

WHAT THE TOWER OF BABEL TELLS US - GENESIS 11:1-9

INTRODUCTION

Genesis 1-11 is foundational to our Christian faith. Understanding this Scripture is critical to having a right perspective on our existence & worldview.

In Genesis 10, which chronologically comes after chapter 11:1-9, mankind was divided according to languages (vv. 5, 20, 31). Genesis 11:1-9 tells us that it's in Shinar – Babylon – where one language became confused and the people were scattered abroad over all the face of the earth. They wanted to remain together as one people. But the Lord not only allowed this division, but He CAUSED it to happen.

DIGGING DEEPER

In this study, we will dig deeper for practical lessons from the tower of Babel. What motivated the people to build this tower? Why did the LORD react as He did? And what can we learn in applying this Scripture to our lives today?

Pray for wisdom & understanding, and let's begin.

Read Genesis 11:1-9 several times. Rejecting God's command to go out and be fruitful and multiply, the people stopped in Shinar and decided to build a city & tower to make a name for themselves. Their ultimate goal was to reach into heaven, achieving deity and worship – but of their own design – without the one true God. Man is lost in his hopeless pride, UNLESS the Holy Spirit stirs him to seek the one true God. So, what is God's plan for mankind? He responds by confusing their language & scattering them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Meditate on these lessons from Babel.

1. Man is a spiritual being. Fools say there is no God (Psalm 10:4), yet most of humanity is not unbelieving.
2. Man, even though spiritual, wants to worship a god of his own making, and on his own terms. Psalm 115:4-8.
3. Man has a natural desire for self-promotion – to place himself above God. Like Satan, man becomes easily deceived as a result. Isaiah 14:12-14, Romans 1:20-25.
4. Man would unify against God, yet God rejects globalization & spiritual unity caused by man's devices or effort. He created a language barrier to scatter the people.
5. Man-made religion causes confusion, believing that "all paths lead to the same God". BUT TRUTH MATTERS! John 10:7-9, John 14:6, John 17:17.
6. Babylon will be prominent again. Today, we see global efforts to centralize government & power. A man will arise who will rule the world without God, promising peace & prosperity, and demand to be worshipped. His empire will fail after 7 terrible years.

Is mankind doomed to repeat history forever? No! Will God intervene again? Yes!!

Jesus is coming! Pray for opportunity to share the hope you have. Others need to hear it. Consider Isaiah 2:1-4, 11:1-10, & 42:1-4; Micah 4:1-3; Zephaniah 3:9; Zechariah 14:1-4, 9.

***Now, what New Testament verses give YOU hope about the earth's future?

PRAY

- Upcoming events – Men's Day & Pig Roast 8/20, Baptism Picnic 9/4, NE Pastor's Conference 9/26-28
- Ministry to CCFL teens & young adults
- School of Ministry – new students coming this semester, teachers, housing needs
- Various studies beginning soon – Home Groups, Foundations Class, Women's Bible Study...
- Dream's Alive Ministry to Muslims & Pastor Denny Barger in Bahrain