

Genesis 11

1 And the whole earth was of **one language, and of one speech.** **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. **3** And they **said one to another**, Go to, **let us** make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. **4** And they said, Go to, **let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven**; and **let us** make **us a name**, lest **we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.** **5** And the Lord **came down** to see **the city and the tower**, which the **children of men** builded. **6** And the Lord said, **Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.** **7** Go to, **let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.** **8** So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they **left off to build the city.** **9** Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did **the Lord scatter them** abroad upon the face of all the earth.

10 These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood: **11** And Shem lived after he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters. **12** And Arphaxad lived five and thirty years, and begat Salah: **13** And Arphaxad lived after he begat Salah four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters. **14** And Salah lived thirty years, and begat Eber: **15** And Salah lived after he begat Eber four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters. **16** And Eber lived four and thirty years, and begat Peleg: **17** And Eber lived after he begat Peleg four hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters. **18** And Peleg lived thirty years, and begat Reu: **19** And Peleg lived after he begat Reu two hundred and nine years, and begat sons and daughters. **20** And Reu lived two and thirty years, and begat Serug: **21** And Reu lived after he begat Serug two hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters. **22** And Serug lived thirty years, and begat Nahor: **23** And Serug lived after he begat Nahor two hundred years, and begat sons and daughters. **24** And Nahor lived nine and twenty years, and begat Terah: **25** And Nahor lived after he begat Terah an hundred and nineteen years, and begat sons and daughters. **26 And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran.**

27 Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot. **28** And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees. **29** And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. **30** But Sarai was barren; she had no child. **31** And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. **32** And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

Introduction

On Friday night with the teenagers

Christopher Brian Bridges couldn't jump freely Friday night at Skyzone.

You know why? Ludicrous had made a name for himself. Founder of Disturbing the Peace Records.

Ol' Ludi is Learning the lesson

The pursuit of self glorification will you make you self destructive! We are not made to live for ourselves or for our own name's sake!

Audience of the children of Israel

They learn of Nimrod **10:8-9**

- Satan had used a serpent, now a Nimrod.
- The mighty hunter / not of animals but for souls of men **10:8-9**
- Name means "Rebel". Is. 14:12-14 Satan described as full of pride
- Lived before the Lord which meant he knew him and saw him, but did not submit to him
- Founder of "Babylon"
- In the Bible symbolizes rebellion against God and confusion in religion.
- He was building more than a tower - we will see.

They would relate with a couple aspects very quickly.

They would see the benefit of one language.

They would see the difficulty of building with little resources. Slime.

They desired a city. Protection, Comfort, Renown.

You should relate to this tonight - as well.

- There is a culture trying to get your best to your selfish ambitions.
- We are people who are told to live for His Name Sake and go to the ends of the world.
- We desire to live for our own Kingdom and stay together.
- The people had done what seemed convenient instead of what was commanded!
- Self-promotion is simply the air we breathe in the Western world.

I. Grotesque Rebellion

A. They recognize it as rebellion.

1. Disobedient to the Gen 9:1 command
 - a) As they Adam did they head east.
 - (1) (Gen 11:2) As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.
 - (2) The "east" is where God planted the Garden of Eden (Gen 2:8). However, when man fell into sin and was driven out of the Garden, he went further east (Gen 3:24).
 - (3) After being cursed by God, Cain lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden (Gen 4:16). Notice, those who want to get away from God and the presence of God always move "east" – further and further east.
 - b) They sought for safety through rebellion.
 - (1) Built a city so as not to be scattered.
 - (2) Humility is often equated with trust and obedience, and conversely pride is related to independence and disobedience
2. Desire for their own name
 - a) Building a city
 - (1) Cities are not bad.
 - (a) In the end we all become urbanites. **Hebrews 11:2**
 - (b) **Cities aren't bad - God leads them to one in Psalm 107**
 - (c) Jonah 4:11 - God's concern for a city
 - b) In the cities the fiercest battles for human minds and hearts take place. For that reason, cities are center stage for the Christian mission, the great drama of redemption." Morris
3. Building a tower
 - a) This was so much more defiant than trying to build a ladder to get to God in their own power.
 - (1) Others say that it was an attempt to build above the possible level of another flood, but they could not have hoped to build it higher than Mount Ararat.
 - (2) **a tower whose top may reach unto heaven**—a common figurative expression for great height (De 1:28; 9:1–6)
 - (3) Notice it says "God came down to see it". Did He not see it from where He was at? God is using human expression for our understanding not because He has human limitation.
 - (4) Please notice and DO NOT TEACH OUR CHILDREN that God was intimidated by their efforts.
 - b) Centerpiece of idolatry.

- (1) Attract men to Nimrod's selfish city.
- (2) Common in history of the tallest building to be the center of worship in a city.
- c) Many skyscrapers are still build on human pride - one in middle east.
 - (1)Tallest building in the world is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai built in 2010 at 2,717 feet. It took over the honors from Taipei 101 built in 2004 at 1,670 feet. The tallest before that were a pair of towers built in Malaysia in 1998 at 1,483 feet.
 - (2) I need not tell you of the impact and symbolism of the world trade centers being hit.
- 4. Building a people
 - a) Notice THEY were building a CITY that had a tower.
 - b) They were building a tower and raising a generation of kids to trust in their ability.
 - c) We learn in the end time of a one world religion, language, and race.
 - d) But it is not just liberal denominations that have this falsely optimistic view of unity, but many people outside the formal structures of the church.
 - (1) Communism
 - (2)John Lennon's "Imagine" Lyrics
 - (a)no heaven,
 - (b)no hell,
 - (c)only people living for today
 - (d)no countries,
 - (e)nothing to kill or die for
 - (f)no religion
 - (g)only people living in peace
 - (h)no possessions,
 - (i)no greed or hunger,
 - (j)only a brotherhood of man

B. God's desire for global fame

- 1. This is the heart of our missions. Matt. 6:33
- 2. God's Name represents fame.
 - (1) God **guards** the **holiness** of His name (Leviticus 22:2; Ezekiel 36:21-23).
 - (2) God proclaimed His name to **Moses** (Exodus 34:5-8).
 - (3) Moses **prays** that God would not destroy the unbelieving Israelites on the **basis** of God's global **namesake** (Numbers 14:11-18 cf. Isaiah 48:9, 11).
 - (4) God **revealed** His agenda regarding His own name as it applied to His purpose with **Pharoah's** life (Exodus 9:16; Romans 9:17; Psalm 106:8).

(5) Did it work? Did God **accomplish** His goal of global fame through the **deliverance** of His people from Egypt?

(a) Words of **Jethro**, Moses' father-in-law (Exodus 18:1, 8-12)

(b) **Rahab's** testimony (Joshua 2:10-11) "Confessions of a Prostitute"

(c) Prayer of the **Levites** back from exile (Nehemiah 9:9-10)

(d) **Isaiah's** historical narrative (Isaiah 63:11-14, note vv. 12 and 14)

(e) Daniel mentioned in his **prayer** that God had gotten Himself worldwide fame through the Exodus – 1500 years after the fact! (Daniel 9:15).

(f) The **Philistines** in Samuel's day were **aware** and **fearful** of the God of Israel because of what He had done years ago in Egypt (1 Samuel 6:6).

II. Gracious Response

A. Divides the languages

1. THEY tried to be ONE. God made them many.

2. God has built into the world a system by which the pride of different groups of people restrains the pride of other groups of people.

B. Still allows us to live for His global fame!

1. He still allows His plan to get the Gospel to the rebel be former rebels!

2. Story of Eli's song in India.

I just had to share this before my heart explodes!! Tonight while Elijah was taking a shower Jim and I heard him singing in the shower. We stopped to listen and were overwhelmed at what we heard. Elijah was singing a song he had made up about coming to India. Then the second verse was about telling the Indian about Jesus then he moved on to singing about seeing them in heaven...then all the sudden you could hear him just a crying. After a minute of crying he would start his song over again and cry some more. Jim and I both stood there with tears in our eyes!! We let him finish his shower and when he came out I ask him if he was okay and he burst into tears again! I asked him what was wrong and he said "I am just so happy, Mom!!" I said "Why is that?" and he answered "I am just so happy to be saved and living in India". I don't think I could have asked for anything more at this point!! I sat on the bed with my arms around him and thanked the Lord for a husband who was willing to lead our family to India and a GREAT GOD who can speak to even 7 year old hearts!! I am so proud of Elijah and I am excited to see how God is going to use him in India. I LOVE MY LIFE!!!

C. Restrains sin

1. make it harder for man to communicate and thus to unite in God-belittling global plans.

2. Not intimidated protecting them from themselves (v.3)

a) He came down to them.

- b) If I let their sin go unchecked, there is no telling how much worse it will get. No rebellion will be too great for them. Nothing will be sacred in their crooked hearts.
- D. Look at the benefits today!
 - 1. He will send His people after them.
 - a) We are involved in this today!
 - b) He will immediately show us this at the end of the ch. then in ch. 12.
 - 2. Provides protection to Christians - seeing we are not one anti-Christian state.
 - 3. Nations keep the pride of the other nations at bay. Former USSR.

III. Glorious Reversal

- A. Contrast to Abraham
 - 1. After a connecting genealogy (11:10-26), that solution is provided: out of the scattered nations God formed one nation which became His channel of blessing.
 - 2. We see the genealogy leading all the way to Abraham.
 - a) He heads west by the way!
 - b) Which is the direction of the children of Israel when they would hear of this!
 - 3. What is it that Abraham is looking for?
 - a) He is looking for an eternal city!
 - b) Whose builder and maker is God!
- B. At Babel, God confused man's language. Did you know this confusion is reversed in Christ?
 - 1. At pentecost.
 - a) They hear the Gospel in their own language.
 - b) God creates a unity among them through the Gospel stronger than a common language.
 - (1) Have you ever experienced that here with the Spanish church or on the mission field? (Met with Chilean Pastors)
 - (2) Become citizens of the same country, same story, same language - Jesus.
 - 2. During the millennial reign
 - a) Zeph prophesies of this (Zeph. 3:9-11)
 - b) A city is created for His name sake!
 - 3. In Heaven
 - a) We worship in one language and voice in Rev 7:9
 - b) We were all purchased by the Lamb Rev 5:9

Conclusion

1. People who should still be marveling in the fact God saved us through the flood, so quickly shifted their chief goal from glorifying God and enjoying him forever to promoting their own renown.
2. Let us admit that we are not above the ancient sin of Babel—thinking ourselves wiser than God.

Exhortation - As you drive home tonight and pull into your drive way I want you to evaluate what you are giving your life to build.

Do you see a home you built by your own strength and for your own glory? Or do you see that God has blessed you with a home and that home greatest good is to raise a family in it that are willing to go and do whatever God will lead them to do?

Do you see your occupation as a way to promote you name and you further you position in life? Of do you see it as a resource God has given you as you live for His global fame!

Simple question?

Are you building a city, a tower, a family, and a life to make your name great!

Tonight abandon your desire for fame young people, older people stop thinking about your legacy, and all children of God - commit to live for His Name Sake!