

Wednesday Morning Devotional on July 31, 2024

## **Passage: Genesis 11:1-9**

At first glance, God's response to the Tower of Babel might seem a bit excessive. Why did God confuse their language and stop them from building the tower? Building a tower doesn't seem inherently evil, does it? Actually, this wasn't the first instance of such construction. The Tower of Babel bears many similarities to the city of Enoch in Genesis 4.

In Genesis 4:16, Cain leaves the presence of the Lord and settles in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Similarly, in Genesis 11:2, the descendants of Noah move eastward and settle in the plain of Shinar. Cain then builds a city and names it after his son, Enoch (4:17). In Genesis 11:4, the people decide to build a city with a tower that reaches the heavens, to make a name for themselves and avoid being scattered.

Both the city of Enoch and the Tower of Babel involve moving eastward, building a city, and seeking to make a name for themselves. This shows that the Tower of Babel wasn't an isolated incident but a repetition of what Cain's descendants did.

### **So, why did Noah's descendants repeat the mistake of Cain's descendants?**

The reason lies in the powerful nature of the sin hidden within the Tower of Babel.

#### **First, they didn't seek God.**

In Genesis 11:3, they make bricks, a practical invention for their time. However, in their process of making bricks, building a city, and constructing a tower, God is entirely absent. They discuss among themselves, saying, "Come, let us..." (11:3-4), but they never consult God. Their goal was to build a tower that reached the heavens to avoid being scattered, which shows their arrogance in thinking they could escape God's judgment by their own efforts. This arrogance also reflects a lack of trust in God's promise never to flood the earth again, as symbolized by the rainbow.

In our lives, no matter how good an opportunity might seem, like the bricks they found in the plain of Shinar, if we don't seek God's guidance, we are only building our own "Tower of Babel." Let's always ask God first and seek His will in every situation.

#### **Second, they didn't glorify God.**

In Genesis 11:4, they said, "let us make a name for ourselves." They wanted to boast about their accomplishments, building a tower so high it could even escape God's judgment. This prideful behavior leads to their downfall.

This pattern of seeking self-glorification is evident in the contrast between Cain's descendants and Seth's descendants in Genesis 4. While Cain's descendants were focused on their own names, to the extent that Cain named a city after his son Enoch (4:17), Seth's descendants began to call on the name of the Lord (4:26).

When we try to elevate ourselves, we become small, but when we seek to elevate God, He lifts us up.

### **Third, they didn't obey God.**

At the end of Genesis 11:4, they say, "lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." However, God's command to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1 was to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth (1:28). The same command was given to Noah's descendants after the flood (Genesis 9:1). God clearly instructed them to spread out and fill the earth, but they chose to ignore this command.

Humans tend to seek comfort and security, avoiding risks. We prefer familiar relationships and tasks over new challenges. But we must not fear dispersing, new tasks, or new relationships. We should expect that God will bless us and enrich our lives when we obey Him.

No matter how good our resources might be, or how successful we appear in the world, we must remember that our lives can become a "Tower of Babel." It's not about how high we have climbed. We must ask ourselves: **Am I seeking God? Am I glorifying God's name more than my own? Am I obeying God's word more than my own thoughts?** By examining these three areas, we can ensure our lives are not a Babel that will fall, but a holy temple that will stand forever. In Jesus' name, I bless you to be such a person.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with grateful hearts, acknowledging Your wisdom and grace in our lives. As we reflect on the story of the Tower of Babel, we are reminded of the

importance of seeking Your guidance, glorifying Your name, and obeying Your commands.

Lord, forgive us for the times we have tried to build our own towers, relying on our own strength and wisdom instead of seeking Your will. Help us to remember that true success and fulfillment come from following Your plans and purposes for our lives.

Teach us to humble ourselves before You, to lift up Your name above our own, and to trust in Your promises. May we be like the descendants of Seth, who called on Your name, rather than seeking to make a name for ourselves.

Father, give us the courage to step out in faith, to embrace new opportunities, and to build relationships that honor You. Help us to scatter Your love and truth wherever we go, fulfilling Your command to fill the earth with Your presence.

As we leave this time of reflection, may Your Holy Spirit continue to guide us, strengthen us, and transform us. Let our lives be a testament to Your glory, a holy temple that stands firm in faith and love.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.