

A Towering Disaster **Genesis 10-11** **February 22, 2026**

This past Wed at Blast, one of the high schoolers said something to me in Spanish. My two semesters in college were enough for me to recognize when she called me seniorita, I had been misgendered. But that's about all I remember. Melania Trump, of course, speaks 5 languages but that's nothing compared a Mahmood Akram of India who speaks 46 languages fluently and knows 400 all together! But considering there roughly 7100 in the world he's got a ways to go. You may have heard about the two translators on a ship. "Can you swim?" asks one. "No" says the other, "but I can yell for help in nine languages." If you did your homework, you know where all these languages came from. Please open your Bibles to Genesis 10 on pg 13 or 14.

Two weeks ago we started working our way through Genesis getting a good start with the creation, the fall, God's grace and promises to Adam and Eve. Then last week, we revisited the greatest natural disaster ever, the global flood of Noah's day. The Weather Channel would have a heyday with that. We again recognized God's grace and mercy in His patient waiting to send the deluge that eventually wiped out every person on earth except the 8 on the ark. We finished last week with them disembarking or de arking. And the first thing they did was to build an altar and worship the God who kept them safe. So many lessons.

We didn't have time last week to see Noah, who chapter 6 described as righteous among the people of his time, sink into a naked drunken stupor after drinking wine from the vineyard he planted. Like Noah, even godly men and women are infected with sin and we must be ever wary of the devil's temptations. Interestingly enough, archaeologists have found traces of some of the world's oldest vineyards and winepresses in that area. Sadly, his son Ham either took advantage of his father or was faulted for gossiping about him and received a curse while Noah's other two sons, Shem and Japheth helped their father.

Gen 9 ends by saying in vs 28-29, "After the flood Noah lived 350 years. 29 Altogether, Noah lived 950 years, and then he died." Not quite as long as Methuselah, but he was getting Sr. discounts for a long time. Noah was still alive for the first 56 years of Abram's life and some ancient sources **outside** the Bible even say Abraham spent 40 years with Noah learning about the one true God. Very possibly.

Today, we want to look at Genesis 10 and 11. Genesis 10 is often called the table of nations for it describes the people groups who descended from Noah's three sons. Here is a rough map of where they ended up. In general, Noah's son Ham's descendants went to Africa, the Middle East, and SE Asia, Japheth into Europe and Iran,

and Shem settled the Middle East and Asia including India. I have a book called After the Flood by Bill Cooper which goes into greater detail linking many of these ancient names in Gen 10 with modern cities and nations such as Moscow, the Dardenelles, Libya, Cyprus and many more.

In Gen 10, we also come across this in vs 8 Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the Lord." 10 The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Erech, Akkad and Calneh, in Shinar. 11 From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah 12 and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city." This Nimrod guy was quite a figure in the post-flood world. The term for mighty hunter seems to indicate perhaps a hunter of men. Some ancient histories say he hunted men to enslave them. He was a violent warring man who began repeating the sins from before the flood. Didn't take long, did it? Nimrod was worshipped as the Assyrian god of war. A mountain near Ararat is named Mt. Nimrod and many Iraqi and Iranian Arabs still speak his name in awe. It's not from the Bible, but one ancient tradition says that Isaac's son Esau, another hunter, beheaded Nimrod and everyone was relieved that he was dead.

Nimrod was a builder and is credited for founding 7 cities. And the first mentioned is Babylon. Say Babylon. Chapter 11 tells us more about this city so if you are able, please stand as we read Gen 11:1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

We don't know what it was like before the flood, but certainly afterward there was only one language. There was no need for google translate, interpreters, or Spanish teachers. So what language was it? Say good question. We don't know. I'm partial to Hebrew for a few reasons, but the Bible does not tell us. It wasn't English. At any rate having one language was a great advantage for business, education, travel, worship, publishing, etc. Imagine no language barriers.

As they moved from Ararat, they found a plain, a flat place in Shinar and settled there. And they decided to build a city, under Nimrod's direction. For the first time, it seems, they began building with bricks instead of natural stones. Bricks are uniform in size and shape and much easier to build with. So they built. But the city's not **all** they built. Say tower. And not just any tower. This tower was to reach where? To heaven. One idea of what it looked like. Vs 4 tells us they had two motivations. 1. So they could make a name for themselves. Say famous. Look at me, look at us. Look at our

accomplishments! We're awesome! Let's celebrate us! Of course the clear root of this is p-r-i-d-e. Which God hates.

The second motivation was so they wouldn't get scattered out. Which would not be a problem except God told Noah and his descendants to do what? Fill the earth. Exactly the opposite of what they were doing. This is open defiance against God. The name Nimrod actually means to rebel or inciter of revolt. Nimrod is a rebel. Some other passages interpret the same word as tyrant or despot. Which gives a bit of insight why the tower needed to reach heaven. It was a place to worship the heavens instead of the God who made them. Many recognize this as the birth of astrology and worshipping the stars and the planets which has found its way into virtually every false religion and our newspaper. This is the beginning of all false religions and idolatry. It all started here at Babel. This was an effort to reach God by our own works, by our own means. Let's work our way to heaven which every false religion still does. Do enough good works and you're in. Islam says do the five pillars, Buddhists say achieve nirvana by doing good deeds, Jehovah's Witnesses say if you knock on enough doors, Mormons require you to be good enough. Etc. Man's religions, man's ways of building our towers to heaven.

We don't need Noah's God, we've got our own. We don't need His laws and ways, we'll do what we want to do. The Bible doesn't give us the exact date, but other sources range Babel anywhere from 100-340 years after the flood. It didn't take us long! Noah was probably still around as were his sons and I have to wonder what he thought.

Up, up, up they built. Vs 5, "But the Lord **came down** to see the city and the tower that the men were building." Now isn't that interesting? Even though they were building it **up** to heaven, God still had to "come down" to see it. No matter how high up we think our good works take us, they will never reach heaven. All are towering disasters.

Vs 6. The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them." God knew the power of communication and working together. He knew how we humans will use good gifts He has given us to build monuments to ourselves. To build our expressways to get away from God. While we were made for relationships with each other, our first and highest relationship is to be with Him.

The antichrist will be very skillful in uniting the whole world under one common unit, empire, organization that will enable them to do amazing things previously impossible. Look at what 50 states have done working together! With God, we put man on the moon. We feed the world. We cured diseases. Imagine when all nations unite. Only not under God but under a false god. This was the beginning and Babel is still very much alive and well and the name of Babylon is used in the Book of Revelation to

describe the final united global resistance to Jesus Christ. And God will destroy it just as He did this tower.

Vs 7 “Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.” Say us. Many of you noticed it in creation when God said let us make man in our image. God has always been a Trinity. An indivisible unity of three that can never be fully understood. So God said, “Let us go down and confuse their language.” And He did. In a miracle only He could do, various languages exploded on the earth and suddenly they couldn’t understand each other anymore. As a result, they could no longer organize and unite to build.

Vs 8 So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel — because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.” Just as God told them to do in the first place. You can hear Him saying, “We can do this the easy way or the hard way.” As usual, we chose the hard way. So the people did scatter out. Which is also likely where groups of different skin colors originated. Adam and Eve were probably mid-brown with their children and grandchildren being variations of that. Up until Babel, they were all together. Then they became segregated through-out the earth and dark skinned folks only married other dark skin folks and light with light, etc. And here we are. Not many races, but one race with many colors.

And everywhere they went they kept building towers. Here are some examples from around the world. Some historians say these towers were built to survive a future flood disbelieving God’s rainbow promise. Everywhere they went they also took their false gods with them. The signs of the zodiac are known all over the world in virtually every civilization by the same names. How do you get a virgin out of 15 stars? How do you get 2 fish out of 18? And etc. But everywhere it’s all the same. Dr. D. James Kennedy wrote a wonderful book on the Real Meaning of the Zodiac in which he says God designed the 48 constellations to tell the gospel story. Psalm 19 says the heavens declare the glory of God. According to Arabic tradition the names and meanings came from Seth and Enoch before the flood. And as the Devil always does, he perverted it here at Babel. Researchers found that if you lived near Babel about 3000BC, the time of these events, you could see all 48 constellations in the night sky. And this tower was a place to worship them and divine them. And when they scattered out, they built their towers all over the world to practice this religion, to reach the heavens. Nimrod is credited, or debited, by many as the founder of astrology, pagan religion, human sacrifice, magic, and all manner of idolatry including Asherah and Baal found throughout the Old Testament.

Ok. The Tower of Babel is a nice story, but is it true? Well, as we said there are towers all over the earth and in Mesopotamia near ancient Babylon there are ruins of 30 ziggurats, or stepped towers. One of them is named the Temple of the Stairway to Pure

Heaven in Sippar, and another is the Temple which links Heaven and Earth in Larsa. Historian Herodotus tells us about Nebuchadnezzar II from the book of Daniel who tried to rebuild a tower at Babylon of which this may be the ruins near ancient Babylon in Iraq. It had a square base with 7 layers on it, the top of which was a great temple with a couch on which a god could sleep.

There are at least 50 other stories about the Tower of Babel from different countries and cultures around the world, which like the flood, don't have all the details are the same, but many are very similar. The Assyrian tablet, for example, in the British museum says the gods were angry and confused the speech of the builders. A Sumerian text written on cuneiform tablets tells of a golden age when all worshiped one God in one tongue but the leader of the gods changed their speech. The writer of the first Armenian history tells of it. The Chinese character for tower is made up of symbols for mankind, one mouth, undertake, and clay brick. Etc.

As for people spreading out, Bill Cooper in his book, *After the Flood*, presents many ancient genealogies all over the world which all go back to Noah. Various lines of Danish, British, and Irish kings all trace their lines to Noah's sons. Anglo-Saxon genealogies have six royal family lines all going back to Noah while some Chinese records talk of Nuah and his 3 sons Lo Han, Lo Shen, Jahphu. Before Christian missionaries arrived with the Bible.

As for the 7100 different languages, linguists don't know where they came from but say all our major 78-120 language families appeared suddenly about the same time. Josephus quotes Jasher that there were 70 new languages from Babel's fall. You would think all the people who do these studies would put their heads together and say, Duh, the Bible is right after all! The more that we discover, the more the Bible is verified. God will not be found a liar!

So what are the lessons for us? 1. Be careful who you follow. There are plenty of Nimrods around today out to make a name for themselves and they don't care who they step on to do it. Politicians, preachers, celebrities, etc. They set up false gods so you give them your full allegiance. And they will bring you to ruin! Beware of patriotic movements or global initiatives that may even use God's name to do ungodly things. In some ways, the internet and AI have become a type of Babel Tower, uniting humanity, sharing information, solving our common problems. Beware! Don't trade God for them! One day they will collapse! I'm not saying not to use them, but don't place your hope, your faith in them for when you do, it becomes an idol. And it will be towering disaster!

2. Don't seek to glorify your own name, only God's! Glorify Him and Him alone! Not you! Not us! Only He is worthy! In our life, home, church, God be glorified! Beware of any unity movement that leaves God out and seeks to glorify people or

humanity. Building projects, ministries, denominations, community events, global goals are all very powerful, and even very wonderful. But be sure they focus on God or be prepared for Him to destroy them like He did Babel's Towering Disaster! FPSC, WRE, and Night To Shine are overtly Christian ministries and I pray they always will be.

3. Don't disobey God thinking you are going to outwit Him. You won't. Look at the heap of ruins in the Shinar plain and learn! If He tells you to spread out, spread out! If He tells you to go, go, to stay, stay, or whatever else, do it!

4. Don't look to the stars for help. Look to the One who made them. Horoscopes and Astrology are lies of devil. Idolatry. Repent and turn away from them and turn to the One who made the stars.

5. Recognize Jesus as the only tower that does reach to heaven. He and He alone is our only way to get there. We must go through Him. He is a tower of refuge and strength and He will never crumble. Even the stars tell the story of how He saved you and me! And at Pentecost, the curse of Babel was reversed when God gifted believers to speak and hear the gospel in various languages so that people would know the good news of Jesus! So we can do the greatest work of all in sharing the Gospel! So that we could work together for His glory and His Kingdom and so that we don't have to try to work our way to Him. God already provided a way through Jesus! If you've never come to Him, do that as we pray.