

The Tower of Babel

Lessons learned from a short passage of
Scripture

Questions to ask and answer

- How does the Tower of Babel fit in with a study on Noah's Ark?
- Why was the tower displeasing to God?
- Do we act similar to those who were building the tower at times?

Genesis 11:1-9

- 1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. 3 Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. 4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

Genesis 11:1-9

- 5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." 8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.

Genesis 11:1-9

- 9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Text Summary

- God noticed the city being built, and was not pleased
- He confused the language, and construction stopped
- Without common language, the people scattered

Why would God do this?

- Was He afraid of what man could do?
 - He created Man

Genesis 1:26-28

- 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Why would God do this?

- Was He afraid of what man could do?
 - He created Man
 - We see His power often
 - Even His presence was powerful

Exodus 19:10-16

- 10 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. 11 And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. 12 You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. 13 Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall

Exodus 19:10-12

- not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain." 14 So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. 15 And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives." 16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

Why would God do this?

- Was He afraid of what man could do?
 - He created Man
 - We see His power often
 - Even His presence was powerful
 - The Son of God had tremendous power living as a man

Mark 4:36-39

- 36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. 38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" 39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

Why would God do this?

- Was He afraid of what man could do?
 - He created Man
 - We see His power often
 - Even His presence was powerful
 - The Son of God had tremendous power living as a man
 - Nothing man could create or do would make God afraid

Why would God do this?

- A command was given in one of the earlier passages

Genesis 1:28

- 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Why would God do this?

- A command was given in one of the earlier passages
- Had Man followed this command?

Genesis 6:1-2,5

- 1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. 5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Why would God do this?

- A command was given in one of the earlier passages
- Had Man followed this command?
- This command was given again after the Flood

Genesis 8:16-17

- 16 "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

Why would God do this?

- A command was given in one of the earlier passages
- Had Man followed this command?
- This command was given again after the Flood
- Surely the people would follow the command this time around

Genesis 11:4

- 4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

Why would God do this?

- A command was given in one of the earlier passages
- Had Man followed this command?
- This command was given again after the Flood
- Surely the people would follow the command this time around
- Making a name for ourselves and following God do not mix

Isaiah 2:12

- 12 For the day of the Lord of hosts Shall come upon everything proud and lofty, upon everything lifted up and it shall be brought low

James 4:6

- 6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the
humble."

Matthew 6:5

- 5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

We should be careful not to repeat past mistakes

- We do not intentionally want to turn back to sin
- We forget the consequences and guilt that go along with sin
- Returning to past mistakes is dangerous for us

2 Peter 2:20-22

- 20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

Hebrews 10:26-29

- 26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

We should be careful not to repeat past mistakes

- We do not intentionally want to turn back to sin
- We forget the consequences and guilt that go along with sin
- Returning to past mistakes is dangerous for us
- We forget about God's commands when making decisions
- We can fall for the same trap as those who built the tower
- Maintaining the right course requires work

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- 24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

We can use the Tower to look at our interactions with the world

- God expected Man to fill the world

Genesis 9:7

- 7 And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."

We can use the Tower to look at our interactions with the world

- God expected Man to fill the world
- Man's will was to stay in one place

Genesis 11:4

- 4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

We can use the Tower to look at our interactions with the world

- God expected Man to fill the world
- Man's will was to stay in one place
- Do we build our own Tower of Babel?
- A similar command is given in the New Testament

Matthew 28:18-20

- 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

We can use the Tower to look at our interactions with the world

- God expected Man to fill the world
- Man's will was to stay in one place
- Do we build our own Tower of Babel?
- A similar command is given in the New Testament
- That command requires us to be active and trained

Matthew 5: 14-16

- 14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

2 Timothy 2:15

- 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Titus 2:7-8

- 7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

We can use the Tower to look at our interactions with the world

- God expected Man to fill the world
- Man's will was to stay in one place
- Do we build our own Tower of Babel?
- A similar command is given in the New Testament
- That command requires us to be active and trained
- Neglecting our duty to teach is as dangerous as turning back to old sin

James 4:17

- 17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Both lessons require the same thing

- Sin distracts us from what is important
 - Our relationships

Galatians 2:11-14

- 11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?"

Acts 5:1-11

- 1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. 2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." 5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

Acts 5:1-11

- 6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. 7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." 9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." 10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband.

Acts 5:1-11

- 11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

Both lessons require the same thing

- Sin distracts us from what is important
 - Our relationships
 - Physical possessions

Matthew 19:16-30

- 16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" 17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." 18 He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 19 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" 20 The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"

Matthew 19:16-30

- 21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. 23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

Matthew 19:16-30

- 26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"
28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Both lessons require the same thing

- Sin distracts us from what is important
 - Our relationships
 - Physical possessions
 - Fear of sin/falling into the ways of the world

What should we be checking for?

- Strength of Faith

2 Corinthians 13:5

- 5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified.

What should we be checking for?

- Strength of Faith
- Do we seek guidance?

Psalms 86:1-10

- 1 A Prayer of David. Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me; For I am poor and needy. 2 Preserve my life, for I am holy; You are my God; Save Your servant who trusts in You! 3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, For I cry to You all day long. 4 Rejoice the soul of Your servant, For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. 5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; And attend to the voice of my supplications. 7 In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, For You will answer me.

Psalms 86:1-10

- 8 Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Your works. 9 All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name. 10 For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

What should we be checking for?

- Strength of Faith
- Do we seek guidance?
- Our results

Haggai 1:5-7

- 5 Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider your ways! 6 "You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes." 7 Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider your ways!"

Galatians 6:4

- 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

What should we be checking for?

- Strength of Faith
- Do we seek guidance?
- Our results
- How others dealt with similar issues

Ecclesiastes 1:9-11

- 9 That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this is new"? It has already been in ancient times before us. 11 There is no remembrance of former things, Nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come By those who will come after.

What should we be checking for?

- Strength of Faith
- Do we seek guidance?
- Our results
- How others dealt with similar issues
- Our actions/excuses

Luke 18:10-12

- 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men-- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

Conclusion

- If sin was obvious, it would be easy to overcome
- Look for our own weaknesses
- Look at how characters in the Bible handled the same weaknesses
- Check ourselves no matter what state our life is in
- Show that we realize how important judgement is