

— Genesis 11.1-9 —
 Genesis Series 31
Babel

Gen 11 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.

* What is "Babel," and where it is?

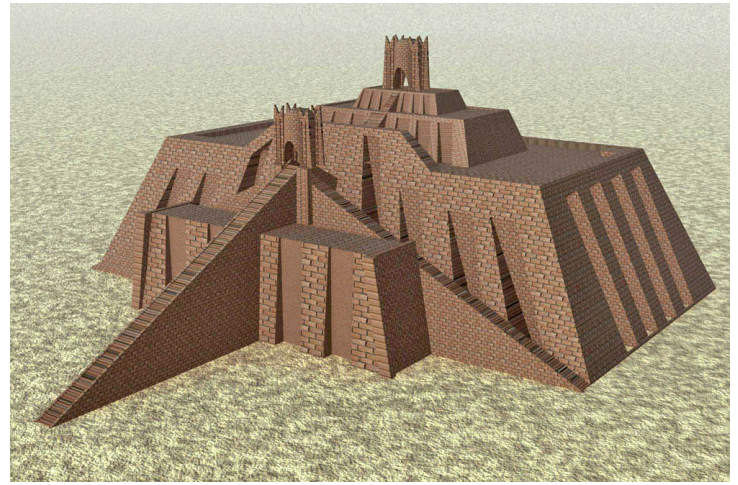


Dan 1 ¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god

* What is the "tower" of Babel?



Ruins of the Great Ziggurat of Ur, where Abraham was from (Gn 11.28-31), built ~2000BC, restored by King Nabonidus ~550BC.



Artist's rendering of what experts believe the Great Ziggurat of Ur originally looked like.



Ziggurat at Borsippa, sister city to Babylon, about 11 miles away. An inscription states: "I am Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon ... my great lord has established me in strength, and has urged me to repair his buildings ... the Tower of Babylon, I have made and finished ... the Tower of Borsippa had been built by a former king. He had completed 42 [cubits?], but he did not finish its head ... Merodach, my great lord, inclined my heart to repair the building. I did not change its site, nor did I destroy its foundation platform ... As it had been in ancient times, so I built up its structure"

* **The problem** at Babel was not that God is against

_____ or _____.

Rev 21 ⁹ "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God. ... ¹² Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, ... and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of ... Israel ... ¹⁴ Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ... ²² But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. ²⁴ And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. ²² ¹ And he showed me a pure river of water of life ... proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

See Gn 10.5, 20, 31 (God separated the people into 70 nations).

* **The problem** at Babel was four things:

1) The people refused to _____ God's command (11.4).

Gn 9 ¹ God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth." Cf. Gn 1 ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it"

2) The people sought to make a " _____ " (shem) for themselves (11.4).

Exo 20⁷ "You shall not take [nasah – carry, bear] the name [shem] of the LORD your God in vain."

Rev 22 ³ ... and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

Psalms 72 ¹⁹ And blessed be His glorious [kabod – heavy] name [shem] forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory [kabod].

Deut 12 ⁵ But you shall seek the place where the Lord your God chooses ... to put His name [shem] for His dwelling place

Exo 40 ³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory [kabod] of the LORD filled the tabernacle (cf. 1Ki 8.10-13).

1Cor 6 ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Isa 63 ¹² Who led them ... dividing the water before them to make for Himself an everlasting name [shem]

3) The people were united not only by one speech, but also

by one _____.

Gen 11 ¹ Now the whole earth had one language [saphah – lip, confession] and one speech [dabar – speech, language] ... ⁴ And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens"

Zeph 3 ⁹ "For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language [saphah], That they all may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him with one accord.

Psalms 12 ¹ Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men. ² They speak idly everyone with his neighbor; With flattering lips [saphah] and a double heart they speak. ³ May the LORD cut off all flattering lips [saphah], And the tongue that speaks proud things, ⁴ Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips [saphah] are our own; Who is lord over us?"

4) The people followed _____, who sought to

revive evil that had resulted in the _____.

Gn 10 ⁸ Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one [gibbor] on the earth. ⁹ He was a mighty hunter [tsayid] before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD." ¹⁰ And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. ¹¹ From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, ¹² and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).

Gn 6 ⁴ There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men [gibborim] who were of old, men of renown [shem – name]. ⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually ... ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created"

Micah 7 ² The faithful man has perished from the earth, And there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; Every man hunts [yasudu – same root as tsayid] his brother with a net. ³ That they may successfully do evil with both hands— The prince asks for gifts, The judge seeks a bribe, And the great man utters his evil desire; So they scheme together.

* **What does** the LORD's response shows us? (11.5-8)