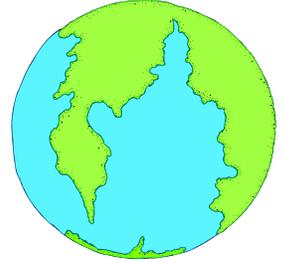


Tower of Babel

Genesis 10:1, 32 & 11:1-9

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Can you understand the three directions that are written above?
Do you think that you would be able to follow the directions that were just given?
What would you do if you could understand some of the people here, but not the others?
Why do people speak different languages?

Prayer

Lord, today You will be showing us how different languages came to be. More importantly, You will be showing us a great weakness of some people in the Old Testament. Help us to learn from this story how You want us to live so that we do not fall into this sin as did the people at the Tower of Babel. Be with us today as we study Your Word for our good. Amen.

Please get out your Bibles. (Spanish) Take out your pencils. (Italian) Let us begin with prayer. (French)

The Tower of Babel - Genesis 10:1, 32 & 11:1-9

(Genesis 10:1) Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

(32) These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.

(Genesis 11:1) 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."

{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.

{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.

Outer Aim - God confused the languages of the people of the world and caused the people to spread out and fill the world.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions about the lesson.

1. Why did everyone alive at this time speak the same language and dialect?
2. Was there a sin involved with speaking the same language? If so, what sin?
3. Where did the people decide to settle down? Find this place on a map.
4. Was there a sin involved with settling down in one place? If so, what sin?
5. What did the people decide to build here and why?
6. Was there a sin involved with building this structure? If so, what sin?
7. Why did the people finally do what God had commanded them, namely to "fill the earth"?

Inner Aim - Pride is a sin which God will help us overcome.

What God Tells Us

All sin is rebellion against God. That means whenever we do something that is a sin, we are saying that we know better than God does. Explain how the following sins are rebellion against God.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Shoplifting/stealing | 3. Hurting or harming our neighbor in any way |
| 2. Cursing/swearing | 4. Pride |

Of the sins identified with the people in this story, pride is one of the easiest into which we fall. Some Bible heroes also fell into the sin of pride. Look up the following references and tell who fell into the sin of pride and explain how their actions were prideful.

1 Chronicles 21:1ff -

Sometimes God intervenes to stop sin. He often sends consequences for sin as well. In the first example above, how did God intervene? What consequences did He send?

Your Turn - Jesus our Savior is a wonderful example of how we should humble ourselves in the world. Unfortunately, our sinful nature causes us to sin through pride almost daily. In the first column in the table below, give some examples of how pride can affect our lives today.

In the second column in the table below, tell how we should humble ourselves and rightly give glory and praise to God for those same things.

HOW PRIDE CAN AFFECT OUR LIVES TODAY	HOW WE SHOULD HUMBLE OURSELVES AND GIVE GLORY AND PRAISE TO GOD

Look through the newspapers or magazines provided. Find any articles that show man's sinful pride. What should be everyone's attitude toward talents or abilities which he or she may have?

Discussion - Discuss the following. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your reasoning.

"The skyscrapers and big cities of the present world are in many ways modern towers of Babel."

Passages - Explain how each passage below talks about sinful pride, praising God, or both.

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

Proverbs 16:9 - A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

Galatians 6:14 - But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

1 Corinthians 10:17 - For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Hymn - Look at hymn #175 in TLH and explain why it would be a good prayer to help us with sinful pride .

Prayer

Lord God, all people from Adam and Eve to today, suffer from sinful pride. Help us to be aware of this sin and teach us to give glory to You for everything that we can do. Only with Your help can we avoid this sin. Send us Your Holy Spirit to give us that strength we need to give all glory to You. We pray this in Your glorious name. Amen.