

When God Breaks What Pride Builds

Genesis 11:1–9

An Expository Sermon by Dr. Bradley Rushing

Big Idea

God alone secures His people by humbling proud rebellion and gathering the nations through Jesus Christ.

I. Don't confuse agreement with obedience (vv. 1–4)

- One language sounds like peace, but unity is not automatically godly.
- “From the east” signals a drift away from God’s presence, like Adam and Eve and Cain.
- Their innovation produces confidence. It feeds the illusion that they can build life without God.
- Their mission statement reveals their heart:
 - “Let us build ourselves a city and a tower.”
 - “Let us make a name for ourselves.”
 - “Lest we be dispersed.”
- God commanded them to fill the earth. They choose to resist and stay put.
- Babel says, “We will make a great name for ourselves.” Genesis 12 says, “I will make your name great.”
- The question is not, “Are we united?” The question is, “Are we obeying the Lord?”

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II. Don't confuse success with power (vv. 5–6)

- The Lord “came down” to see their tower. Holy sarcasm.
- Human success is not the same as divine sovereignty.
- God is not threatened by their progress, but He sees the trajectory.
- United pride makes sin scale.
 - A sinner can do damage.

- A mob can do devastation.
- A whole culture can normalize rebellion and call it progress.
- God intervenes not because He is insecure, but because He is merciful.
- Sometimes the most loving thing God can do is interrupt what pride is building.

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III. Don't confuse momentum with God's blessing (vv. 7–9)

- God stops the project by confusing language. He does not touch a single brick.
- God breaks proud unity by breaking communication.
- The scattering is judgment, but it also sets the stage for redemption.
- Babel is a hinge point:
 - Genesis 11 scatters the nations.
 - Genesis 12 begins God's plan to bless the nations through Abraham.
- Babel tried to climb to heaven. Jesus comes down from heaven to save.
- Babel scattered by language. Pentecost begins gathering through one gospel in many languages.
- Revelation shows the end: every nation, tribe, people, and language gathered around Christ.
- God scatters rebellion, but He gathers worshipers.


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