

Genesis 048

To God Be The Glory!

Genesis 11:8-9

August 22, 2021

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Well, good morning everybody. Let us take our Bibles if we could, and open them to Genesis 11:8. The title of our message this morning is "To God be the Glory!" We continue on, sometimes ever so slowly it seems, through Genesis 1-11, which features four events: Creation (Genesis 1-2); the Fall, what went wrong (Genesis 3); then came the third event, the Flood or judgment (Genesis 6-9).

Genesis Structure

- I. Genesis 1-11 (four events)
 - A. Creation (1-2)
 - B. Fall (3-5)
 - C. Flood (6-9)
 - D. National dispersion (10-11)
 - 1. Table of nations (10)
 - 2. Tower of Babel (11:1-9)
 - 3. Genealogy from Shem to Terah (11:10-32)

Lately, we have been working our way through this section here on national dispersion. We have taken a look at the Table of Nations in Genesis 10. That is where Noah's three sons and their respective descendants settled throughout the earth. And yet, the Table of Nations does not answer every question. It tells you what the nations are. It is good on the what question, but it really does not give you the answer to the why question. Why or how did these nations come into existence to begin with?



So you have to supplement your understanding of Genesis 10 with Genesis 11. Genesis 11 is the cause and Genesis 10 is the result. Genesis 11:1-9 is featuring the Tower of Babel. We are going to try to finish the Tower of Babel today—not building it, but we are going to finish studying it, hopefully.

There was a description (Genesis 11:1-2) of the former world, what the world was like before the Tower of Babel incident. There was a time in history in which there was only one language on planet Earth. Then in Genesis 11:3-4 there was a rebellion. Man does the opposite of what God says and tries to build a stairway to heaven. Then there was Genesis 11:5, God's condescension. God actually comes down to see what these pipsqueaks, so to speak, are doing.

When God comes down, He makes some observations. We see those in Genesis 11:6, one of which we looked at last time. I will try to backtrack a little bit here since we had some issues with our slides and things last week. I will try to reacquaint us with some things we may have missed.

God said this in Genesis 11:6:

"...and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them"
(Genesis 11:6).

This is not speaking of the potential for good, but the potential for evil. This is why nations exist and why God is against world government. God is against world government unless it is His Son running it, which is going to happen one day, by the way. But until that day in history comes, man in his fallen state tries to run things, and every time man gets his fingers into something, he messes it up. This is true because of man's nature.

In the same general time period, God said back in Genesis 8:21:

"...for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth..." (Genesis 8:21).

If you entrust him with too much power, he will abuse it all.

"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."¹

So God dispersed power at the Tower of Babel. He divided the world into nations. The concept of nations extends from this point in time, all the way through human history until the very end.

All of those verses there, if you look at them, you will see that the doctrine of nations continues to be upheld. We also know that America's Founding Fathers, when they put

¹ Lord Acton.

together our own constitution, borrowed heavily from the Bible. We have explained that. This is why our own United States government is set up the way that it is. It is set up in a way so that not one person can take control of everything.

It is one of the greatest instruments that has ever been created to protect the citizens from tyranny. The power of the government was divided, as we saw last time, not just horizontally between three separate branches of government, but it was divided vertically between the national government and the individual state governments. You see this in Federalist Paper 45, where James Madison says:

"The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government, are few and defined. Those which are to remain to the State governments are numerous and indefinite."²

Boy. That is not working very well today, is it? Originally, the federal government was supposed to have very few powers. It is almost as if the opposite has happened over the course of 200 plus years of our existence.

You see this division of power vertically in our own Tenth Amendment, which says:

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution nor prohibited by it to the States are reserved to the States respectively or to the people."³

Now, why did they want power to the states? What is the rest of that sentence? Or to the people? The United States government is unique in the sense that it is supposed to respond to the dictates of the people. America's Founding Fathers understood that the branch of government or the area of government closest to the people was not the feds in Washington, D.C., but it was the individual state governments.

In other words, America's Founding Fathers created a government that was inefficient. They created a government where things would not work well, where it was hard to get things done. That is the whole logic of the division of powers horizontally and also vertically. It is no oddity, then, since they were readers of the Bible, that God virtually did the same thing here in Genesis 11:1-9.

Thomas Jefferson says this:

² Ibid.

³ Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, <https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-10/>.

"...in questions of power then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the constitution..."⁴

The original design was when you elect people to office, they are literally in chains. I think the definition of freedom is as follows: when the government is afraid of the people. The definition of tyranny is the opposite: when the people become fearful of the government. I would just ask you, which direction are we moving in?

The original design was to take people that had power and to literally put them in chains and hem them in through a constitution which divided power, because, as Thomas Jefferson said, we do not trust in man's goodness, and neither did God. That is why He confounded the language, obstructing the One World government project and creating the nation state.

I am not exactly the poster boy for five point Calvinism. There are some things in five point Calvinism that I think are an overreach. So when I say this, I am not making a statement such as, "I am a four or five point Calvinist," or "I am against five point Calvinism." I am just trying to note here a historical fact.

The people that founded our government came from Europe, and they were steeped in Calvinism. One of the truths of Calvinism, and it is known by the acronym TULIP, is they believed in total depravity. You even see this in Thomas Jefferson in the quote I said earlier: "...let no more be heard of the confidence in man." That only makes sense from someone coming from the perspective of God's Word that has a very negative view of human nature.

"Bancroft '...simply calls Calvin 'the father of America' and adds: 'He who will not honor the memory and respect the influence of Calvin knows but little of the origin of American liberty.'"⁵

You should praise the Lord every day of your life that the people that put our government together believed in total depravity. If they did not believe in total depravity, they would not have divided political power the way they did. And yet that division of political power, vertically and horizontally, is what has kept America out of tyranny these many years.

This is what the whole concept of American exceptionalism is about. It is not saying that Americans are better and greater than anybody else on the earth. What it is saying is that America is an exception to the rule amongst the governments of the earth. The default mode in human history is tyranny, and we have been kept largely safe, although things could be changing, from tyranny in this country because of this doctrine of total

⁴ Thomas Jefferson, *Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, 30:529-556.

⁵ Lorraine Boettner, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*, (Philipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1932), 398-90.

depravity, which our Founding Fathers took from Genesis 8 and Genesis 11. They brought it right into the outworking of our governmental structure.

Don't take my word for it. Take the words of one of our most influential Supreme Court justices, the late Anthony Scalia, who passed away recently. This is what he said:

"Every tin horn dictator in the world today, every president for life, has a Bill of Rights...That's not what makes us free; if it did, you would rather live in Zimbabwe. But you wouldn't want to live in most countries in the world that have a Bill of Rights. What has made us free is our Constitution. Think of the word 'constitution;' it means structure. That's why America's framers debated not the Bill of Rights during the Constitutional Convention in 1787 in Philadelphia...but rather the structure of the federal government. The genius of the American constitutional system is the dispersal of power...Once power is centralized in one person, or one part [of government], a Bill of Rights is just words on paper...A constitution is about setting structure; it is not about writing the preferences of special interest groups."⁶

He is saying that what has kept us free is the dispersal of power vertically, horizontally. It is the same logic that the Lord used here in Genesis 11. Consequently, the doctrine of the individual nation state, we believe, is one of the divine institutions of God. What is a divine institution? It is something that the Creator Himself has built into the fabric of fallen creation, so that fallen creation could be perpetuated. How does our world, in its fallen state continue on despite man's inherent bent towards evil? The answer to that is divine institutions which God has created.

The Divine Institutions



- Conscience (Gen. 3:22)
- Marriage and family (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-25)
- Labor (Gen. 2:15; 3:19)
- Government (Gen. 9:6)
- Nationalism (Gen. 11:1-9)

⁶ Kevin Mooney, "Supreme Court Justice Scalia: Constitution, Not Bill of Rights, Makes Us Free," online: <http://dailysignal.com/2015/05/11/supreme-court-justice-scalia-constitution-not-bill-of-rights-makes-us-free/>, May 11 2015, accessed 20 January 2016.

These are realities for the unsaved world as well as for the saved world. I bring this up because we are studying all of these in our progression through the book of Genesis. You will see all of them as we have moved through.

The first institution is the institution of conscience, or the barometer that God has placed inside every human being, Christian or not, allowing them to know the difference between good and evil. The second institution is the institution of the family. Marriage is not man's idea; it is God's idea. God created heterosexual monogamous marriage and created an environment where children would be born into that union and reared and raised in such a way that they would be able to say no to their own sin nature.

Then there is the institution of divine labor, where God wants people to support themselves through the work of their own hands. And then there is the institution of human government that we studied in Genesis 9, where God actually put the sword into the hands of the state to execute murderers so that the world would not become violent like it was in the days of Noah.

Four of these institutions we have studied, and here is the fifth one now coming into existence, the institution of nationalism. Without nationalism, if the forces of evil get control of the only government that exists, then there is a system of checks and balances. Think what would have happened with Adolf Hitler in World War II if there weren't the allies that could rise and oppose him? What was happening in Nazi Germany would be replicated all over planet Earth, and evil would know no boundaries—no check and balance. That is what Genesis 11:6 means when God says, "If I do not act here and confound the language, nothing is going to be impossible for these people in terms of their potential for evil."

You will notice that the Bible is not just a book about how to get to heaven. Obviously, that is an important part of the Bible. It is probably its most important message to us, but the Bible, when you let it speak, will comment on every area of life. It will comment on politics or government. That is what this chart is doing here. It is not forcing you to vote for one person or another, one party or another. What it is saying is when you go into the voting booth, make sure you are supporting people that support these divine institutions because that is what God is for. If people want to rewrite these divine institutions, those are people that you do not support.

So we are letting the Bible speak to this area of government and politics, just like the Bible, if you let it speak, will speak to literature, industry, finances. The Bible has more to say about money—the use of it and the acquisition of it—than any other single subject. I studied that years ago and was shocked at how much of the Bible relates to money and finances.

The Bible will speak to music; it will speak to science; it will speak to art. This is what we call developing a Christian worldview, where the Bible is informing the way you think on every issue of life. The most important issue is how to get saved, but then after you are saved, then what? You keep moving into the Bible as you move into your progressive

sanctification, and you let it change your worldview on subject after subject after subject.

I had my mind changed on so many things after I became a Christian, not because I was listening to people yelling and screaming at me, but I was simply reading the Bible and letting it speak to me the way God wanted to speak to me. It was altering my worldview. This is what Paul the Apostle means in Romans 12:1-2 when he talks about not being conformed to the pattern of this world, but being renewed in the area of the mind.

This is how we teach the Bible here at Sugar Land Bible Church. We believe it is important for people to get saved so they can go to heaven and become God's child, but we also want them to grow in the faith. That is why we teach the Bible systematically as we do.

What is interesting about these divine institutions, as you will notice, is that every single one of them is under vitriolic attack today on almost every front. Would you not agree with that? One of the institutions that is severely under attack today is this doctrine that I am speaking of here: the doctrine of the nation state.

Let us stop for a minute and think about this. What do you need to have a nation? You need four things: a common currency, a common language, a common culture, and you need enforceable national borders. You take away any of those things and you do not have a country anymore. This is what we call the "sine qua non" of nationhood. "Sine qua non" is Latin, and it means "without which there is not." You take away an element and you do not have a country anymore. We have a whole category of people today that do not believe in the doctrine of the nation state. They believe in world government. And that is why these various things, which is the "sine qua non" of nationhood, are under assault.

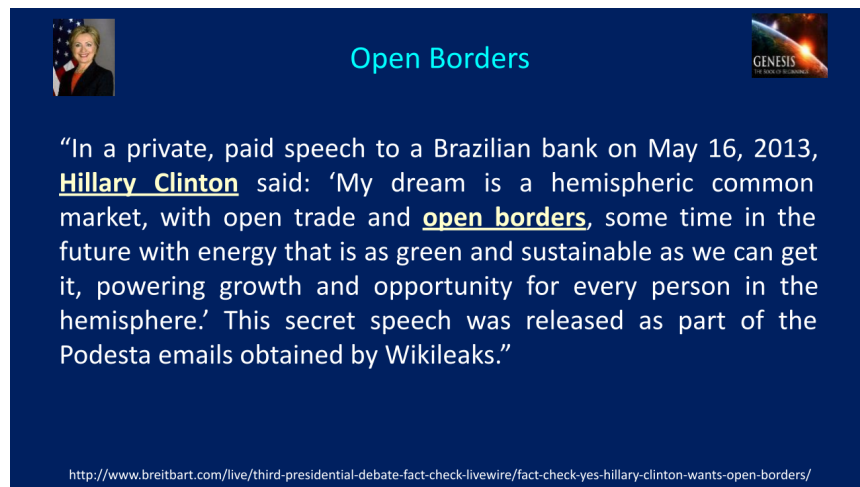
One of the things is that our own border is under assault. Did you know that? I am sure you did. In fact, what border? The southern border of the United States is wide open. There are a lot of preachers that will say, "That is Christian compassion. That is Christian charity." It is interesting to me how they are all quoting the Bible to prove their point. In fact, when one of our prior presidents, President Obama, did what is called executive amnesty, he started quoting the Book of Exodus to justify his decision, which was an assault on the border. I am thinking to myself, "I am glad he is quoting the Bible, but he is quoting the wrong part of it. Why isn't he making any reference to Genesis 11, where God created nations and without borders you cannot have a nation?"

The whole concept of enforceable borders has been under attack for a long time. Here is the Humanist Manifesto written in 1973. They have some very interesting things to say theologically. You ought to get a copy of this and read through it. It is a very short read. It reads like a doctrinal statement of a church. Humanism, of course, is the worship of man.

They say:

"We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds."⁷

In other words, they are against what God said in Genesis 11. Hillary Clinton recently talked about a hemispheric cooperation with absolutely no borders or open borders in that particular hemisphere. In this case, she is talking about the Western Hemisphere. She envisions a world where there is a hemisphere but with no countries in it. You can call them countries, but they are not going to have any real clout; they are not going to have any real political power; they are debating societies. She talks here about open borders.



The image is a screenshot of a Breitbart article. At the top left is a small portrait of Hillary Clinton. The title "Open Borders" is centered at the top in a light blue font. To the right of the title is a small graphic with the word "GENESIS" and a red, fiery background. The main text is a quote from Hillary Clinton, with her name underlined and "open borders" in a light blue font. At the bottom of the article is a URL from Breitbart.

Open Borders

"In a private, paid speech to a Brazilian bank on May 16, 2013, Hillary Clinton said: 'My dream is a hemispheric common market, with open trade and open borders, some time in the future with energy that is as green and sustainable as we can get it, powering growth and opportunity for every person in the hemisphere.' This secret speech was released as part of the Podesta emails obtained by Wikileaks."

<http://www.breitbart.com/live/third-presidential-debate-fact-check-livewire/fact-check-yes-hillary-clinton-wants-open-borders/>

It is fascinating that she made that comment while not being in the United States of America. These people get very bold, I guess, when they are outside of America making these kinds of statements. This was from a private speech. She also made this speech thinking it would not come out. This was a secret speech, but this came out through the emails obtained in the whole Wikileaks situation.

By the way, the vice president of the United States does not think it is the responsibility of the national government to enforce our borders. She believes that that job should be outsourced to the United Nations. Did you know that the next person to be in line to the President of the United States does not believe in the reality of enforceable borders, but thinks that is a job that really should be given to the international community? Why am I bringing all of this stuff up? To show you that the very thing that God set up in Genesis 11 is assaulted and attacked over and over again.

⁷ *Humanist Manifesto II* (1973).



Open Borders



“We’re going to be increasing the requests that we’re making of our allies in the United Nations, Harris said. Harris continued, insisting that the United States must ‘institutionalize and internationalize’ the migration issues. ‘This has to be a function of an American priority...but we are a neighbor in the Western Hemisphere,’ she said, noting that she has been working with...the U.N...to obtain help from the international community.”

KAMALA HARRIS PLANS TO GET ON HER KNEES AND BEG THE U.N. TO HANDLE THE BORDER CRISIS – JEFF CHARLES, APR 26, 2021.
<https://redstate.com/jeffc/2021/04/26/kamala-harris-plans-to-get-on-her-knees-and-beg-the-u-n-to-handle-the-border-crisis-n369302>

God makes observations: "I have to do something here to obstruct this progress into the New World Order, or nothing is going to be impossible for these people in terms of the potential for evil." Then you start to see God's intervention in Genesis 11:7-8. You see, first of all, God's intention. God's first intention is to go down.

I hope you see the humor in that, because this is the greatest thing that man has ever done in his own mind, this Tower of Babel. It was supposed to be a tower that would reach into heaven itself. And God has to come down just to take a look at it. "Let me get out the magnifying glass. Let me get out the microscope to see what you little ants are doing. Let me adjust it carefully." It shows you that no matter how wicked man becomes (and he becomes very wicked), God is still sovereign over man.

Jonathan Sarfati says:

"In this case, the account emphasizes the greatness of God and the puniness of man by comparison. Although man vainly tried to build this immensely high tower, God was still described as 'coming down' to see this comparatively tiny venture."⁸

We also made reference to the fact in Genesis 11:7 that God says, "Let Us go down." In fact, if you look at Genesis 11:7 you will see it: *"Come, let Us go down..."* Who is the Us'? Judaism that wants to deny Christian New Testament truth in the Old Testament will tell you that the 'Us' is God talking to the angels. The problem is that in Genesis 1:26, which is the first time the word 'Us' in this sense is used, when God says, "Let Us make man in Our image," the angels are not made in the image of God. So the 'Us' cannot refer to God talking to the angels.

⁸ Jonathan D. Sarfati, *The Genesis Account: A Theological, Historical, and Scientific Commentary on Genesis 1–11* (Powder Springs, GA: Creation Book Publishers, 2015), 660.

The 'Us,' we believe, is a very blatant reference to the triunity of God. God is one, but He has expressed Himself in three separate personages: God the Son, God the Father, God the Holy Spirit. Now Genesis 11:7 is not going to tell you all of that. You have to track through the progress of revelation, things that are said later on in the New Testament. But here the doctrine is in seed form, which, by the way, is how the progress of revelation works. God reveals something in seed form, and then as you move through the Bible, later truths are added not to change the initial truth, but to add greater and greater specificity to it, greater and greater clarity to it.

So when God says, "Let Us go down," it is a conversation amongst the members of the Godhead. We worship one God, but we believe that that God has expressed Himself in three personages: God the Son, God the Father, God the Holy Spirit. The Son, the Father, and the Holy Spirit all share in the essence of deity. I can show you passages in the New Testament where the Father is called God, and another passage where the Holy Spirit is called God, and where the Son is called God.

In fact, Jesus claimed to be God in John 8:58, so obviously the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit share the same essence of deity, and yet the Son is unique in His Sonness; the father is unique in His Fatherness; the Holy Spirit is unique in His Spiritness. They are three separate personages, all sharing in the same essence of deity functioning under the singular Godhead.

You are going to study that your whole life as a Christian, and you are never really going to be able to wrap your mind around it completely. It must have come from above. I do not think man could have invented something like this. We at Sugar Land Bible Church are monotheistic, but we are aggressively Trinitarian, which would represent Orthodox Christianity.

God's first intention is to go down, and His second intention is to confound (Genesis 11:7). I think this is where we left off last time. I spent a whole half of an hour doing an introduction.

Notice what Genesis 11:7 says:

"Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech" (Genesis 11:7).

A literal translation of this is, "so that they will not hear a man in the land, or they will not hear a man rather in the language of his friend." The commonality and the camaraderie that they had is now interrupted. This is how God dispersed power at the Tower of Babel. It is kind of interesting that in Acts 2 God is going to reverse the Tower of Babel, where the apostles who are preaching on the Day of Pentecost are going to be understood by their audience in other languages. God is very good at confounding languages, and He is also very good at performing another miracle, which allows people to be understood in foreign languages and foreign dialects.

It is very interesting that as you move through the Bible, what you discover is the things that God has done end up in the course of time being reversed because God is the God of restoration. He takes things that are broken and He fixes them. That is what God's nature is. In fact, in the Millennial Kingdom itself, notice Zephaniah 3:9, which speaks of the fact that the day in history is going to come, where again, there will only be one language on the face of the earth. That is in the Millennial Kingdom. That is a reversal of the Tower of Babel.

Here is Arnold Fruchtenbaum quoting Zephaniah 3:9:

"...because Jehovah did there confound the language of all the earth. This is the origin of the multi-language world. The one-world language will be restored in the Messianic Kingdom (Zeph. 3:9)."⁹

God is in the wonderful business of restoring what has been broken, which should give hope to your life. There are a lot of things I have done, and there are a lot of things you have done that have messed things up. Amen. And isn't it interesting that as you walk with the Lord and you begin to turn things over to the Lord through the walk of progressive sanctification, God has a way of fixing what was initially destroyed?

Do not be surprised when God in your life restores a marriage, or when God in your life restores a severed relationship, because that is the nature of God. God can actually restore a bad business decision because this is who God is. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

We see here God's intention. His intention is to go down. His intention is to confound. And then we see God actually disrupting the language (Genesis 11:8). Notice what Genesis 11:8 says:

"So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city" (Genesis 11:8).

Genesis 11:8a is a description of how the language changed from Genesis 11:1. Genesis 11:1 says:

"Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words" (Genesis 11:1).

How did that get altered? It was altered there in Genesis 11:8. God disrupted the language, preventing the builders from cooperating with each other. That answers a major question, because in Genesis 10 we saw Nimrod, the leader of this city and

⁹ Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *The Book of Genesis*, 225.

system, building it in the land of Shinar. Then when you get to Genesis 10:1-12, you see Nimrod moving up north and continuing his project in Assyria.



Genesis 10 really does not give you an explanation of how Nimrod moved from Babel, or Babylon, to Assyria. Now we have an answer. He moved because God confounded the language and he aligned himself with a similar language speaking group. This is how Nimrod's system got exported from Babel ultimately to Assyria.

Look very carefully at the language here in Genesis 11:8. It keeps mentioning the 'whole earth.'

"So the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth..."
(Genesis 11:8).

If you look down in Genesis 11:9, at the very end, it says "the whole earth." If you look at the middle of Genesis 11:9, it says "the whole earth." What the Bible wants us to understand is that what happened here at the Tower of Babel was global. The impact that was made here affected everything, because all nations owe their origin to the Tower of Babel. It is a lot like taking a rock and throwing it in a placid pond. As that rock hits the surface of the water, the wake reverberates outward in all directions. This was global. This did not only affect a person, a people group, or a nation. This affected the known world.

That is, I think, probably one of the best ways to understand what happened here at the Tower of Babel. Most people look at the Tower of Babel and to them, it is just a kind of a fiction. It is just a story. You learn that in Sunday School and then you move on to the real history in your public school studies. But the fact of the matter is that what the Bible teaches is this is global in nature—this is unprecedented. This is so unprecedented that Satan, as we will see in a minute, has to really work throughout human history to restore what was lost, because God made a precedent here that was global. It impacted and affected everyone.

It is like the Fall of man that we have studied in Genesis 3. Adam's sin did not only affect Adam and his family. It affected the whole cosmos, the world itself. Romans 8:20-22 says that the world is in a state of travail because of what Adam did. Adam's sin affected everything. That is what the Holy Spirit expects us to understand when we read this section of Scripture.

We move here to the very end and there is a lot to cover here in Genesis 11:8b-9. There are three lasting results because of what God did. The first one is in the second part of Genesis 11:8, the abandonment. If you look at the very end of Genesis 11:8, it says:

"...and they stopped building the city" (Genesis 11:8).

Their project into the New World Order, their project into world government stopped. The ambition of the devil is to resurrect this system. The ambition of Satan is to reincarnate the Tower of Babel.

Mark Hitchcock, in one of his books entitled "The Second Coming of Babylon" says:

"Thus, Satan's ambition has always been 'to bring man back to Babylon under His [Satan's] rule. This will finally happen according to Revelation 17-18. Both the city of Babylon and the false religious system of Babylon will be resurrected in the end times.'"¹⁰

People say, "Don't you respect anything about Satan?" There is one thing I do respect about Satan, greatly: he is a hard worker. He doesn't give up. In fact, in Luke 4:13, when Satan tempted Jesus in the Judean wilderness, it says this:

"When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time" (Luke 4:13).

In other words, when Satan is defeated, it is in his mind it is just round one. "I am going to come back with greater zest, greater zeal, greater energy, greater power. And I am going to get my project done one way or another." This week you may have had some great victory over Satan. You may have said no to a temptation, said no to discouragement, stood on the promises of God, and you might be lulled to sleep saying, "Wow! That was easy." That is when to put your seatbelt on your Holy Ghost seat belt, because what Satan did to you last week, he is going to come back this week with greater venom because that is his nature. He did that with Jesus. He left Jesus for a more opportune time.

Satan never gives up, and this project that he is building here in Genesis 11 was frustrated. But he says, "I am going to get it back, and I am going to work and work and

¹⁰ Mark Hitchcock, *The Second Coming of Babylon* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2003), 43.

work in human history until what was lost through divine decree is resurrected." This explains why, in Revelation 17:18, you run into a great city:

"The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth" (Revelation 17:18).

You see the same thing in Revelation 18:10:

"Standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come'" (Revelation 18:10).

What do you mean, a city in Babylon? I thought that was disrupted in Genesis 11. It was disrupted in Genesis 11, but Satan never gave up on rebuilding it, because this is the nature of Satan.

Bullinger in his commentary on Revelation says:

"God says it is a 'city.' He does not say a system or a religion, but a 'CITY.'"¹¹

As God is my witness, and as someone who has tried to diligently study God's Word and rightfully divide God's Word, this identical city and system that was disrupted in Genesis 11 is due for a resurrection in the End Times. When you understand this, suddenly the things in the Book of Revelation start to make sense. Why is that city called the mother of harlots? No other city on planet earth would qualify with that language. Rome would not qualify. She is not the mother of all harlots. She may be a daughter or absorber of harlotry, but not the mother.

Only Babylon would qualify, because only in Babylon was there a rock thrown into a placid pond which reverberated the wake outward in all directions. All of us are negatively impacted by what happened at the Tower of Babel, and so that is why in the Book of Revelation, when this city is resurrected, it is called the mother or the source of all harlotry.

Satan is going to get that city and that system in the events of the Tribulation Period, subsequent to the Rapture of the church, subsequent to the restrainer, which is you being removed (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7). In the meantime, and we covered a little bit of this in our Sunday school hour, he is very busy arranging the chess pieces so that this city and this system come back. You cannot have a chess match until the board game is set up correctly.

¹¹ Bullinger, *The Apocalypse or "The Day of the Lord"*, 509.

Paul tells us in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 that, yes, the man of lawlessness is coming, but already the mystery of lawlessness is in the world. Those are the pieces being orchestrated by Satan himself. John tells us in 1 John 4:3 that, yes, the Antichrist is coming, but the spirit of the Antichrist is already in the world. Those are the chess pieces being arranged by Satan.

Globalist after globalist admits this is their goal. David Rockefeller was challenged of being a globalist and he says:

"If that's the charge, I stand guilty, and I am proud of it."¹²

You should not be shocked by the trajectory of our world today, moving in the direction of a one-world government. It is an outworking of Satan trying to resurrect what was lost. But that ultimate resurrection will not happen until the Tribulation Period itself. This is why globalists look at nationalism as a hindrance. "Nationalism is an outdated idea to really solve the world's problems. We need globalism or a one-world government."

Another quote from a globalist that I read in the Sunday school hour. John Lennon says:

"...imagine a time when there will be 'no countries,' 'no religion,' 'no heaven,' 'no hell,' 'no possessions,'..."¹³

Now that one cracks me up because he died a millionaire several times over. It is interesting that for people that are into all of these social utopias, the rules never apply to themselves. They apply to everyone else, the little people. That is why you can see politician after politician after politician, whether they are dining at an elite French restaurant in California or whether they are a group of politicians from a particular party fleeing the State of Texas to get on an airliner so they do not have to vote on something—I do not think that is Texas to do stuff like that, to run away, is it? I thought we were to remember the Alamo, but there they are all on a plane running away so that they cannot vote.

When you see them in these private circumstances, whether a private jet or a private restaurant, how come they do not have their masks on? How come they are always telling us to get masks and wear your mask and put it over your nose? And yet they privately never do that? Because this is how social utopias always work. There is a standard for the little people like us and another standard for them. They have absolutely no intention of living under the same rules that they want to impose upon the rest of us.

John Lennon, if you look at this song, says as much:

¹² David Rockefeller, cited in *Memoirs*, page 405.

¹³ John Lennon, "Imagine," track 2 on *Imagine*, Apple Records, SW 3392, 1971, LP.

"... 'no countries,' 'no religion,' 'no heaven,' 'no hell,' 'no possessions,' everyone 'living for today,' and the world 'as one.'" ¹⁴

There is no Jesus, there is no accountability, and there is no Bible. Are you shocked when you see this trajectory? I used to be shocked. I am not shocked anymore because I have read my Bible. I know how it ends. I know that what Satan started and what was frustrated in implementing in Genesis 11, he wants back and God is going to give it to him for 42 months. Now that should make you happy. Satan gets 42 months. How long does Christ's kingdom get? A thousand years, and then Christ's kingdom will merge into eternity where it will last forever. If that is my future, Satan can have his lousy 42 months, a figure, by the way, you will find in Revelation 13:5.

So the first result that happened is they abandoned the project. The second thing that happened is God gave them a name. You ought to pay attention to names in the Bible; they are a big deal. God is going to take a man named Abram, and around Genesis 17 He is going to give him a new name, Abraham, which means 'the father of many nations.' God names people and things based on their destiny. That is what He did with a man named Simon whom Jesus named Peter—the Aramaic name for Peter is Cephas. Cephas means 'rock.' It does not mean big rock, it means little rock, but it still means rock.

What is a rock? It is someone that was stable. Was Peter all that stable when the Lord found him? Not at all. This was the man that denied the Lord three times. This was the man that walked out on the water and started to sink because of a lack of faith. There was nothing stable about him at all. This is the man that cut off the ear of Malchus (Matthew 26). And yet Jesus gave him the name 'rock' because He named him, not based on what he was, but what he would be. This man became a rock.

You go through Acts 1-10, and there is no more of a key figure than the Apostle Peter. In fact, it was Peter, according to tradition, who was crucified upside down to glorify our Lord. It is so encouraging to me to look at the fact that God gave him a name not based on who he was, but what he would become.

The same is true with Abraham. He gave him a new name, Abraham, not based on what he was, but what he would become. God does that with you. God does not look at you as what you are; He looks at you, and He looks at me as a project. "What can I do with this lump of clay?" God is not finished with any of us. I thank God that I am not the man today that I was last year. And a year from now, should the Lord tarry, I am going to be a different person through progressive sanctification from what I am today. This is the nature of God.

¹⁴ Ibid.

Here, God gives these people a name, and you see it in Genesis 11:9. Look at this. We are getting to the end of the section.

"Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth..." (Genesis 11:9).

In Hebrews, Babel literally means 'gateway of the gods'—a stairway to heaven. 'Bab' means 'gate,' and 'El' means God; so Babel means 'the gateway of the gods.' It shows you the religious system that they were seeking to build. And God says, "You know what? You get a new name. Your name is 'Confusion.' You wanted to build a stairway to heaven. I am going to give you a new name, 'Confusion,'" because it is there that God confounded the language.

That is where the name Babel comes from. When you tell someone, "There you go again. You are babbling again." It is right out of the Bible. That is why you can call someone a babbler and invoke biblical authority in doing so.

Arnold Fruchtenbaum says:

"The contrast is from 'the gate of God' to 'the gate of confusion.' While the people called it Babel, the gate of God, God made babble out of it."¹⁵

Jonathan Sarfati says:

"That is, the rebellious people proposed to build a tower that would be a gateway to the gods in heaven, but instead, it became the site of the confusion of languages and man's ignominious dispersion."¹⁶

I hope you see the sarcasm here. They wanted to build a name for themselves (Genesis 11:4). Remember, God says, "No, you are not going to be able to build a name for yourself. I am going to give you a new name."

A lot of people are uncomfortable with this, but the reality of the situation is God is very sarcastic against evil. In fact, when you study the plagues that were rained down on Egypt in the Book of Exodus, whether it is the frogs or the gnats or the Nile turning to blood, you will discover that all of those are designed to mock different deities, gods, in the Egyptian pantheon.

"You want to worship the Nile? I just turned it to blood red. What are you going to do now?" "We want to worship frogs." God says, "I will multiply so many frogs all over the land of Egypt that you will not know what to do with them." You see a similar sarcasm at

¹⁵ Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *The Book of Genesis*, 225.

¹⁶ Jonathan D. Sarfati, *The Genesis Account: A Theological, Historical, and Scientific Commentary on Genesis 1–11* (Powder Springs, GA: Creation Book Publishers, 2015), 662.

work here, where God essentially gives them a name. They wanted a name, and boy, did they get one here.

So there is the abandonment. That is result number one. There is the new name that they are given. That is given there at the beginning of Genesis 11:9. And then there is the ultimate scattering. Look at Genesis 11:9:

"Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:9).

You want to talk about sarcasm? These people were living against God's decree. Do you remember God's decree to them right after the Flood? It is given there in Genesis 9:1. I do not think there is any ambiguity in the instructions:

"And God blessed Noah and his three sons and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth'" (Genesis 9:1).

Spread out, in other words.

Then in Genesis 9:7, He says:

*"As for you, be fruitful and multiply;
Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it" (Genesis 9:7).*

And they said, "No, we are not going to do that. We are going to come together so that we might make a name for ourselves. Ha ha ha! We are violating God's command." And God says, "No, you are not. I will confuse your language so that you will scatter, whether you want to or not."

I hope you understand something about your life. You can sit and reject God. You can sit and build resistance against God, but God's going to get His way with you. God got His way with Jonah? God told Jonah, "Preach to Nineveh in the east." And when you look on a map and you see where Jonah went, which is Tarshish, modern-day Spain, he went the exact opposite direction.

"Isn't this great?" He probably thought to himself, "I have beaten the hand of God." And God says, "Not so fast." God put Jonah in time out, so to speak, in the belly of a fish, and vomited him out on dry land. Then He said to him, "Are you ready to do My will now?" And the answer was, "Yes, sir."

I guess Jonah could have taken the easy route first and just done what God said, but he decided to take the other. I am a path of least resistance guy myself. Jonah apparently was not. He went the opposite direction, thinking that he had outwitted God, outsmarted God.

For some of you right now, as the Holy Spirit is using this sermon to convict you of different things, the Holy Spirit is surfacing things in your life where you need to be obedient to the Lord. You are thinking to yourself, "I don't really need to do that," or "I will do that next year or next month or next week." I would suggest you do it, because God's going to get His way, one way or the other. I think it is much wiser to take the path of least resistance than come under the disciplinary hand of God.

"Spread out." They said, "No, we will not." God says, "Yes, you will." And their language was confounded. One of the things that happened as their language was confounded (and we have talked about this in prior sermons) is the mother-child religion, the worship of the mother and the son. From Babylonian tradition, we know that Nimrod was married to a woman named Semiramis, and they had a child by the name of Tammuz, who was killed by a wild animal and brought back to life under satanic power.

"Pastor, where does it say that in the Bible?" It does not say that in the Bible. You hold on to this loosely because it comes from extrabiblical Babylonian tradition. But if this is true, there developed a religious system under Nimrod, where there was the worship of the mother and the child.

So when God scattered the language, scattered the people, they spread out and they went into their respective people groups, they took that same system with them. That is why you can find remnants of this system in any ancient culture. In Assyria, they changed the names from Ishtar to Tammuz. That would make sense because that is where Nimrod went (Genesis 10:10-12). He took the system with him into Assyria.

You see all of the different names of the worship of the mother and the child. You will see it in Phoenicia. You will see it in Egypt, Greece, Rome, Asia, India, etc., etc. We have already explained this and gone into it. This is why Assyria, Rome, Egypt, and Greece cannot be the mother of all harlots. They absorbed the system. Only at the Tower of Babel do we find the progenitor, or the origin, of the system from where it spread everywhere.

Clarence Larkin, in his commentary on the Book of Revelation, makes this very important point. He says:

"To this centre the 'forces of Evil' gravitated after the Flood, and 'Babel' was the result. This was the origin of the nations, but the nations were not scattered abroad over the earth until Satan had implanted in them a 'Virus' of a doctrine that has been the source of every false religion the world has ever known."¹⁷

That is the right way to understand the Tower of Babel. This was global. This was that rock thrown into the placid pond, reverberating the wake outward in all directions. This

¹⁷ Larkin, *The Book of Revelation*, 151.

is how all of these nations became contaminated, including the nations that we studied in Genesis 10. They are all contaminated. They are all infected by this Nimrod mother-child system.

Here is a key insight that you are going to get at Sugar Land Bible Church. Are you ready for this? Genesis 11 comes before Genesis 12. Isn't that heavy? Genesis 11 is the crisis; Genesis 12 is the answer. What is the crisis? The crisis is this: We know there is a Messiah coming, and we know about Him as early as Genesis 3:15, so who is God going to use? Is He going to use the Assyrians? Can't do that. They are infected by the Nimrod system. Is he going to use the Phoenicians? Can't use them for the same reason. Maybe He is going to use the Egyptians or the Greeks or Rome? Can't use them. Same problem.

The issue is: How does this get resolved? Genesis 11 is the problem; Genesis 12 is the answer. The answer is that God is going to start a brand new nation independent of this global effect at the Tower of Babel, and He is going to funnel, or channel, the messianic blessings through that special nation. We know that nation as the Nation of Israel.

This explains why God, in Genesis 12, is going to take this man Abraham, who was an idolater, steeped in this Nimrod system, and He is going to say, "Leave your land." What land? The land of Shinar, where all of this stuff happened. "I want you to walk by faith, and I am going to bring you to faith in Christ, and I am going to begin in your life the process of progressive sanctification, where I am weaning you from idolatry. I am going to take you into a special land that you do not even know where it is."

We know, as Bible readers, that it would later become the Land of Israel. "And from you, I am going to start all over. I am going to bring my Messiah to the world through you." That is why in Genesis 11, after the Tower of Babel, there is another genealogy. You say, "No, not again. Another one. Cruel and unusual punishment. You are not going to spend five months in that genealogy, are you?"

I am going to try my best not to, but I want you to see why it is here. It is linking Shem, the blessed son, the one whom the Messiah will come from (Genesis 9:26) to Terah. Who was Terah? He is the father of Abraham. Why is God so interested in Abraham? Because it is through Abraham—whose name was Abram, and whose name will be changed to Abraham—that God is going to start a brand new nation, the Nation of Israel. And that nation is a big deal, because through that nation, the Messiah is going to come to the earth. This is why the language of creation is used to describe the formation of the Nation of Israel.

Isaiah 43:1 says:

*"But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel..." (Isaiah 43:1).*

'Creator' and 'formed' is imagery that goes back to Genesis 1. Just as God created the cosmos in Genesis 1, He is similarly going to create the Nation of Israel in Genesis 12. Why does God have to do it that way? Genesis 11 is the explanation; it is the transmission of the virus everywhere, necessitating that God starts something new to bring His Messiah to the earth.

A lot of people today look at the Nation of Israel, even theologians do this, and they basically say, "Israel is just like any other nation. It is just like Argentina. It is just like Japan. It is just like Costa Rica. They deserve special rights just like any other nation." That is where they are wrong. I am not defending everything Israel says and does today, because God did not. Read your Old Testament and you will see that.

Israel is completely and totally different from any nation that has ever existed, because it is the only nation that was started independent of the global impact in Genesis 11. Israel was created by God. The exact language of creation is used to describe the formation of Israel, the beginning of which we are going to see in Genesis 12. That is how these chapters connect.

The world that we are living in has been altered three times. It was altered at original Creation through the Fall of man. It was altered again right on up to the Flood. But the world of Creation is different from the fallen world. The fallen world is different from the post-Flood world. And then God disrupted the world, according to my list here, a fourth time by confounding the language.

When you see that, you see the folly of what your children and your grandchildren are being taught today, that you judge the past, which you cannot see, by a process taking place in the present, which you can see. That is called uniformitarianism. It is where evolution itself comes from: the present is the key to the past. The Bible is saying, "No, it is not." The present is not the key to the past because the world that we are living in, the post-Babel world, has been altered four times.

We are now moving into a new dispensation. You will find in Ephesians 1 and in Ephesians 3, in the King James Version, the English word 'dispensation.' In the Greek it is 'oikonomia' (οἰκονομία).¹⁸ It simply means 'house rules.' The plan of salvation throughout the Bible is always the same. It is always faith alone in Christ alone—Old Testament saints looking forward to Jesus not knowing His name, and New Testament saints looking backward to Jesus who do know His name. But individually people are always saved the exact same way.

Having said that, the dispensations, or the rules, or the 'oikonomia' ('oikos' [οἶκος], house; 'nomos' [νόμος], 'rules'). The rules change dramatically where God gives a test

¹⁸ "Lexicon result for oikonomia," The Blue Letter Bible, accessed August 1, 2006, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g3622/nasb95/mgnt/0-1/>.

and man fails the test, and God brings in a catastrophe. Then God brings in a superior change of rules.

First is the Dispensation of Innocence, where man was told, "Do not eat from the tree of knowledge." They failed the test. They ate from the tree of knowledge. God brought in a catastrophe, which is the Fall. Then God brought in the next dispensation, which is called the Dispensation of Conscience.

Prior to the Flood, God gave man a test: live according to conscience. Man said "No," because every inclination of his thoughts became perpetually wicked. Man fails the test. God brings in a catastrophe. That catastrophe was the Flood. Now we are into the next dispensation, the institution of human government, where God says, "Spread out." Man says, "No," and comes together. God brings in a catastrophe, which is the confusion of the language.

The reason I am mentioning this is because this is where we happen to be in the Book of Genesis. We have gone through the first three dispensations, and the next one will be the Dispensation of Promise, where the exact same thing is going to happen. Then there is going to be the Dispensation of the Law where the exact same thing is going to happen.

Dare I say, the next dispensation is our age, the Church Age, where the exact same failure is going to happen. Then we will come to the thousand-year kingdom. Man cannot mess that up, can he? Jesus will be running the world. No human need is unmet and man messes that up (Revelation 20:7-9). God will bring in another judgment. He will destroy the heavens and earth and finally replace them with a new heavens and new earth that man cannot mess up.

Do you see a pattern here? In every dispensation, man is a failure and God is the hero. At the end, who gets the glory? God does. What are we going to be thinking about throughout the ages of time, in eternity? How great man executed things? We are going to be sitting around praising the Lord because of His greatness and His glory. That is why I titled this message "To God be the Glory!" I had to get to this part of it, or else my message was in vain. God's ultimate purpose for the ages is to glorify Himself. Everything God does in creation or redemption is for the glory of God.

We finished not building, but studying the Tower of Babel. Of course, there is a way that you can glorify God right now as I speak. That is the purpose of your life, right? To glorify God. That is why you exist. How do you glorify God when a person will not even trust in the Savior whom God has provided? The very first step a person takes in glorifying God is the recognition that they cannot solve their own problems or fix themselves. They have to trust in what Jesus did. That way Jesus gets the glory. I get none of it.

This is why the gospel is somewhat unpopular. This is why this doctrine of dispensations is somewhat unpopular, because man is not getting the glory. When you get saved, you get no glory at all. God gets the glory. We all want to think that there must be something within us that contributed to the process. You contributed nothing, neither did I. I rested, as a free gift, on what He did.

You can do that now. You can fulfill the purpose of your life in glorifying Him, first and foremost, by resting or trusting in the Savior. That is what salvation by faith alone means. You receive what He has done as a gift, because you have the recognition that you cannot fix what was broken. God has to do that. The moment an individual is saved is the moment God gets the glory. As God gets the glory, you just fulfilled the purpose for which you exist.

Our exhortation today is, if anybody has come under the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit, as we have been speaking to trust in the Savior—it is not something that you walk an aisle to do, join a church to do, give money to do, it is a matter of privacy between you and the Lord, where the Lord places you under conviction and you in your heart—trust in what He has done. If it is something that you need more explanation on, I am available after the service to talk.