Genesis 11:1-9

The tower of Babel

Overview of Chapter 11

- When man unites without God, unity becomes rebellion. God scatters what man builds in pride so that His redemptive plan will stand.
- **Sub-Thoughts:**
- One language, one people, one shared direction
- Human achievement turned into organized rebellion
- God comes down and evaluates man’s pride
- Confusion and scattering as judgment and mercy
- Babel as a pattern that echoes through the whole Bible

The bridge.

- Genesis 11 is the bridge between the nations of Genesis 10 and the calling of Abram in Genesis 12.
- This chapter also pushes the Genesis storyline forward.
- In Eden, man rebelled against God’s word.
- Before the flood, man filled the earth with violence.
- After the flood, man again rebels
- This time not by corruption alone, but by centralized pride, collective self-exaltation, and refusal to obey the command to fill the earth.

The beginning is in the end.

- "I declare the end from the beginning" **Isaiah 46:10**
- This also fits the whole Bible. Babel becomes the seedbed for later world rebellion.
- Babylon, beast systems, false unity, and man building a name apart from God.
- All in the END **Revelation 17–18**, we see starts here.
- The Babylon in Revelation is the full-grown tree of Genesis 11.
- This is why I say the Bible is a story about KINGDOM battles.
- God’s kingdom and those who rebel that would be Babylon.

The key

- False unity is a major thread
  Biblical unity is unity in truth, under God, for God's glory.
  Babylonian unity is unity around man, power, commerce, pride, and defiance.
- Look how the story builds.
- It starts with a man, Adam
- Then moves to chaos, before the flood
- Then moves to organized rebellion, Babylon.

The opposite

- Through another Adam
- **1 Corinthians 15:45-58**
- The first man, Adam, was created a living being”; but the last Adam is the life-giving Spirit. It is not the spiritual that comes first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first Adam, made of earth, came from the earth; the second Adam came from heaven.

The flow.

- It starts with a man, Adam
- Then moves to chaos, before the flood
- Then moves to organized rebellion, Babylon.
- It starts with the second Adam
- Brings order from the chaos
- Takes those from rebellion and organizes them into the New Jerusalem
- Babylon = city of rebellion
- Jerusalem = city of peace

GENESIS 11:1–2

- שָׂפָה sah-FAH → lip, language, speech

- **Letter + Pictograph Layer:**
- **ש Shin** → teeth → press, consume, break down
- **פ Peh** → mouth → speak, declare, release
- **ה Hey** → reveal, breath, behold
- **Combined Ancient Sense:**
  "What is pressed out of the mouth and revealed"

- דְּבָרִים אֲחָדִים devarim achadim → one set of words, unified message
- **Letter + Pictograph Layer:**
- **ד Dalet** → door, pathway
- **ב Bet** → house, inside
- **ר Resh** → head, authority
- **Combined Ancient Sense:**
  "Words that create <u>a pathway into a house of authority</u>"
- Now the whole earth had one language and one unified message
- This is more than shared vocabulary.
- This is shared direction.
- Their speech is unified, their thinking is unified, and their movement is unified.

Important!

- The text says one saphah (Language), one lip meaning one unified outward expression,
- and one devarim (Words), meaning one structured set of words that <u>creates direction and authority</u>.
- That means they were not just talking—they were building a system with their speech.

But there is more

- **דְּבָרִים אֲחָדִים devarim achadim)**

- **Letter + Pictograph Layer:**
- **אAleph** → ox, strength, leader
- **חChet** → fence, enclosure
- **דDalet** → door, pathway
- “Strength unified within one boundary moving in one direction”

All together.

- “What is pressed out of the mouth and revealed”
- “Words that create a pathway into a house of authority”
- “Strength unified within one boundary moving in one direction”

- This is the heart of the people.

GENESIS 11:3–4

- Notice the reaped words or phrase. “let us”
- **God’s “Let Us” → creative, ordered, life-giving authority**
- **Man’s “Let us” → prideful, self-directed, rebellious unity**
- Understand they would have KNOWN the creation story.
- They are now replicating what God did.
- Man is imitating God—but wrongly And it all goes back to Genesis 3!
- So when they say “let us,” they are:
- exercising unity
- exercising creativity
- exercising authority
- But they are doing it:
  → **independently from God**
- **This is the core problem.**

Verse 4 hidden gem

- Let us make a name for ourselves.
- **שֵׁם shem** → name, identity
- We studied Shem last week.
- Guess who comes from the line of Shem?
- Jesus!
- Remember "I declare the end from the beginning" **Isaiah 46:10**
- The antichrist leader of Babylon says I am salvation!
- But God’s salvation comes from His name (Shem)

So..

- Babel → false name (self-made Shem)
- Shem → line of the true name +
- Babylon → fulfillment in the antichrist the false name.
- Jesus → fulfillment of the true name.
- Strong teaching statement
- "Yes, Jesus comes from Shem—and that means the true 'Name' that saves comes through the line God chose, not the name man tried to build at Babel."
- You can sum everything up this way
- The Bible is the story of two kingdoms and two names—the false name man builds in rebellion, and the true Name God gives in redemption.

GENESIS 11:5–9

- The Lord came down.
- They are building up, but the Lord comes down.
- This tells us a lot about man’s attempt to reach God.
- You don’t have too.
- He comes / came to us!
- “sons of men” = בְּנֵי הָאָדָם Bene ha’adam
- This tells us that is this is purely a human project
- no reference to God’s authority
- no divine direction
- just “sons of men” building something upward

Purpose

- This shows their purpose.
- Pure rebellion.
- When people leave God out of their lives, their decisions, their goals it is a statement of rebellion.
- So when they say “let us make a name,” they are not talking about reputation alone—they are saying, “we will define who we are, we will establish our own identity, and we will secure our own legacy.”
- That is Genesis 3 at scale.
- Man no longer wants identity from God; he wants identity apart from God.

US

- נֵרְדָּה***nerdah***
  → “let us go down”
  → first person plural (we/us)
- **Trinity hint (theological layer)**
- From a full Bible perspective, many see:
- Father Son Spirit acting in unity
- So this becomes a **foreshadowing**, not a fully revealed doctrine yet.
- But Look at the movement:
- Man says: “let us go up”
- God says: “let Us go down”
- That is intentional contrast.

Confuse VS 7

- בָּלַל ***balal*** → to mix, confuse, blend break the system
- the place of “gate” (Bab-el) becomes the place of confusion
- Later becomes **Bab-el (Babylon)** likely means:
- “gate of god” or “gate to heaven”

WHY DID GOD SCATTER THE PEOPLE?

- Then God moves to the center of their power— בָּבֶל balal.
- Their system loses order, direction, and control.
- Once the internal authority collapses, the structure cannot function.
- Then comes פוּץ puts—scatter. What was unified is now dispersed
- This is not just judgment—it is restraint.
- If allowed to continue, rebellion would scale globally.
- Instead, God enforces His original command and redirects history toward Abram.

As we close

- Babel exposes the pattern that still runs in every man—we gather, we agree, we build, and then we try to define ourselves apart from God.
- That is the progression: **havah** → **nivneh** → **shem**—agreement, structure, identity.
- Agreement turns into:
- A organization
- A structure
- A system
- A momentum

Spiritual Insight

- This is where religion often forms:
- programs
- systems
- traditions
- Institutions
- Just remember this
- Babel was not built by atheists.
  It was built by unified people with a spiritual vision—but without submission to God.

So, ask yourself this?

- What are you building?
- Who are you aligning yourself with?
- Am I confusing success with approval?
- Do I God establish your identity?

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