

## Dueling Kingdoms

Genesis 11:1-9 - NCBC, February 20, 2022

Main Point: **God mercifully tears down our own kingdoms for the sake of His Kingdom.**

- The kingdom built by rebellion (10:8-12)
- The kingdom ruled by sin (11:1-4)
  - Idolatry: Seeking allegiance outside the LORD
  - Pride: Seeking approval outside the LORD
  - Fear: Seeking security outside the LORD
- The kingdom restrained by mercy (11:5-7)
- The kingdom reversed to accomplish God's plan (11:8-9)

Application: **Come, let us build Jesus' kingdom by faith!**

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### Opening Announcements:

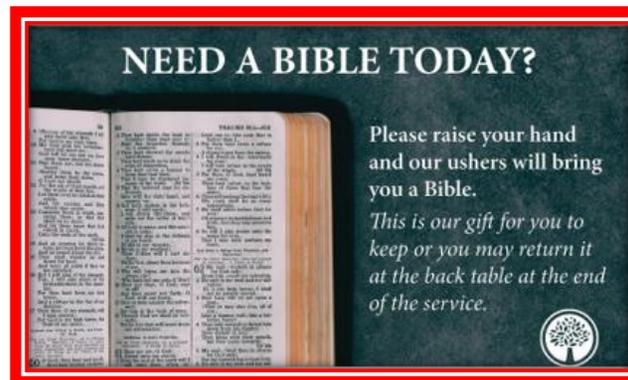
- Please plan to join us **next Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm**, for one of our quarterly Congregational Meetings. Come hear ministry updates from our elders and worship in a time of prayer together as we desperately depend on God's grace for our ongoing ministry together at New Castle Bible Church.
- **Today we are thrilled to take an exit offering for Mateo & Gabby Alzate** who serve on our behalf in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco for the sake of God's praise among all peoples.

<<Christ the True and Better>>



The whole Scripture is the story of God's glory revealed to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament points to Jesus, so that we might clearly see that Jesus – the Son of God – is our only hope in life and death.

It's now time for us to hear the preaching of God's Word. So please open your Bible to **Genesis chapter 11** where we discover the Tower of Babel is far more than a Children's Story.



If you do not have a Bible with you, we'd love to give you a Bible. Simply raise your hand, and then turn to

**Genesis chapter 11** once you receive a copy of God's Word for yourself.



Now, before we read the text, let me quickly review where we've been so far in this preaching series.

We started this series at the beginning – in **Genesis chapter 1** where God created everything that exists to reveal His all-powerful goodness. God created everything, and it was very good... until we get to **Genesis chapter 3**. There Adam and Eve directly disobey God's command and lead the entire human race into the corruption and death of sin.

Pastor Scott reminded us last week from **Genesis 6-9** that sin spiraled the entire human race downward until *every intention of people's hearts were only evil always*.<sup>1</sup> This grieved God so much that He washed the earth with a global flood – delivering His promised death to all His

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 6:5

<sup>2</sup> Hebrews 11:7

<sup>3</sup> Genesis 9:8-10

image-bearers who willfully refused to love Him and obey His commands.

But Noah's story is about more than sin's judgment. Noah and the ark point us to God's ultimate rescue plan in Jesus. The Gospel according to Noah reveals how the obedience of faith brings real rescue from the judgment our own sin deserves.<sup>2</sup>

So **Genesis 8** ends with Noah and his family being safely brought through the flood of God's judgment, exiting the ark to worship their God of salvation, and receive His covenant, or promise to never again flood the entire earth.<sup>3</sup> The rainbow that we see in the skies after it rains is still God's sign of His covenant with Noah and all creation.<sup>4</sup>

Then in **verses 1 and 7 of chapter 9**, God gives Noah and his family the same creation mandate that He originally gave to Adam and Eve,<sup>5</sup>

*Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.*

So as you read through **chapters 9-10**, it looks like that's what is happening. The three sons of Noah – Shem, Ham, and Japheth – disperse from the ark and **chapter 10** ends with **verse 32**,

<sup>4</sup> Genesis 9:12-17

<sup>5</sup> Genesis 1:28

*These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.*

So it seems like after the flood, Noah's descendants are actually obeying God now and filling the earth.

But there's three important literary parentheses, or interruptions to the genealogies in **chapters 9, 10 and 11** that reveal that all is not well in the rescued humanity after the flood. In fact, the families of Noah are not living in obedience to God.



First, the end of **chapter 9** shows Noah getting drunk and Ham dishonoring his father... all to show us that the intention of the human heart is still evil.<sup>6</sup> You would think that Noah and his three boys would have a healthy fear of God after exiting the ark and beginning a new life on the cleansed earth, right?

<sup>6</sup> Genesis 8:21

<sup>7</sup> This is very similar to how Genesis 1:26-30 describes the creation of man

But Scripture clearly reveals this pattern... man sins, God warns and judges the unbelievers, and rescues those who repent, and then ... the rescued go on to sin again, and the cycle just keeps repeating. Sin, Judgment, Mercy... Sin, judgment, mercy, ... sin, judgment, mercy... all showing us how much we need Jesus! We need a Savior who can deliver us from sin's slavery and give us a new heart and nature that truly loves God from the inside out! This is why we love Jesus so much – for only Jesus' death and resurrection in our place can set us free from sin's power and penalty forever!!

In **chapter 10** we discover the interruption of Nimrod's rebellious kingdom. Then **verses 1-9 in chapter 11** is the final parenthesis in this table of nations from Noah to Abraham that reveals the back story to how all the different languages and nations came into existence from one family on the earth after the flood.

So as we prepare now to read from **chapter 11**, remember today's text is a parenthetical interruption to the generational history that takes us from Noah's family to Abraham in **chapter 12**.

Therefore this is not in chronological order. **Chapter 11, 1-9** is a flashback – going back in time to tell us more details about how the languages and various nations came into existence.<sup>7</sup> After all, three different times in **chapter 10** we read how the peoples spread across the earth with their *own languages*, by their clans, in their

and woman in a general overview, and then Genesis 2:4-25 goes back in time to describe how God created man and then woman in more detail.

nations.<sup>8</sup> So our text today is simply going back in time to provide more explanation and historical details to how these different languages and nations came into existence from one growing family on the earth.



So if you're able, please stand in honor of the reading of God's Word, as I read from the ESV translation, starting in **Genesis 11, verse 1:**

*Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." 5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one*

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<sup>8</sup> Genesis 10:5, 20, 31.

*language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." 8 So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.*

**This is the reading of God's Word. Let's Pray.**

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The Tower of Babel is far more than a children's story about a tall tower.

**Genesis chapter 11** is about worship, pride, and fear. This chapter is a window into the sin that exists in all of our hearts, and a radiant display of how God's mercy engages with our sin. **Genesis chapter 11 verses 1-9** is about spectacular rebellion and severe mercy. This Old Testament story is surprisingly relevant to God's people today, for it does far more than explain the history of nations! This biblical history challenges our own purpose for living and calls us to live for God's kingdom more than our own!<sup>9</sup>

You see the main point of this sermon is that,

<sup>9</sup> Matthew 6:33; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15



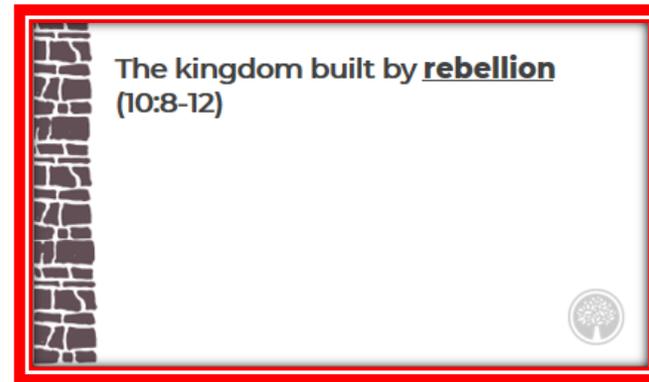
God mercifully tears down our own kingdoms for the sake of His Kingdom. Sin always causes the human heart to construct its own self-serving kingdom. But whatever sin builds, God's grace mercifully breaks down.

And this isn't because God is a mean-spirited, human joy-killer. No, in fact just the opposite! God is a happy God<sup>10</sup> who knows that our own Me-sized kingdoms will never be able to satisfy souls that were created to enjoy knowing God Himself. So when we begin to build our lives around ourselves... God employs a kind of severe mercy – a disciplining mercy of deconstruction – to save us from ourselves, and redirect our way towards obedience, glory, and eternal joy.

So let's dive into the background of Babel by examining **Genesis chapter 10, verses 8-12** where we see,

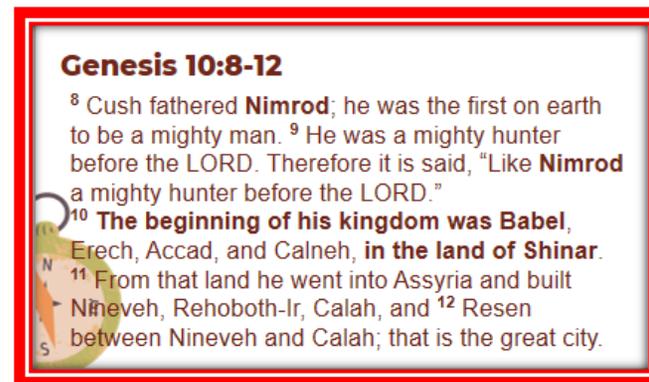
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<sup>10</sup> 1 Timothy 1:11 “blessed God” is literally “the happy God”



The kingdom built by rebellion.

Let me read **Genesis 10 verse 8** for us,



**Genesis 10:8** says, *Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD. Therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunger before the LORD. The beginning of his kingdom was Babel... [and these other cities] ... in the land of Shinar.*

Now notice,



**Nimrod founded Babel.** Babel is most often translated, “Babylon” in Scripture, so here we can see that the great-grandson of Noah, and grandson of Ham,<sup>11</sup> was the king responsible for building the first Babylon,<sup>12</sup> as well as many other great cities in ancient times.

Throughout Scripture, “Babylon” represents the pride<sup>13</sup> and wickedness of sin,<sup>14</sup> and the epicenter of all false religion.<sup>15,16,17</sup> And that’s no surprise when you understand that the name, “Nimrod,”

<sup>11</sup> Remember from Genesis 9:24-27, Ham’s youngest son Canaan was cursed by Noah after Ham (Noah’s youngest son) so wickedly dishonored Noah in his drunkenness. So Nimrod’s part of the family tree had been stained by a curse to slavery

<sup>12</sup> Babel, or Babylon as it is more commonly called, was located on the west bank of the Euphrates, about 80 kilometers or 50 miles south of what is today Baghdad, Iraq.

<sup>13</sup> I.e. Isaiah 13:19; Daniel 4:30

<sup>14</sup> I.e. Isaiah 47:1-15

<sup>15</sup> I.e. Revelation 17-18

<sup>16</sup> For further study of how Babylon is used in Scripture as a biblical



Literally means, “Rebel.”<sup>18</sup> King Nimrod was a rebel. In fact, that phrase “before the LORD” is probably best translated as “against the LORD,”<sup>19</sup> since Nimrod was the world’s first known dictator.

Three times these verses emphasize that Nimrod was,

paradigm for worldly kingdoms who exist in opposition to God see:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/whore-Babylon-mystery.html> and

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Babylon-in-the-Bible.html>.

<sup>17</sup> According to Warren Wiersbe’s historical research, Nimrod and his wife devised a new religion built around “the mother and child.” For details, read Alexander Hislop’s book *The Two Babylons* (London: S.W. Partridge, 1956).

<sup>18</sup> The name “Nimrod” only occurs in Genesis 10:8-9, aside from the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 1:10 and in Micah 5:6.

<sup>19</sup> As is the thought of Psalm 66:7 “let not the rebellious exalt themselves [or rise up against Him]”



A mighty man, for he ruled with violence and aggression. The word “hunter” doesn’t refer to the hunting of animals, but the hunting of men!

So King Nimrod is the picture of human rebellion. Perhaps he despised the fact that his uncle Canaan brought a shameful curse of slavery into their family line?<sup>20</sup> So he powers up against the LORD, and makes himself so strong that he violently forces others to become enslaved to him.

And through his reign of violent aggression and oppression, he founds the Babylonian empire first in the land of Shinar, and then goes on to found the great cities of Assyria.

Now **verse 10** is the first time in the Bible that the word “kingdom” is used. But notice, this is not referring to the kingdom of God. This is man’s kingdom. A kingdom of man, by man, for man’s glory.

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<sup>20</sup> Genesis 9:25-27

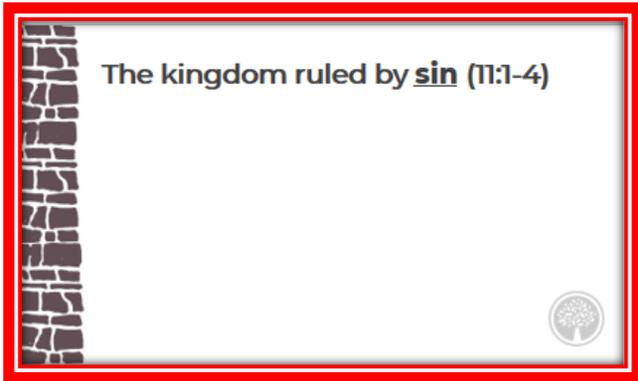


Babel is the kingdom Nimrod built by rebellion.

O I have to wonder this morning. Are there any Nimrods here today? Are any of us fighting against the LORD right now with all of our might? Maybe you despise God’s curse against sin, and respond saying, “I’ll take care of my own problems! I’ll build my own kingdom, raise my own support-network, and make a name for myself in defiance of God’s sovereign decrees!”

Are you currently living like, “It’s my way or the highway”?

O friends, God will mercifully tear down any kingdom that seeks to exalt itself against His good rule. After all, any kingdom built by rebellion is going to be a kingdom,



ruled by sin.

And that's exactly what we find when we start reading **chapter 11. Verse 1** sets the stage: After the flood, there was complete unity among all the people on earth.

*The whole earth had one language and the same words.*

Of course, this makes sense when we understand that the entire human race started over with just 4 couples<sup>21</sup> from the same family after the flood.

Sometime after the flood, these descendants of Noah, under the direction of King Nimrod, found a wide valley between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in the land of Shinar, which is the Hebrew name for Babylonia,<sup>22</sup> and they settled, or literally "sat tight" there.

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<sup>21</sup> Genesis 6:10, 18; 7:7, 13; 8:16, 18; 9:18-19; 1 Peter 3:20

<sup>22</sup> One of the eastern kings that Abraham defeated was "Amraphel king of Shinar" (14:1, 9). Elsewhere in the OT, Shinar refers to the Babylon/Babylonia area (e.g. Joshua 7:21; Isaiah 11:11; Daniel 1:2; Zechariah 5:11)

Now remember: what command did God give the 4 couples after delivering them from the flood?

*Multiply and fill the earth,*<sup>23</sup> right?

But now just three or four generations after the flood, we find Noah's family clustering, not scattering.

In **verse 3** they all say,

*"Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly."*

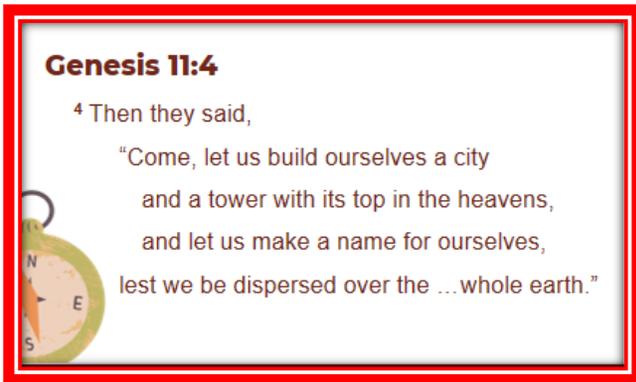
Now pause. Remember **Genesis** was written shortly before 1405 BC.<sup>24</sup> So the original audience for this book was the Israelites who had just been delivered from Egypt, and were now waiting to enter the promise Land as the newly created nation of God, right?

So what do you think the Israelites would have immediately thought about when they heard these words, *"Come, let us make bricks!"*? They would have thought of Egypt and the oppressive slavery<sup>25</sup> from which God just rescued them, right? They knew far too well how to build with clay bricks and bitumen, (or tar or asphalt), for mortar. So then, the sinful associations of Babel's kingdom becomes even clearer in **verse 4** when they said,

<sup>23</sup> Genesis 9:1, 7

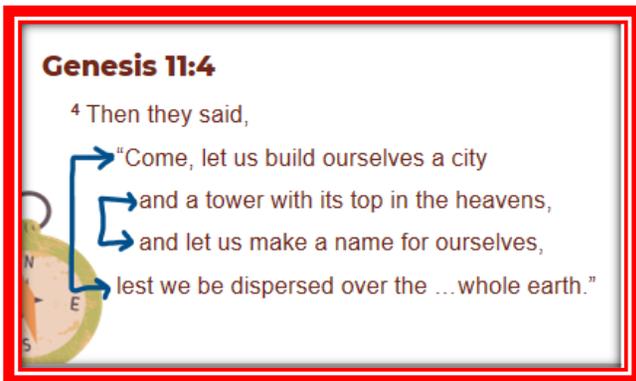
<sup>24</sup> Genesis was breathed out by God to Moses, along with the other books of the Pentateuch, sometime after the Exodus (circa 1445 B.C.) and before Moses' death in 1405 B.C.

<sup>25</sup> Exodus 1:11, 14; 2:13; 5:1-23



*Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.*

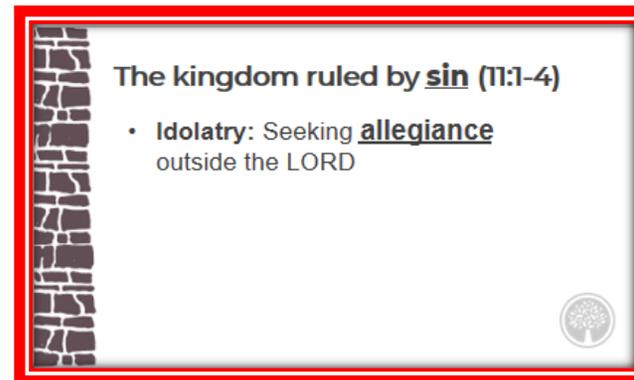
Now **verse 4** is key, so let's unpack it carefully. Notice the intentions of Nimrod's kingdom...



*...are given in two connected pairs.* They desire to build a city... so that they won't be scattered over the whole earth. And they want to build a temple-tower, so that they can make a name for themselves.

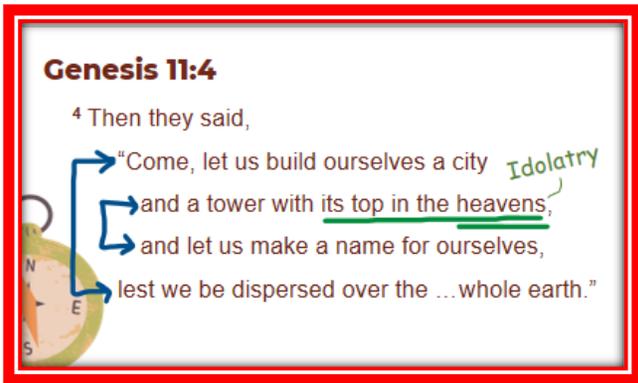
Now church, please pay attention. I believe **verse 4** reveals three sins that rule any person or nation or kingdom that seeks to defy the authority of Jesus. So as we walk through this verse, pray that God's Spirit would cleanse you from these sins which so strongly oppose God and cause us to fight against His gracious Lordship in our lives.

Babel's first sin was the sin of,



*Idolatry, or false worship. Nimrod's kingdom was seeking allegiance or loyalty to something outside the LORD*

We see this when the people cooperated to build a temple tower –



Literally, a tower with its “head in the heavens.”

In other words, although this tower was tall, this phrase is not primarily about physical height, but it’s about spiritual worship.<sup>26</sup> The heavens refer to the place where the gods, little “g,” lived. And since the Bible repeatedly traces all false religion to Babylon it seems **Genesis 11** is the first biblical record of organized false religion.

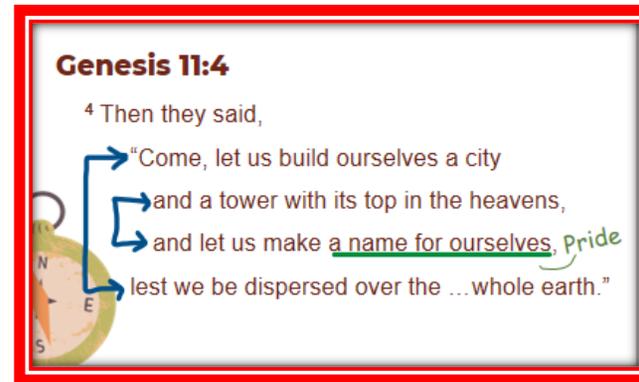
So loved ones... if you are living like Nimrod, and rebelling ...and blatantly disobeying what you know to be God’s commands... then you are guilty of idolatry.

Because every human being will always worship someone or something. You can never not worship! That’s part of what it means to be an image-bearer of God.<sup>27</sup> God created every human soul as a responsible worshipper – so we might love and enjoy Him forever!

<sup>26</sup> After all, if the people were truly trying to reach heaven physically, why would they build on the plain of Shinar which was near Sea Level, rather than on one of the surrounding mountains that would immediately have given them several thousand feet head-start?

So when you refuse to obey God, you are actually serving someone or something other than the One who created you, and made you in His image, and delivered you from sin’s judgment, for His greater glory and joy.

Also notice how pride always goes with false religion:



*And let us make a name for ourselves.*

Don’t miss this: Worship is always tied to identity... The human soul always roots its identity in the object of its worship. So when you disconnect your worship from God, you will always seek your identity or your approval from whatever you are worshipping. This is the essence of pride.

<sup>27</sup> C.f. Genesis 1:27; The “image of God” in man could be helpfully summarized as “Man is a Personal, Spiritual, Everlasting being, with moral responsibility who well resembles His Creator.” In other words, God creates humans to be his representatives on earth.

The kingdom ruled by **sin** (11:1-4)

- **Idolatry:** Seeking **allegiance** outside the LORD
- **Pride:** Seeking **approval** outside the LORD



Pride sinfully seeks approval outside the LORD.

Pride says, I'm going to empower myself with the approval of others so that I can live independent of God.

So we wear what we wear, and drive what we drive, and preach how we preach... just to be noticed and approved by others.

O friends... do not be deceived by sin's proud lies, that you truly think you can build a kingdom that will withstand the severe mercy of our God.

Ask yourself honestly, am I purchasing this item, or pursuing this promotion, or performing this service just so others will think better of me?

Because underneath all of that pomp and pride, every man-made kingdom is ruled by the sin of,

The kingdom ruled by **sin** (11:1-4)

- **Idolatry:** Seeking **allegiance** outside the LORD
- **Pride:** Seeking **approval** outside the LORD
- **Fear:** Seeking **security** outside the LORD



Fear: which is simply Seeking security outside the LORD

**Verse 4** makes this very clear,

**Genesis 11:4**

4 Then they said,

→ "Come, let us build ourselves a city Security

→ and a tower with its top in the heavens,

→ and let us make a name for ourselves,

→ lest we be dispersed over the ... whole earth."

L Fear



*Come, let us build ourselves a city... lest we be dispersed* and find ourselves all alone away from one another.

Anytime we allow fear, or a love for security, to control our lives, rather than love for God or love for others, we are building our own kingdom that God will mercifully tear

down until we fix the anchor of our soul firm and secure in the finished work of Jesus on our behalf.<sup>28</sup>

Dear church... if you're like me, you wrestle often with the sin of fear and its Siamese twin called control. But Jesus died and rose again to set us free from this Nimrod spirit of fear!

The saving grace of God has rescued us from sin's judgment, so that now we have nothing to fear.<sup>29</sup> God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and self-control.<sup>30</sup> Our security is found in God's eternal adoption of our souls.<sup>31</sup>



O Lord, please deliver us from our Me-sized kingdoms which are ruled by idolatry, pride, and fear.

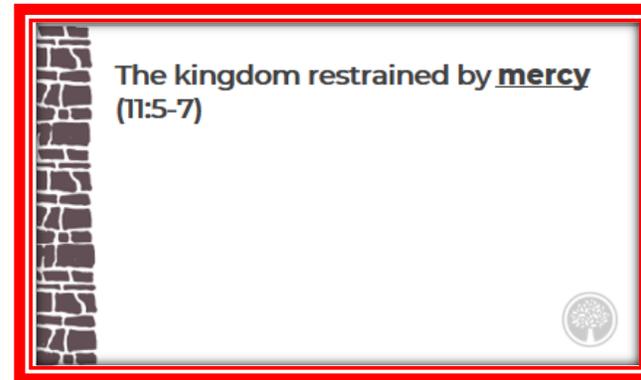
Then right on cue, in **verses 5-7** we see,

<sup>28</sup> Hebrews 6:19-20; c.f. <https://www.gotquestions.org/hope-as-an-anchor.html>

<sup>29</sup> Matthew 10:28; John 14:27; Romans 8:15

<sup>30</sup> 2 Timothy 1:7; c.f. 1 John 4:18

<sup>31</sup> Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 4:30



The kingdom of man restrained by the mercy of God.

While people can never reach God on their own, God mercifully lowers Himself to "come down" to us.

**Verse 5** is quite humorous really...the only part of their building that actually reached the heavens was their sin. In fact, the language of the LORD having to "come down" to see the city and the tower is quite entertaining...

"Let's see... Nimrod and his people are supposedly building a large kingdom. O there it is! How cute. Now I can finally see<sup>32</sup> the man-sized project which "Adam's Sons,"<sup>33</sup> have built."

<sup>32</sup> Obviously this is ironic language not meant to teach that God couldn't see the events of earth from heaven. Scripture is clear that God is all-knowing and always watches everything at all times. (Psalm 139:7-12, 147:5; Proverbs 24:12; 1 John 3:20)

<sup>33</sup> This is the literal translation of "children of man"

And so God says to Himself in **verse 6**,<sup>34</sup>

*Behold, they are one people and they all have one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing they propose to do will now be impossible for them.*

Now, don't misunderstand **verse 6**. God is not threatened by the power of human cooperation. This is not a statement of fear, but of dismay. God sees here that the evil of man's heart is so wicked that if left unchecked, the human race will only go on to undertake more spectacular deeds of evil and defiance against Him.

And so God mercifully determines in **verse 7** to confuse their language – thereby dismantling their anti-God confederacy. Here God doesn't judge them with a flood or with fire, but with a miraculous frustration in the minds and tongues of the people.

Can you imagine the confusion that must have occurred on that day when – in a moment – different people started speaking different languages?

“Another brick please.” “Dong-suey-chow!” “No hablo Espanol!” “Sprechen da Deutsch!” “Pa Bon!”

O church... do you see the mercy in God's response? He was mercifully tearing down the kingdom that sin was

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<sup>34</sup> Compare God's reflection before judgment in Genesis 3:22

<sup>35</sup> C.f. this excellent sermon by Pastor John Piper which gloriously marvels in this truth: <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-pride-of-babel->

building, all so that His people would actually obey His command to disperse over the entire world.



Truly this account is an account of ironic reversals. The kingdom of man is reversed to accomplish God's plan.

**Verses 8-9** reveal that the Lord did to the people exactly what they were trying to avoid in their fear. The location of unity now becomes the place of scattering. Their attempts at making a name for themselves gets renamed as *Babel* in **verse 9**, meaning confusion, and will forever represent the folly of false religion and human pride.

But all of this mercifully accomplishes God's plan.<sup>35</sup> For through the languages, different nations would be formed, from which Israel itself could be chosen as God's nation among all nations.<sup>36</sup> Through this severe mercy of diverse tongues or languages, pride would be destroyed, and evil would be restrained in the world. Through the

[and-the-praise-of-christ](#)

<sup>36</sup> Deuteronomy 7:6, 14:2, 26:19

spread of different tongues and people groups around the world, the glory of Christ would be more greatly magnified forever when people from every tribe and language and nation praise Him for His salvation.<sup>37</sup>

So let's be careful not to miss the point of all of this today:



God mercifully tears down our own kingdoms for the sake of His Kingdom.

No human kingdom can ever withstand God's authority. No amount of false religion, no amount of pride or fear can ever withstand the assault of God's severe mercy towards you.

So then, I must encourage us all today to,

<sup>37</sup> Revelation 5:9-10, 7:9-10; c.f. Matthew 28:18-19; Romans 1:16



Come, let us build Jesus' kingdom by faith!

If you didn't notice already, the phrase "Come let us..." was repeated three times in **Genesis 11**. In **verse 3 and verse 4** – the people urge each other towards proud, fearful idolatry. Come, let us worship ourselves. Come let us build our own kingdom. Come, let us make sure people remember us.

But then in contrast we see God Himself in **verse 7**, saying, "Come let us go down..."

You see, loved ones... every single person here today struggles with the sins of idolatry, pride, and fear. Not one of us is exempt from Nimrod's strong temptations.

And that's why God sent Jesus to come down, and add humanity to His nature,<sup>38</sup> so that He could die our death and give us His life, and set us free from sin's slavery.

<sup>38</sup> Philippians 2:6-8

After all, the rest of **Genesis 11**<sup>39</sup> lists the family history of Shem's descendants all the way to Abraham...which then gets repeated verbatim in **Luke chapter 3** in the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah!<sup>40</sup> So don't miss this, Church. All the way back in **Genesis 11**, after one of the most spectacular sins in history, God was planning for Jesus.

So if there's any rebellious Nimrods listening right now, let me remind you of God's gracious invitation to you:

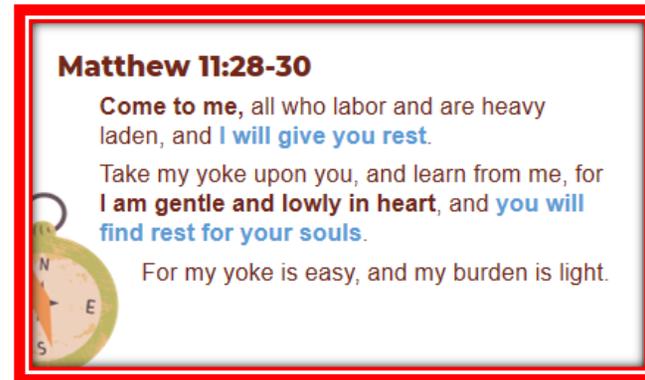


For God says,  
"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord:  
though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red like crimson,  
they shall become like wool."<sup>41</sup>

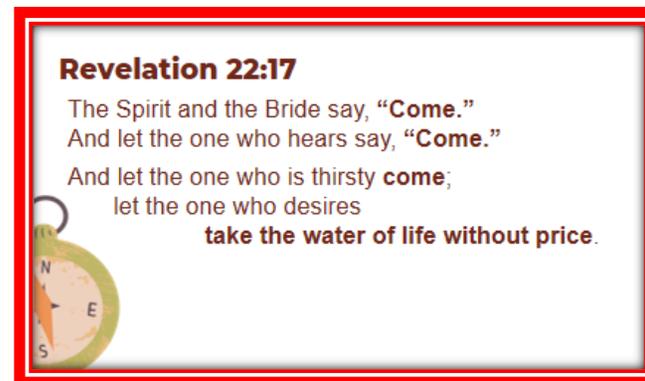
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<sup>39</sup> Genesis 11:10-26

<sup>40</sup> Luke 3:23-38



Jesus says,  
*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*"<sup>42</sup>



And then in the very last chapter of the Bible, *The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears*

<sup>41</sup> Isaiah 1:18

<sup>42</sup> Matthew 11:28-30

say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.<sup>43</sup>

Dear Nimrod – stop trying to make your own name, and build your own kingdom, and secure your own life. Believe on the Lord Jesus. Worship Jesus only, and satisfy your soul's thirst in Jesus.



And Christian – please learn from Babylon's sin. God has also given us a mandate to go and make disciples among all people groups, right?<sup>44</sup> We have now received the Holy Spirit which makes one people again through Jesus!<sup>45</sup> So let's not be found clustering up in our church houses and building our own secure kingdoms that are more about our own glory than God's.

God refuses to share His glory with anyone. So let's come to Jesus... repent of our fear, pride, and idolatry, and believe that Jesus is our Lord! For when you believe that Jesus is as good as He is, you will obey Him. And whenever you obey Jesus' commands, you joyfully build His kingdom for the eternal praise of His Name.

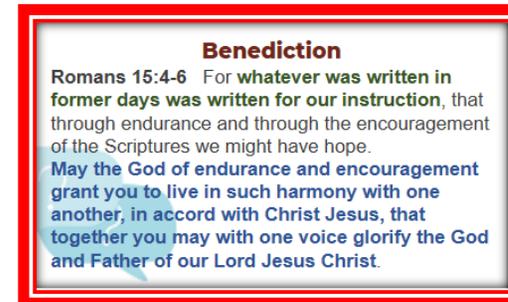
<sup>43</sup> Revelation 22:17

<sup>44</sup> Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

Let's pray. **Closing prayer.**

Closing Song – <<Behold Our God>>

Exit Offering today for Mateo & Gabby Alzate.



*For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:4-6*



*Please show this slide immediately after the conclusion of the Benediction in both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> services for 2 minutes; then after 2 minutes, you can transition to other slides, etc. Thank you!*

<sup>45</sup> Acts 2:1-11; c.f. Revelation 3:12

## **Recommended Resources on Dueling Kingdoms:**

- Genesis 3:22; 4:16-17; 10:8-12; 25
- Psalm 55:9
- Isaiah 14:3, 13-17
- Zephaniah 3:9-13
- Matthew 23:12
- Acts 2:1-11
- Revelation 3:12; 5:9-10; 17:1-18; 18:1-24
  
- Dr. Barrick's Genesis class @ The Master's Seminary-  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yb4HCRFIO3M>
- <https://answersingenesis.org/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-pride-of-babel-and-the-praise-of-christ>
  
- Coming to Grips with Genesis, ed. Mortenson & Ury
- What happened in the Garden, Chou
- The Battle for the Beginning, MacArthur
- More than a Story, Michael (Children's Book)
- Spectacular Sins, Piper

## **Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions**

1. Read Genesis 10:8-12. This is the first time the word "kingdom" is used in the Bible, and notice it references man's kingdom, not God's kingdom. Where did Nimrod's kingdom have its beginning?
2. Review Genesis 11:4. What heart-desires motivated the people's plans? How would you summarize the peoples' sin? How do you see these same sinful desires in your own life?
3. Review Genesis 11:5. The phrase "children of man" is literally the words, "sons of Adam." How are these people like Adam? What similarities can you identify between Gen 3 and Gen 11?
4. Review Genesis 11:6. Compare with Gen 3:22. Is God threatened? How is God's response actually an expression of mercy? How then should we think about the various languages and nations which exist today?
5. Compare Genesis 11:10-26 with Luke 3:23-38. How does the end of Genesis 11 bring hope into the darkness of people's evil rebellion against God that we see at the beginning of chapter 11?
6. Read Revelation 3:12. How can we conquer our indwelling sin in a manner that is different from Nimrod's failed conquests? C.f. 1 John 5:4
7. Read Acts 2:1-11 and Revelation 5:9-10. How will God's grace ultimately reverse the judgment of languages?