

## Session 8: The Construction of Idolatry

Key text: 11:1-32

### Announcements

→ Upcoming EquipMEN† events:

- *OneDegree Men's Breakfast*, April 17. Call Darius Teichroew to register (612-205-5412)
- *Business Leaders Luncheon with John Piper*, March 31. Call Joe Komarek to register (612-310-7764)
- *Fight Club: A one day seminar for missional men*, May 1. Call Darius Teichroew to register (612-205-5412)

### The Escalation of Sin in Babylon

This episode is significantly more important than its length suggests. It presents a unified humanity using all its resources to establish a city that is the antithesis of what God intended when he created the world. The tower is a symbol of human autonomy, and the city builders see themselves as determining and establishing their own destiny without any reference to the Lord.<sup>17</sup>

*Man-o-logue*: Read Genesis 11:1-9 and 12:1-9 at your tables. Make any observations on 11:1-9 that may be useful. *Focus* on the connections or “hinge points” between 11:1-9 and what precedes it (Gen. 1-10) and follows it (Gen. 12:1-3 and beyond).

**Scene 1: Setting: On the Plains of Shinar (11:1-2)**

**Scene 2: The Human Word: To Construct a City and Tower (11:3-4)**

**Scene 3: The Divine Word: To Deconstruct by Confounding Speech (11:5-7)**

**Scene 4: Final Setting: The Nations Scattered (11:8-9)**

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<sup>17</sup> *ESV Study Bible note on Gen. 11:1-9*

## Theological Reflections on Genesis 11:1-9

1. God is absolutely \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ among \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is the result of God's judgment of sin and idolatry. (cf. Eph. 2:11-22)
3. Humanity incurs God's wrath when it uses \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. \_\_\_\_\_) in ways that attempt to displace God.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ reflects God's judgment, but God has promised, and given a foretaste of, a great \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Acts 2:1-13; Rev. 7:9-10)

### Suggested reading for next week's seminar discussion

*Scripture to study:* Genesis 12-17

Bruce K. Waltke, *Genesis: A Commentary*, pp. 202-265

Joyce G. Baldwin, *The Message of Genesis 12-50*, pp. 27-84

### **Worship: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God** Martin Luther

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing;  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.