

Jesus is greater than Babel.

Genesis 11:1-9

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 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.

Actions of God and people

- The first major collective human decision after Noah’s Flood – Genesis 11:1-4 *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.”*

- Let's find security outside of God – 11:4a *“Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens,*
- Let's gain honor and recognition in opposition to God – 11:4b¹ *and let us make a name for ourselves,*
- God mercifully confuses their plans – Genesis 11:5-9 *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 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.*

Attempted solutions to the human predicament

- Technological advancement: If we can develop more technology, then we'll be able to solve the world's problems!
- Stoicism: If I can be like a rock, free from passion, and unmoved by grief, then I'll be what I should be.
- Hedonism: If I can experience _____, then I'll be happy and fulfilled. Dominated by pleasure-seeking.
- Materialism: If I can get enough money, then my problems will go away.
- Relationships: If I can only find the right relationship(s), then I'll be fulfilled.
- Fame: If I can only become famous, then my predicament will change.
- Control: If I can be in/stay in control, then I'll have the ideal life.

Questions to ask about proposed macro solutions to the human predicament

- Does it acknowledge the corruption and brokenness of the human heart?
- Does it admit that the ultimate cause of human evil cannot be cured by human effort?
- Does it affirm the autonomy and intrinsic value of every human being as an image-bearer?
- Why? Because proposed solutions to the human predicament that run counter to God's Word are multipliers of suffering rather than solutions to suffering.

Acts 2:1-12

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

- Jesus Christ restores what sin has broken.
- Jesus Christ brings unity out of confusion.

Application

- Seek God in your plans.
- Seek out wise people for wise counsel.

¹ See *ESV Study Bible*, Genesis 11:9.