

## “Basic Bible Stories – The Tower of Babel” Genesis 11:1-9

### Open: Story

- After the flood and the re-birth of civilization a man, Nimrod, rises to power and begins to build mighty cities. (Babel & Nineveh). **Gen. 10:8-10**
- **Gen. 11:1** tells us that the entire world was one language.
- Next in **Gen. 11:2-4**, we see the natural tendency of a people-group to seek to be strong and protected.
  - Great structures have been a major part of every civilization. **ILL: Egypt and the pyramids; Incas and their elaborate road structures as well as Machu Picchu; and look at the buildings and bridges of modern cities today.**
- In **Gen. 11: 5-6**, we see again how God is keeping His eye on mankind, and we find that God was not happy with the direction that man was going. (God points out specifically man’s dependance on each other and a forsaking of dependance of Him.)
- Finally in **Gen. 11:7-9**, we see God intervening by confounding the one thing that would naturally divide a unified city, their language. (Language is the glue that holds together a civilization and without that glue civilizations crumble.)
  - *Through this we discover 2 apposing world views (philosophies). In **Gen. 11:4**, we find man’s philosophy is to unify, gaining power, and giving all glory to man. In **Gen. 11:7**, we discover God’s plan for man is for man to divide and spread the gospel, giving God the glory.*

### App: 2 key words (Dependance and Language)

- **Dependance:** In **Gen. 10:8-9**, we find the phrase used “...a mighty hunter before the Lord.” This statement is pointing towards the fact that Nimrod was trying set himself up as supreme ruler or as a “god-like” image.
  - The word “before” as its used here, means “in the place of” or ahead of”; it also means “in precedence of.”
  - This is the same mentality that has caused carnal man to be judge by God since the beginning of time. **Judges 17 & 21** “...every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”
- **Language:** In **Gen. 11:1** we need to recognize that language is the support beam of every civilization.
  - **The direction of a society is determined in part by how the tongue is used. 1 Cor. 15:33** “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”
  - The nation and individual who controls its tongue is the nation and individual that will be delivered from many troubles. **Prov. 21:23** “Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.”
  - Communication has always been the heartbeat of any civilization. It is the glue that holds together a civilization and without that glue civilizations crumble.
    - The carrier pigeons
    - The pony in express
    - The rotary phones and modern cell phone.

### I. **Lesson #1: We need to recognize, and resist man’s natural tendency to be independent from God.**

A. Man naturally has a tendency to seek his own solutions.

i. Carnally

a. Cains City. **Gen. 4:18-22**

1. Work Oriented – Lived to work

2. Cultured – Lived to entertain & be entertained. (How much of your life revolves around entertainment?) – Music, Movies, Money, Games, and Conversations

3. Industrial – Focused on making life more convenient.

b. There is nothing wrong with convenience, we just need to be aware that convenience makes it more convenient to stray away from God.

1. Financial

2. Monetarily

ii. Spiritually

- **Idolatry** = What I imagine God to be instead of taking advantage of getting to know who he really is. Idolatry is the foundation of all rebellion because idolatry is me choosing to replace the God of faith with a god of the flesh.  
**II Tim. 3:2, 4-5** *“For men shall be lovers of their own selves ((4) lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. (5) Having a form of godliness, but ending the lower thereof: from such turn away.”*

a. Adam and Eve. **Gen. 3:2-6**

1. Disobedience to God in quest of something greater
2. You cannot improve on living by faith.

b. Cain – His own sacrifice. **Gen. 4:3-5**

1. Cain sought to please God with the best he had instead of giving God what God required of him.
2. Man naturally lives his life thinking he best knows how to please God, instead of by faith living his life the way God has laid out for him in His Word.

c. Cain’s city. **Gen. 4:16-17**

1. Godless – No accountability to a higher power.
2. Bloodless – No law and no justice.
3. Guiltless – No conscience and no limitations.

B. Man is naturally selfish and does not naturally seek God’s face.

- i. We need to recognize the tendency of man to see himself as good enough and to set himself up as the standard of right and wrong. **Rom. 10:3** *“For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”*

- ii. We need to choose to serve the greater master with our life. **Matt. 16:24-26** *“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. [25] For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. [26] For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? [27] For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”*

- “You will either choose to serve someone who wants the best for you, or you will serve someone who will take the best from you.”

- iii. Recognize what God has to offer is not only permanent, it does not have any strings attached.

**Prov. 10:22** *“The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.”*

- C. We need to base our life on what God has said is best, not on what man thinks is best. **Col. 3:2** *“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”*

- D. We need to choose to resist the old nature and put on the new nature. **Col. 3: 5-10** *“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: [6] For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: ...[8] But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. [9] Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; [10] And have put on the new man...”*

## II. Lesson #2: We need to recognize the importance of controlling our mouth.

- “Use your language to serve God; do not make your communications a god.”

A. Don't use your tongue as a tool to injure other people.

- i. **Ps. 5:9** “For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.”
- ii. **Prov. 12:18a** “There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword...”

B. Don't use your tongue to spread foolishness.

- i. **Prov. 15:2** “The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.”
- ii. **Jude 1:16** “These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words...”

C. Don't use your tongue to explain your Christianity; live your life as a Christian.

- i. **James 1:26** “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.”
- ii. **I John 3:18** “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

D. Make a choice to control your tongue.

- i. **Job 27:4** “My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.”
- ii. **Ps. 34:13** “Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.”

### Close:

- Do not make God come down and confound your life because you have chosen to live independent from Him.
- Build your life based on a dependency on God. Realize you need Him in every decision you make, no matter how small it may seem. **Matt. 7:24-27** “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: [25] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. [26] And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: [27] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

## II Chro. 16:9a

“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.”

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### “Review Questions”

1. After the flood, who rose up and built great cities like Babel and Ninivah? **Nimrod.**
2. How did God decide to solve the problem of man's sole dependance on each other? **By confounding their language.**
3. The direction of a society is often determined by how they control their ???????? **Tongue.**
4. **Lesson #1:** We need to recognize, and resist man's natural tendency to be ???????? from God? **Independent.**
5. **Lesson #2:** We need to recognize the importance of controlling our ???????? **Mouth.**