

From Creation to New Creation

Genesis 10:1 – 11:26

"The Tower of Babel"— May 22, 2022



Introduction

The book of Genesis starts out by introducing us to God - Elohim. "In the beginning, God..." As we look at creation in Genesis 1, we see God's glory. ([Ps. 8](#))

When we get to Genesis 3 and see Adam and Eve's rebellion against God, it seemed like the song of God's creation was ruined. They rejected God, and it spirals downward after that. The earth, by chapter 6, is filled with violence and corruption. Then we get to chapter 9, and we find Noah drunk and naked.

Yes, we see God's glory in creation, and it is breathtaking, but the truth about who God is - His glory - is really put on display in redemption. When it seems like all hope is lost, God alone can pick up the pieces and redeem what we think is unredeemable. He can bring hope when all seems hopeless.

Big Idea: God's judgement on sin is designed for the nations to experience His blessing.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

1. The danger of making a name for yourself 11:1-4
2. God confuses to clarify 11:5 -9

Read & Discuss

1) Read Chapter 11:1-4

At the start of the project - they have the same language and are working together. They have unity, but it is in rebellion against God. This is a people united in a common purpose to push God off the throne. They want to be God, not call on God. They are not there to honor God's name, but to make a name for themselves.

This building project is driven by a desire to be great as well as fear. Sinful pride and sinful fear are alive and well in each of us today. We are driven to make a name for ourselves. Verse 4 is a mirror. We are to ask "Where do I see myself in this?" In what way are you driven to make a name for yourself? What do you want to be remembered for?

Sometimes our plan for greatness is shown in what we avoid. What are you avoiding because of fear of failure? What relationships are you avoiding because it's risky? We have two options. Either we seek to make a name for ourselves or we call upon the name of the Lord.

Additional Reading: *Genesis 10* (The genealogy sets the stage for Chapter 11)

2) Read 11:5-9

People can accomplish great things and boast in those accomplishments. It can go to their head so much so that they think they can rival God. When the nations get angry at God, rage against God, or plot to overthrow God, [Psalm 2:4](#) gives us God's reaction. Their work is so tiny, He has to come down. We look at the Nimrods of this world, and we are in awe or have fear. That's our perspective. God is not intimidated, threatened, or impressed. He scoffs.

Do you see what Moses is doing for the Israelites who are wandering in the wilderness? Moses is showing them God's perspective to drive out fear and build up confidence and faith in a good God. What has you up at

night? What has you worried or afraid right now? What is leaving your soul in turmoil? We have turmoil – it's going to happen. (Ps. 42) The fear that looks for security outside of God is pride masquerading as fear. Humility recognizes that God knows better, and we move from fear to faith.

In verse 6, God's concern is not their unity. It is a Fatherly concern. If the world remains united like this, there is no end to the depth of sin they will spiral into, and they won't turn to God to experience His blessing. God wants us to reach out for Him and find Him. God's judgement here is not cruel. He wants to bless us. God is gracious, patient and good. Man is unwilling to call on His name. We've believed Satan's lie that God is not good. So, God humbles them. One of the ways we see God's heart in this is in His purpose for it. He multiplies the languages and scatters them to pave the way for the redemption of man.

When we read [chapter 11:10-26](#), notice where the second genealogy ends. In vs. 26 we see that Terah fathered Abram, who we know as Abraham, the one from whose line the blessing would come. Genesis 10 and 11 doesn't just give us the division of nations, it shows us that there are two ultimate ways to live. We either live in Babel or with Abram. How do you determine which path you are on? In [Galatians 5:19-23](#) Paul lists the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. This is meant to be a mirror. Which better describes you?

One day every knee will bow before the name of Jesus and confess that He is Lord. The nations that were scattered in a Genesis 10 and 11 will be gathered at the throne of God under the banner of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in white robes of Jesus' righteousness. What a day that will be.

Additional Reading: Psalm 42; Genesis 11:10-27; Acts 17:26-27; Acts 2; Revelation 7

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Genesis 11:27-12:9 "A Blessing to the Nations"
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