**
 - Well... we obviously see that they are building a city... and a tower...
 - The tower was almost certainly what we would call a ziggurat... sort of like a pyramid
 - But their reasoning was not simply to have a place to live...
 - ◆ It was not to just be creative...
 - ◆ They had a more sinister reasoning...
 - **They wanted to make a name for themselves...**
 - Man was made in the image of Almighty God... and our purpose is the make a name for God
 - As you will see later... God would choose Abraham to make a nation from...
 - And Israel would come from Him... and the purpose of Israel was to make a name for God...
 - **But these people had conspired to make a name for themselves...**
 - To celebrate their accomplishments and their abilities...
 - And they did this by building a tower and a city...
 - **Towers like this were built to worship...**
 - Those found around the world were done to worship false gods...
 - The Bible doesn’t say this one was used for idol worship...
 - They could have intentioned to use it as a place to worship the true God...
 - We don’t know... but what we do know... is they were disobedient and filled with pride...
 - **Where have we seen this sort of pride before? Was it not Satan?**
 - **Isaiah 14:14 “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High”.**
 - **God hates the pride of man... because it keeps him from knowing God...**
 - **Psalm 10:4 “In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God”**
 - **And God will not allow Pride to go unchecked...**

- “The eyes of the arrogant will be humbled and human pride brought low; the Lord alone will be exalted in that day” (Isaiah 2:11)

➤ **Two Examples of Human Pride: Both Humbled**

- King Nebuchadnezzar
- King Herod

❖ **2) The Three Actions of God**

➤ **1) God Sees: God Comes Down to See their City and Tower**

- ⁵And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built.
- **Now... some say they were trying to reach God’s heaven with this tower...**
 - This is simply not true...But they were trying to make it really high...
 - ◆ and have it stand out as a symbol of human accomplishment...
- **Aren’t we still doing this today... the empire state building... the ears tower... the towers in Dubai and Abu Dhabi...**
 - We are all trying to outdo each other on how high we can build a building!...
 - And we are amazing aren’t we? We build such tall buildings!...
 - The tallest is Burj Khalifa! And it is in Dubai....
 - Which incidentally is in the region where the Tower of Babel is located....
 - This tower is 2717 ft tall
- **But... what is so funny... The Bible uses a bit of Irony here... I think... a little humor...**
 - The Lord came down to see this tower that the children of man had built...
 - He came down to see this tower that had been built with its “top in the heavens”
- **The God of heaven came down...**
 - The God who created the mountains came down from heaven... So He could see...
 - This is the God who created Mount Everest... which is 29,000 feet tall!!!!
 - 10 x taller than our tallest building today...
 - The tallest ancient structure we have ever found is actually less than 500 ft tall!
- **So... God comes down to see... He had to come down to see their tall tower...**

➤ **2) God Speaks: God Speaks About their Rebellion**

- ⁶And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.
- **Here we get an idea of God’s thoughts...**
 - He makes a point that they are all one people... with one language...
- **He says something interesting... “This is only the beginning of what they will do”**
 - “And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them”
- **What is happening here?**
 - I do not think that God is trying to stop human ingenuity...
 - Creativity... building... community...
- **These people had gathered together in rebellion against God...**
 - Even if some of them didn’t think of it that way... they wanted to make a name for themselves...
 - They wanted to stay when God said spread out...
- **So God says... “this is only the beginning of what they will do”**
 - I don’t think he was addressing human building advancements or inventions...
 - I think He had in mind here Rebellion...

➤ **3) God Judges: God Confounds their Language**

- ⁷Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” ⁸So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they

left off building the city. ⁹Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

- **These men wanted to make a name for themselves instead of God... So God steps in and judges...**
 - Less than two thousand years Later in speaking to the people of Edom God says...
 - **Obadaiah 1:3 “The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, ‘Who can bring me down to the ground’”**
 - And this is exactly what He did with these people...
- **Notice the judgment...**
 - He confused their language...
 - Then He dispersed them over the face of the earth
- **They disobeyed God... wanted to make a name for themselves and come together in one place...**
 - God made it so they couldn’t even understand each other’s name...
 - And had to spread out away from each other...
- **Can you imagine this scene...**
 - One day you come in to work like all the other days...
 - Hey John... would you hand me my gloves... I need to lift this rock
 - Hand me some fuel for this fire so we can make more bricks...
 - Paul... go gather some more mortar... move this rock 3 inches that way....
 - **And all you hear is HUH? Huh?**
 - ◆ And then they start talking back at you in the most unintelligible way....
 - ◆ It would be enough to drive people mad!...
 - ◆ And would for sure disperse people...
- **And this dispersion was likely according to families...**
 - As a matter of fact we are almost certain that it was...
- **So these people stopped building the city... Apparently the work had just gotten too confusing!!!**
 - Then we see the name called Babel... which means unintelligible speech...
 - They didn’t call it that to begin with... But after what happened it became known as that
 - And even today... we use the term babel to describe unintelligible speech...

❖ 3) The Proof of God’s Judgement and Why it Matters

➤ The Proof

- **1) There are Different Languages...**
 - Linguists say there are probably a little less than 100 foundational languages
 - ◆ And what is interesting... If you look in Genesis 10... the names some of the people born...
 - ◆ It’s where we get the names for many languages
 - ◆ There are thousands of dialects now... but... that makes total sense...
 - ◆ [Show pic of different language types \(](#)
 - **It makes no sense that languages evolved from ancient primates that became humans**
 - ◆ You can take any species in any part of the world... and put it with others like it...
 - ◆ And guess what... they can communicate amongst themselves...
 - ◆ Money’s from one part of the earth put with those of other parts...
 - ◆ And they understand each other...
- **2) Different Ethnicities of very Similar People**
 - With the families dispersed throughout the world...
 - ◆ They married within their types of people
 - ◆ **Therefore we have generations of people that look similar...**

- People became isolated and had similar looking people...
- This is why we have different ethnicities that all bear such similar features
- **Examples:**
 - ◆ Asians, Latinos, Europeans, Africans, Semites
- [Show Pictures](#)
- **3) Rise of Ancient Civilizations around the World in similar times**
 - **I would love to go more in to this... but the rise of civilizations...**
 - ◆ It corresponds to the timing of the Biblical event of the tower of Babel...
 - **Very quickly two civilizations pop up right close to the area of where Babel was...**
 - ◆ The Egyptians and the Mesopotamians
 - **Then... even more interesting... is that other civilizations popped up later...**
 - ◆ And the further they were from this region... the later you see them being Established...
 - ◆ Like in China and Europe and all the way down in South America and into North America
- **4) The Population of the World**
 - We are currently growing at a 1.7 percent growth rate
 - **If Evolution was true and man first appeared millions of years ago...**
 - ◆ But to be fair they would say modern man came about 40 thousand years ago...
 - ◆ But there are many differing opinions on this...
 - ◆ If you use a fractional growth rate of .01%
 - **There should be a lot more people...**
 - ◆ So many people that they could not fit in this earth.... Or multiple earths
 - ◆ Even with standing room only
 - **Of course... they can assume extinction type events... can assume anything**
 - ◆ But where are all the bodies?
 - **The population of the earth today... supports the Biblical account of Noah and his family**
 - ◆ Which was about 4,000 years ago
- **5) Names of People became names of nations and cities and languages**
 - Noah's Son Ham had sons named Egypt and Canaan
 - Shem and Japheth son's names can be traced to names of nations...
 - Also continuing to Jacob the grandson of Abraham... we see a nation named after him
 - Eber... the Hebrew language was named from him (There are many others)
- **6) Genealogy table around the world with Noah's name**
 - There are many histories of peoples around the world...
 - That trace their beginnings to a man named Noah or some different spelling of that name
- **7) Rise of basically similar religious systems**
 - The ancient Babylonian religious system of the time of Nimrod...
 - I'm not talking about Nebuchadnezzar ... but around the time of the tower of Babel...
 - There are such huge similarities around the world of this belief system of multiple gods...
 - From the Romans, to the Norse, to the Anglos to the Greeks to the Chinese and even India
 - ◆ Its even found in some forms in Catholicism as well
- **8) Ziggaraunts around the world from similar time periods**
 - [Show Pictures](#)
- **9) Tower and Language Confusion accounts in civilizations around the world**
 - Then there are many accounts in civilizations around the world of this happening
 - Just like there are many flood stories around the world...
 - This account is found all over the world

➤ **Why it Matters**

- God's Word is crying out: Look around you... I am the Lord and I have done marvelous things!!!
 - I am giving you proof after proof that I am your Creator God...
 - I made you in my image... I judged your sin with a worldwide flood...
 - I confounded your languages and I spread you out in nations....
- Then... I came and died for all of you...
 - And I have sent my servants into all the nations to preach the Gospel...
 - Different languages are no problem for me!
 - I gave my servant the gifts of tongues on the day of Pentecost...
 - And peoples of many many nations heard the good news of my plan to save you...
- Remember the Tower of Babel... Remember the disobedience of man...
 - Remember their Pride... And don't fall into the same Trap...

❖ 4) The Grace of God's Judgement and Why it Matters

➤ One World Nation by Man would have been a Problem

- Think of what Hitler tried to do... There have been other examples in history
- There has to be different nations to stop the evil plans of other nations

➤ One World Nation by Man will one day be a Problem

- We know that one day the world will unite under one ruler...
- He will be the Anti Christ...
- And the world will unite in its plan to wipe the Christians from the face of this earth...
- Revelation 13:7-8 ⁷Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.
- **Guess the name that God gives his kingdom.... Babylon!**

➤ One World Under God will be a Blessing

- The only way this ever works is if the leader is a good leader...
 - And there is none good but God
- Isaiah 2:2-4 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

❖ Invitation

➤ Are you guilty of the same thing as these people?

- Are you disobeyed God and staying when he tells you to go?
- Are you trying to build up your own kingdom instead of His?

➤ Come and seek reconciliation with God