

# The Tower of Babel – Gn.11

# I. Background Information

1: all descendants of Noah  
spoke same language

Lit., 'one lip'

Lips were shaped in same way to say words;  
no different dialects

Mt.15:8, These people draw near to me with  
their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but  
their heart is far from Me

2: disobeyed God's command to fill the earth

They 'dwelt' in plain of Shinar: Babylon (10:10)

1:28; 9:1, 7; 10:32; 11:8-9

3: ingenuity – absence of stones?

'Come' (three times – 3, 4, 7)

Make and bake

Clay soil; baked bricks for building; asphalt for mortar

Technology can be a curse

## 4: higher ambitions

‘Come let us build a city and tower’

**City:** desire to huddle together for safety, companionship

**Tower:** pride in human accomplishment ...

**Top:** reaches heaven; Dt.1:28; 9:1

**Purpose:** make name for ourselves (fame, fortune, reputation)

**Location:** between Tigris and Euphrates

Did they want tall buildings (ziggurats) to protect from another flood?



## 5: God came down to see

God always sees our works. He has a different  
'view' . . . [Ja.4:13...]

Lk.14:28-30

Hb.4:13

Gn.3:8, 10

Josh.7:19

God 'came down' – anthropomorphism...as if  
He were a man

6: one race [people], one speech [lip, v.1]

Evil desire stops at nothing

They disobeyed His command

This was just the beginning

Disobedience grows



## 7: 'Come, let Us' – plural: Godhead

Gn.1:26; 3:22

As long as all spoke same language, they would unite in ungodly projects

Archaeology: unearthed literary documents from Sumerian culture in Mesopotamia assert that at this time (Gn.11) all spoke one tongue – American Oriental Society

Hearing vs not hearing: Ac.9:7 . . . 22:9

Gn.10:25

8: now they must obey His command to fill earth...though they never intended to do so

Contrast v.4

God overrules man's plans. Disperse!

Division is better than collective apostasy

9: Babel: to confuse

Pun: *Babel* [Babylon] . . . Babble

Pun: confusion . . . confuse

I. Background Information

II. Lessons From Babel

## Disobedience pays

These people soon forgot lessons of the Flood. Slow learners...poor memories

Pride and disobedience are deadly. V.4

“Let us” (4, 7).

They behave like Adam and Eve – rebels.

‘My way’

# God's commands are always in our best interest

They probably did not understand why His command was given, but their duty was to obey.

Are we to obey only what we agree with?

\*If so, throw out the Bible.

\*2 Co.5:7, we walk by faith, not sight

\*Ro10:17, faith comes by hearing...

Obedience is not merely doing what pleases us

1. Baptism for remission... Mk.16; Ac.2; 2 K.5
2. Lord's churches are independent...

Pride in human wisdom and  
accomplishments are always dangerous

Desire for reputation... Ro.12:3

Desire for large numbers as end in itself, or to  
receive praise, is spiritual suicide. Ac.5

Knowledge is good if it doesn't go to our  
heads... Lv.10:1-3. Dn.4:17

# No work of man can escape the all-seeing eye of God

1. He knew their actions and motives. Pr.15:3
2. Our excuses may influence men; God knows truth.
3. Emotions cannot replace Scripture.
4. Following the majority is spiritual suicide.  
Gn.11. Prov.16:25

Man cannot overthrow God's plan.  
[They filled the earth...]

1. **Sinful defiance** – we will gather, not scatter, 9:1.
2. **Selfish desire** (4) is rooted in pride.
3. **Skillful determination can bless or curse.**



# Human ingenuity and technology are often misused

1. Their improved technology (bricks) became an instrument to carry out evil designs.
2. We live in age of technology, but problem is not human ingenuity; it is man and his misuse of these things.

Ec.1:9, no new sins . . .

If we were zealously affected for good, we would not stop our work for lack of conveniences. Ac.24:24-25

These sinners encouraged  
one another in evil

Let us learn to encourage one another in good

Hb.10<sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

The confusion of tongues divided children of  
men and scattered them

The gift of tongues (Ac.2) gathered  
disciples together in Christ

Babel – confusion

Jerusalem – *shalom*, peace

God's 'coming down' in Jerusalem brought  
peace and salvation, and taught all to speak as  
one

Division is better than collective apostasy

We will gather one last time ... at Judgment

Mt.25<sup>31</sup> When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.'

Whose side will we be on?

Ziggurats [religious towers] dot this region of Mesopotamia.



Gn.11 . . . A man who truly served God,  
not idols. Hb.11:9-10

