

BABEL: TWO FAITH LESSONS

Part 2 of Foundation 260 - OT. Genesis 11:1-9.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. January 18, 2026.

ANCIENT STORY: MODERN APPLICATION

The story of Babel and its infamous tower contains modern insights and applications.

Genesis 11:1-9 (CSB)

The whole earth had the same language and vocabulary. 2 As people migrated from the east, they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there.

3 They said to each other, “Come, let’s make oven-fired bricks.” (They used brick for stone and asphalt for mortar.) 4 And they said, “Come, let’s build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky. Let’s make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered throughout the earth.”

5 Then the LORD came down to look over the city and the tower that the humans were building.

6 The LORD said, “If they have begun to do this as one people all having the same language, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let’s go down there and confuse their language so that they will not understand one another’s speech.”

8 So from there the LORD scattered them throughout the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 Therefore it is called Babylon, for there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth, and from there the LORD scattered them throughout the earth. It will expand our faith and fuel our worship.

FAITH LESSON ONE: WE ARE THE PROBLEM - vv. 1-4

The events of Genesis 11 took place in modern-day Iraq.

- Ancient cities were built to house temples, not people. The temples were like massive towers or ziggurats.
- They believed the gods lived in the high places, so these towers served as hills or high places for connecting with the gods.

Verse 4 reveals the people's motives:

- To make a name for themselves, not God.
- To create security by uniting in one city instead of following God's plan to fill the earth.

*Genesis 1:28 (CSB) ... Be fruitful, multiply, **fill the earth**, and subdue it.*

*Genesis 9:7 (CSB) But you, be fruitful and multiply; **spread out over the earth** and multiply on it."*

- It all sounds like Adam and Eve's disastrous decision-making: a declaration of human independence and a drive to exalt ourselves instead of God.

People are the problem.

- We want to steal God's glory and be free and self-sufficient.
- Bricks represent human intelligence and technology, which is a good thing.
- But we tend to turn the good into evil. Humans are amazing, made in the image of God. However, we have a dark side. Left to ourselves, apart from God's saving and sanctifying grace, our moral compass is messed up. Our hearts are wicked and deceitful. Our motives are suspect. Our goals are godless.

FAITH LESSON TWO: JESUS IS THE SOLUTION - vv. 5-9

The Lord intervened to stop their rebellion.

- He scattered them across the world, confusing their language so they couldn't work together in the anti-God city.

However, that did not solve the core problem.

- The solution waited for Jesus.
- At the cross, Jesus killed the driving desire for independence - Romans 6.
- Jesus will conquer Babel - the symbol for godlessness - Revelation 18.
- Jesus will reunite the nations through gospel proclamation - Matthew 28:18-19; Revelation 5:9-10.
- Jesus will build a city where he receives praise from the nations - Rev. 21.

SHAKE OFF THE SPIRIT OF BABEL

The spirit of Babel is alive and well today.

- It's behind every bid to ignore or reject God and his will.
- People call it freedom and enlightenment even while it keeps them in bondage to lies and destructive habits.

You can experience true freedom, spiritual light, and life by turning away from Babel and embracing Jesus Christ and his truth.

- I'd love to answer your questions.
- I recommend the booklet on the Book Table called "Only Jesus."
- I encourage you to consider today's teaching and act on it.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's January 18th teaching and study guide.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

Discuss

1. The people of Babel wanted to "make a name" for themselves and avoid being scattered. Where do you notice that same impulse toward pride, control, or self-protection in your own life right now?
2. What is the theological irony of God coming "down" to see the tower? What does that teach us about the contrast between human pride and divine power?
3. The sermon highlighted that judgment at Babel didn't fix the human heart. How does the cross of Christ address the root problem? See Romans 6:1-14; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 4:20-32.
4. Revelation pictures a redeemed, united humanity worshiping Christ. How does that vision shape your commitment to gospel proclamation, evangelism, and cross-cultural missions?

Prayer Focus

- Pray the 247 Prayer: "Lord, please add daily to the Cornerstone those who are being saved."
- Pray for Pastor Peter and Kim, and all Cornerstone leaders and their families, to be faithful, strong, and courageous, and to be safe from spiritual attacks.