



Smash Up #2

Genesis 11:1-9

Where have you seen God in creation this week?

1) The Setting

¹ Now the whole earth had **one language** and the **same words**. ² And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

2) The Call to Action (Human Plans)

³ And they said to one another, "**Come, let us** make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "**Come, let us build** ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens,

3) Intended Results

and let us make a name for ourselves, **lest we be dispersed** over the **face of the whole earth.**"

1') New Setting

⁵ The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals **had built**. ⁶ And the LORD said, "Look, they are **one people**, and they have all **one language**; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.

2') New Call to Action (God's Plans)

⁷ **Come, let us go down, and confuse** their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech."

3') Actual Results

⁸ So the LORD **scattered** them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the **face of all the earth**

Notice the nuanced structure, repetitions, word-plays, and irony.

We think of these stories in Gen 1-11 as children's stories, but the amount of work that went into creating these 9 verses, suggests that we might take it more seriously.

How does pride affect conversations, dialogue, and possibilities?

How do we hold convictions strongly but humbly?

How do we rein in pride and discover a grace filled humility?

How do you participate in technology? Where do you draw lines?