

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:1-9

I. Beginning of Languages

1. Three Judgments in Genesis
Each of these brought change to human history
In the Garden, judgment for original sin, mortality, death
In the Flood – judgment brought change to earth
At Babel – judgment separated nations, confusion of language
2. Each was caused by human sin
Man was in rebellion against God
3. Note God's creative purpose – 11:1
"Whole earth had one language"
God's purpose was to have fellowship
Man with God and man with man
Since they all came from Noah's family
They naturally spoke the same language
4. God's Word tells us what happened
In Gen. 10:8-10 we meet a "mighty man"
Nimrod led in the building of Babel
Spoken of as "his kingdom" – 10:10
5. Nimrod is not mentioned in 11:1-9
But we learn of the rebellion he led
6. God's post-flood direction – 9:1
"Be fruitful and multiply & fill the earth"
This came with God's blessing

III. Settling in Land of Shinar – 11:2-4

1. People united migrated together – 2
They came from the east & found a plain
Land of Shinar was a fertile plain
With two mighty rivers – Tigris & Euphrates
2. They settled there – 2
Finding a good land they settled down
Their intention was to stay there and build a culture
3. They began to build a city – 3-4
Like Cain in Gen. 4:17-24 a city with a culture
Note what is said of Nimrod – Gen. 10:8-12
He continued to build cities and uniting them in a kingdom

III. A Tower – 11:4

1. A Tower with its top in the heavens – 4
Man's attempt for a connection with gods
Babylon historically was seat of idolatry
They worshipped the sun, stars, the heavens
They developed the system of astrology
By which they sought direction for life
Turned away from God and His wisdom
Babylon was seat of a system of gods & goddesses
This system was followed (with change of names) by others
Egypt, Greece, Rome etc.

2. A religion of man's design
Seeking some contact with the gods
3. Note their stated purpose – 4
"To make a name for themselves"
They glorified man rather than glorifying God
In Romans 1 Paul describes this departure
To resist being scattered over the earth
Their purpose was in direct conflict with God's purpose
4. Nimrod & man's kingdom is still man's desire
God will permit this to come to fulfillment
As seen in the Book of Revelation
When God's judgment is poured out on man's kingdom
For this reason God warns His people to turn from this world's system – Rev. 18:4; 1 John 2:15-17

IV. God Spoke in Judgment – 5-9

1. Lord came to see man's work – 5
To see man's city and man's tower
Humans are always accountable to God
2. God spoke in words of judgment – 6-7
Man's unity will create even more evil
We must confuse their language
So they cannot understand each other
With the result of producing more evil
3. Result was scattering groups – 8-9
When man refuses to obey God
God will deal with man's rebellion
4. Man's desire is still for world unity
But a unity of man's design omitting God
Antichrist will one day bring that unity
5. God's unity is fulfilled in Christ
In the new heaven & new earth
Spiritually now in unity of Body of Christ
Eternally fulfilling God's original design