

Genesis 11:1-9 New Living Translation

The Tower of Babel

1 At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. **2** As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia^[a] and settled there.

3 They began saying to each other, "Let's make bricks and harden them with fire." (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.) **4** Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world."

5 But the Lord came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. **6** "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! **7** Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."

8 In that way, the Lord scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. **9** That is why the city was called Babel,^[b] because that is where the Lord confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.

Footnotes:

a 11:2 Hebrew *Shinar*.

b 11:9 Or *Babylon*. *Babel* sounds like a Hebrew term that means "confusion."

Questions:

1. How many languages were there at this time according to v1?
2. Where did the people settle in v2?
3. What did these people use for building in v3?
4. What plans did the people make in v4?

Who were they building this city for?

What was the purpose of the city?
5. Is there something wrong with the people wanting to be famous?

Did the people recognize or honor God in their desire to be famous? Explain
6. How did God change their plans according to v6-7?
7. How do you recognize and honor God in your life? Explain