

Beginnings 9

3/6/22

Genesis 11:1-9

1. For context on the story of the Tower of Babel, read Genesis 10:6-12 (Read it before going on...). Note that it is the same person, Nimrod, who founded Babylon (in the plain of Shinar!) *and* Ninevah. Later, in the times of the kingdom of Israel, these two empires of Babylon and Assyria (its capital was Ninevah) were the ones who destroyed Israel and Jerusalem.

Read the story of the Tower of Babel, 11:1-9, before moving on.

2. Bricks were new technology at the time. They used to make structures with sun-dried mud bricks, but now they had kiln fired bricks, and a better adhesive that is similar to the asphalt we use today. In this story, this technology was used for a something that was not good in God's eyes.

**Discuss how new technologies have been used for bad things. For example, social media is a great way to stay in touch with others, but the desire for "likes" and attention can become addictive.

3. Verse 4 describes how the Babylonians built a tower that "reached to the heavens (NIV)" or "with its top in the heavens (ESV)." This is another story of how humans wanted to become like gods, with a tower that could access the heavenly realm where the gods lived.

**What was the purpose of this tower (hint: read the rest of verse 4)

**Think back to the blessing given to humans in Genesis 1:28. Based on the purpose of the tower construction you just discussed, why was this a bad thing?

4. Drew mentioned that the multiplication of languages was a consequence of this sin, of desiring to become like God. Read Acts 2:1-12.

**What *does* this mean? How is this story of Pentecost related to the tower of Babel?

**Why are there so many different nations and regions mentioned in Acts 2:9-11?

For more discussion: In light of the relationship between these two stories, reflect on one of Drew's points from his sermon: "God will accomplish his plans whether we are on board or not."

**How do you actually know what God's plans are?

**Read Romans 12:1-2. Does this shed any more light on how to know what God's plans are?

For even more discussion: Drew referenced Ezekiel 36:26-28 in his sermon. Read it, and reflect once more on Acts 2 and Romans 12. One implication is that the new spirit from Ezekiel and Acts is what empowers us to be transformed in Romans 12.

**Does this shed any *more* light on how to know what God's plans are?

**Finally, if you are willing, share a story of a time where God humbled you. Perhaps your pride got in the way, or maybe you realized that your plans were not God's plans. Describe the role the Holy Spirit played in your story.