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Created for Purpose
Genesis 10:1 – 11:26
Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

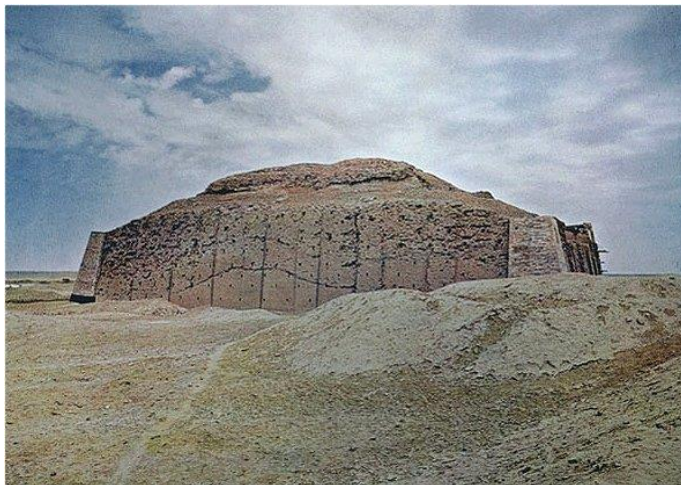
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



The tower of Babel is an interesting account in the first part of Genesis. The people wanted to build something for themselves; they wanted to make a name for themselves. They burnt bricks and started building a tower to the heavens. They had all the wrong motivation and completely disregarded God. God did not want them to work for themselves and have a great example of pride so He intervened. In this passage we see God disciplining the people. And in the midst of His discipline we see blessing. It is not very different in our lives today. When God disciplines us there is still blessing in the discipline. This week we will be talking about how we can see the blessings God has to offer us in the midst of discipline.

Genesis 10:1 - 11:26 (NASB) Descendants of Noah

10 Now these are *the records of the* generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood.

² The sons of Japheth *were* Gomer and Magog and Madai and Javan and Tubal and Meshech and Tiras. ³ The sons of Gomer *were* Ashkenaz and Riphath and Togarmah. ⁴ The sons of Javan *were* Elishah and Tarshish, Kittim and Dodanim. ⁵ From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.

⁶ The sons of Ham *were* Cush and Mizraim and Put and Canaan. ⁷ The sons of Cush *were* Seba and Havilah and Sabtah and Raamah and Sabteca; and the sons of Raamah *were* Sheba and Dedan. ⁸ Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth. ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." ¹⁰ The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. ¹¹ From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah, ¹² and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city. ¹³ Mizraim became the father of Ludim and Anamim and Lehabim and Naphtuhim ¹⁴ and Pathrusim and Casluhim (from which came the Philistines) and Caphtorim.

¹⁵ Canaan became the father of Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth ¹⁶ and the Jebusite and the Amorite and the Girgashite ¹⁷ and the Hivite and the Arkite and the Sinite ¹⁸ and the Arvadite and the Zemarite and the Hamathite; and afterward the families of the Canaanite were spread abroad. ¹⁹ The territory of the Canaanite extended from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; as you go toward Sodom and Gomorrah and Admah and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. ²⁰ These are the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, by their nations.

²¹ Also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, *and* the older brother of Japheth, children were born. ²² The sons of Shem *were* Elam and Asshur and Arpachshad and Lud and Aram. ²³ The sons of Aram *were* Uz and Hul and Gether and Mash. ²⁴ Arpachshad became the father of Shelah; and Shelah became the father of Eber. ²⁵ Two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one *was* Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name *was* Joktan. ²⁶ Joktan became the father of Almodad and Sheleph and Hazarmaveth and Jerah ²⁷ and Hadoram and Uzal and Diklah ²⁸ and Obal and Abimael and Sheba ²⁹ and Ophir and Havilah and Jobab; all these were the sons of Joktan. ³⁰ Now their settlement extended from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the hill country of the east. ³¹ These are the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, according to their nations.

³² These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood.

Universal Language, Babel, Confusion

11 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. ² It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn *them* thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. ⁴ They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." ⁵ The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶ The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech." ⁸ So the LORD scattered

them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

Descendants of Shem

¹⁰ These are *the records* of the generations of Shem. Shem was one hundred years old, and became the father of Arpachshad two years after the flood;¹¹ and Shem lived five hundred years after he became the father of Arpachshad, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

¹² Arpachshad lived thirty-five years, and became the father of Shelah;¹³ and Arpachshad lived four hundred and three years after he became the father of Shelah, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

¹⁴ Shelah lived thirty years, and became the father of Eber;¹⁵ and Shelah lived four hundred and three years after he became the father of Eber, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

¹⁶ Eber lived thirty-four years, and became

the father of Peleg;¹⁷ and Eber lived four hundred and thirty years after he became the father of Peleg, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

¹⁸ Peleg lived thirty years, and became the father of Reu;¹⁹ and Peleg lived two hundred and nine years after he became the father of Reu, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

²⁰ Reu lived thirty-two years, and became the father of Serug;²¹ and Reu lived two hundred and seven years after he became the father of Serug, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

²² Serug lived thirty years, and became the father of Nahor;²³ and Serug lived two hundred years after he became the father of Nahor, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

²⁴ Nahor lived twenty-nine years, and became the father of Terah;²⁵ and Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years after he became the father of Terah, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

²⁶ Terah lived seventy years, and became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Why did the people decide to build a tower to reach the heavens?

9. Why did God confuse their language when they were building the tower? (also look at Gen. 1:28 and 9:1)

10. Why was it a bad idea to make a tower?

11. Do you see any reason that the genealogies are split before and after the attempted tower building?

12. God disciplines the people while they are building the tower. Is there any good that comes from this discipline?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

13. Do you still see God's discipline in your life today?

14. How do we know if it is God's discipline?

15. How does God show blessing in the midst of His discipline?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES