

GENESIS

THE BEGINNING OF GOD'S RELENTLESS PLAN

Part 8: The Tower of Babel

July 29 & 30, 2017 | Todd King, Lead Vision Pastor

Building a City and a Tower (*Genesis 11:1-4*)

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

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, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

They weren't building to develop a relationship with God, they were building their own kingdom.

Pride is the enemy of God.

But the Lord came down... (*verses 5-6*)

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 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."

Why? Humanity was veering off course, and their pride was taking them down a dangerous path.

God reverses what they were planning (*verses 7-9*)

"Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

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 there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

God tears the culture apart by giving them different languages

God scatters them all over the face of the earth

They stopped building altogether

Genesis Theme:

Whenever humanity tries to forge its own way, it fails.

Without much effort, our good intentions
become lifestyles independent of God.

How does this happen?

1. Making a name for themselves

It's not who you are that matters, it's whose you are.

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. – Acts 4:12

2. Chasing security

We tend to think it comes from work, wealth, or whatever. Really, it is only found in Jesus.

3. Assuring unity

Community with each other matters, but not more than our community with God.

In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the LORD establishes their steps. – Proverbs 16:9

For Reflection

Ask God: does the way I live show that I want a relationship with you?

Small Group Questions

- 1) As you prepare to discuss, Read Genesis 11:1-9.
- 2) Imagine if we lived in a world that was just “one tribe”. How do you think that would change things? Would it be better or worse?
- 3) The mistakes the builders of Babel made were idolatry and independence from God. They wanted to make a name for themselves. Have you ever seen someone caught in one of those traps? What was it like?
- 4) What about you? Is there an “independence trap” that you pursue (self-reliance, self-promotion, security, fear relief)? Why do you think that is?
- 5) When thinking about your tendencies towards independence, what does this tell you about your relationship with God?
- 6) Pray for one another that we would submit all aspects of our life to Jesus.