

The Tower Of Babel

Purpose: to show the reason why God confused their language – to slow down their development and ultimate sin & destruction -

The last time we looked at the table of nations in Genesis 10.

- It gave us an accurate record of the migration of people after the flood
- We learn that God designed the earth to be inhabited and subdued by man
- We understand that we are all of one blood, all sons of Adam
- Once again, man's wickedness can be seen through the example of Nimrod
- God divided the people during the days of Peleg

We saw **how** the nations were divided. In the first part of Genesis 11 we will now consider **why** he divided the nations. We'll start from the last verse of Chapter 10 and read through to 11:9

v. 1 - the earth had (before this) one language – they also shared in a common vocabulary and dialect/accents/tongue

v. 2 – they journeyed from the east – what do we know about the land of Shinar?

- We know that Nimrod established his kingdom in Shinar
 - *Gen. 10:10 – And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.*
- We know that he was a wicked man – his name meant “rebellion”
- It seems that once again an ungodly line is developing – like Cain

Notice the similarities between the ungodly line of Cain and the men of Babel:

- Cain went and dwelt on the east of Eden
 - *Genesis 4:16 – Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.*
- These men (probably Nimrod) came from the east – probably the same place
 - *Genesis 11:2 – And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.*
- Cain built a city after the name of his son (his reputation being ruined, he named it after his son)
 - *Genesis 4:17 – And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, **and called the name of the city after the name of his son – Enoch.***
- These men are also building a city for themselves
 - *Genesis 11:3,4 – Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, “come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; **let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.**”*

It seems as if the whole process is repeating again. The last time this happened, the “sons of God” became intermingled with the “daughters of men”, which resulted in the entire world becoming corrupt and violent. This is what we saw in Genesis 6:1-8:

- *The LORD **saw** that the wickedness of man was great in the earth... (v. 5)*
- *The LORD **was sorry** that He had made man on the earth and He was grieved in His heart. (v. 6)*
- *So the LORD said, “**I will destroy** man who I have created from the face of the earth... (v. 7)*

How does God respond this time?

1. *But the LORD **came down** to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. (11:5)*
 - a. Once again, he does this for our sakes; he already knew their state
 - i. Adam – “Where are you?”
 - ii. Cain – “Where is your brother?”
2. *And the LORD **said**, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” (11:6,7)*
 - a. The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great... He already knew.
 - b. God shows his concern, justice, and fairness.
3. *So the LORD **scattered them abroad** from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. (11:8)*
 - a. He did something about it – slowed down their progress:
 - b. He confused their languages – hindered their communication
 - c. He scattered them over the face of all the earth – separated them

What can we learn from all of this?

- 1) Man left to himself becomes wicked
 - a) “...Now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.”
- 2) God had always given man a chance to repent:
 - a) With Adam
 - b) With Cain
 - c) With Noah
- 3) This time he slows things down – by hindering man’s language and speech, and by scattering them, the spread of sin was reduced.
 - a) God does not want to have to destroy us – not then and not now
 - b) As the language barriers decrease and travel increases we can expect sin to increase yet again