

**In The Beginning: Session 19: The Tower**

בְּרֵאשִׁית

Get audio files and notes at: [www.htchurch.com/genesis](http://www.htchurch.com/genesis). **No class November 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Recap: Genesis 10 (The Table of Nations)**

Moses lists 70 families who are Noah’s descendants, and those 70 families plus Israel make up the whole human family.

**The Tower Of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9)**

*1 Now the whole earth had one language and 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 Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.*

*4 And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” 5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the LORD said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”*

*8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. 9 Therefore its name is 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.*

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- This is not the first time this happened, nor would it be the last. At the end of the age, Man will again unite against the plan of God.
- Moses tells us that at this time the whole world had one language. There are a lot of similarities between ancient languages, as has been known for centuries.
- The traditional Jewish belief is that Hebrew is the original language of the human race. Why?

### **Motivations for the Tower**

The builders want to make a name for themselves, and they do not want to be dispersed.

- Man always wants a different destiny and name than what God has appointed.
- God divided our languages at Babel, but He will turn us back to one language some day, after He pours out His anger on the nations at the end of the age:

*9 “For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord.*

*10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, the daughter of My dispersed ones, shall bring My offering.*

*11 In that day you shall not be shamed for any of your deeds in which you transgress against Me; For then I will take away from your midst those who rejoice in your pride, and you shall no longer be haughty in My holy mountain.*

*12 I will leave in your midst a meek and humble people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD. (Zeph. 3:9–12)*

- God “goes down” to Shinar.
- Never underestimate what mankind can do, being made in the image of God.
- God decides that Man will spread out as He intended.

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The Jewish historian Josephus pins the blame on Nimrod:

*Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God.... He persuaded them not to ascribe it to God, as if it were through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power.*

*He also said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to reach. And that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers.*

### **We are always seeking to rebuild Babel**

- As we go into the end of this age, we will once again see a united world.
- There will be one leader, and people will not want to submit to God.
- They will wish to make a name for themselves: *...no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the **name of the beast**, or the number of his name.*  
(Rev. 13:17)
- At Babel they sought to make a name to replace a name, and at the end of the age, it will be the same. They will seek to replace the name of Jesus.

*1 Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed [Messiah or Christ], saying, 3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us." (Psalm 2:1-3)*

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Many stories in the Bible are actually pictures or patterns of human behavior.

- In the Jewish view of history, history isn't linear or circular, it's more of a spiral.
- As this spiral works its way upwards, the patterns repeat themselves, but they point to one final culmination.
- The Tower of Babel *pattern* will culminate in one final expression of defiance that will mirror Babel in many respects.

### After Babel

- After Babel, genetic diversity was reinforced
- Babel and the Flood would persist in memory and in language

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*boat*

舟 八 口  
*vessel eight people*

The Discovery of Genesis, C.H. Kang and Ethel Nelson, p. 55

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- *With the lamb over me, I am righteous.*
- Significant civilizations developed in Egypt, Sumeria, and China by 2200 B.C.
- Many nations came into idolatry at this time. Read “*Eternity In Their Hearts,*” by missionary Don Richardson.
- The driving force was Man’s refusal to hold on to the knowledge of God.

*18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*

*24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.... 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting...*

(Romans 1:18-25, 28)

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## **The Descendants Of Shem (Gen. 11:10-26)**

*10 This is the genealogy of Shem: Shem was one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood. 11 After he begot Arphaxad, Shem lived five hundred years, and begot sons and daughters.*

*12 Arphaxad lived thirty-five years, and begot Salah. 13 After he begot Salah, Arphaxad lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters.*

*14 Salah lived thirty years, and begot Eber. 15 After he begot Eber, Salah lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters.*

*16 Eber lived thirty-four years, and begot Peleg. 17 After he begot Peleg, Eber lived four hundred and thirty years, and begot sons and daughters.*

*18 Peleg lived thirty years, and begot Reu. 19 After he begot Reu, Peleg lived two hundred and nine years, and begot sons and daughters.*

*20 Reu lived thirty-two years, and begot Serug. 21 After he begot Serug, Reu lived two hundred and seven years, and begot sons and daughters.*

*22 Serug lived thirty years, and begot Nahor. 23 After he begot Nahor, Serug lived two hundred years, and begot sons and daughters.*

*24 Nahor lived twenty-nine years, and begot Terah. 25 After he begot Terah, Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years, and begot sons and daughters.*

*26 Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.*

- God's answer to an idolatrous people was to call out a godly people. Now He will select that part of the human family through which He would bless all nations.
- Nine generations down from Shem, we come to Abram. Who is the 10<sup>th</sup>?

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