

THE SCATTERING OF THE HUMAN RACE OVER THE EARTH: THE PEOPLE'S TRAGIC MISTAKE AND SIN; THE SECULAR CITY AND FALSE WORSHIP (THE TOWER OF BABEL) GENESIS 11:01–9

Introduction

This event — the building of the great city of Babylon and of the Tower of Babel — apparently took place during the days of Peleg and of Nimrod. Remember:

=> The earth was divided in the days of Peleg, the fifth generation from Noah (Gen 10:25).

=> Nimrod set out to build Babylon, the secular empire (Gen 10:8-12).

What happened was probably this: after the great flood, Noah and his small family settled down in the area of Ararat. During the five generations the families grew and grew to such a point that they could have numbered 30,000 or more. (Keil and Delitzsch. *Commentary on the Old Testament*, Vol. 1, p. 176). Whatever the true number, the population was rather large by Peleg's day.

In so far as Nimrod is concerned, what happened was probably what has happened time and again down through history — thousands of times — whether in small bands of people or in world empires. Nimrod arose, rallied a band of armed men around him, revolted against the authorities, and took control of the government and people — all by force. We saw this in our earlier discussion of Nimrod (see note, Gen 10:8-12).

Then something happened: for some reason, Nimrod wanted to move his kingdom and people from the area of Ararat eastward. Why?

=> Perhaps famine.

=> Perhaps the land of Shinar was extremely fertile in that day. (H.C. Leupold. *Genesis*, Vol. 1, p. 384).

=> Perhaps to just expand his empire.

Based on the description of Nimrod (Gen 10:8-12), he was most likely out to expand his empire, to simply rule over more land. If so, he would have left a small society of people behind to hold claim to the area of Ararat for his empire. This would have been necessary for his empire to continue in power down through the centuries.

Whatever the reason, two facts strongly point to the movement or migration of the people under Nimrod's leadership.

=> Nimrod founded the city of Babylon.

Gen 10:10 *The first centres of his kingdom were Babylon, Uruk, Akkad and Kalneh in Shinar.*

=> The present passage says that the people journeyed eastward and settled in a plain in the land of Shinar (v. 2). Babylon is in the land of Shinar as Gen 10:10 says.

This seems to be the background of what is happening in the present passage. This is a most interesting study: *The Scattering of the Human Race: The People's Tragic Mistake and Sin — The Secular City and False Worship (The Secular Babel)*. Genesis 11:1-9.

- I. Two major facts about the early human race (vv. 1-2).
- II. The tragic mistake and sin of the human race: building a secular city and false worship centre (vv. 3-4).
- III. The intervention of God to restrain man's godless purpose (vv. 5-8).
- IV. The eternal memorial to God's power (v. 9).

I. *Genesis 11:01–02 The Early Human Race*

Two major facts about the early human race.

1. The whole earth had one language and one speech. *The whole earth* refers to Noah and his descendants, to his small family who had survived the great flood and to the people born through their families. Since they had all come from Noah, it was only natural that there would be one language upon earth. All the people were bound to speak the same language. Note the distinction between *one language* and *one speech*.

In the Hebrew *one speech* means one vocabulary, the same meaning for the same things. Their concepts and thoughts were the same, were expressed by the same word.

The point being made is this: it was their common language that enabled the people...

- to communicate
- to work together
- to share together
- to play together
- to help one another
- to learn together

Simply stated, their common language did for them what our language does for us: enabled them to live and work together. It enabled them to advance as a society and civilization.

2. The people moved or migrated in mass — as a whole civilization, at least most of them — for some reason (see note 1, Gen 11:1-9).

II. *Genesis 11:01–04 The Tragic Mistake and Sin of the Human Race*

The tragic mistake and sin of the human race. After reaching Shinar, the area of Babylon in Iraq, the people settled down and began to establish a new civilization and society. At some point, Nimrod and his counsellors realized they needed to do something to hold the people and empire together. Thus, they challenged the people with the vision of building a great city and a great religious centre in the form of a gigantic tower. The city and religious centre no doubt were to be the capital of the great empire and religion Nimrod set out to build across the world.

Now, note this: Nimrod did just what every great leader has to do: he challenged the people to follow him. The problem with Nimrod's challenge was that he was a godless tyrant, a godless dictator. This is seen in the following points.

1. The people were excited — very excited — about the building project (vv. 3-4). They gave their whole-hearted support. This is seen in their attitude about the project:

=> "Come, let us make brick" (v. 3).

=> "Come, let us build for ourselves a city" (v. 4).

Note also that they suggested burning the bricks thoroughly, that is, to dry kiln them and to seal them together with a mortar-like substance. They wanted to use the very best building materials available, to make the city and religious centre as permanent as possible.

The point to see is this: the people were behind the project one hundred percent. Their loyalty and lives belonged to Nimrod, to do the bidding of the state and government. He had them in the palm of his hands; he had the people united in the cause of holding the people together and building a worldwide empire.

2. The people had a secular purpose for building the city and religious tower: they were out to gain fame, to make a name for themselves (v. 4). As we saw in an earlier passage, Nimrod wanted to lead the people to build a great empire (see *Nimrod, the Dictator*, Gen 10:8-12). Babylon was to be the capital of that empire.

Now, note this: there is nothing wrong with building a great nation and people. Every leader and every people should desire to be strong. But they should be strong in order to meet the needs of the people, including their need to worship and serve God. They should be strong in order to build a healthy and strong society, not to make a name for themselves. This was the tragic mistake of the human race: they undertook the building projects to gain...

- fame
- recognition
- reputation
- honour
- glory

They were out to build a memorial to their name, to boost their own ego and pride. They themselves wanted to boast in their abilities and power, and they wanted succeeding generations to boast in them as the empire grew down through the ages.

Thought 1. Note how the people were setting themselves up — setting man up — as the god of history. Man was building a secular world completely devoid of the only living and true God. Man was rebelling against God — excluding, ignoring and eliminating God entirely from the earth and human history.

Note another fact: nothing is said about God nor about service to the people, nothing whatsoever. Glance at vv. 3-4 again; note how egotistical, self-sufficient and godless the ambition of the people was. God and ministry were completely left out. The purpose of the people was totally secular. They were acting independently of God,

totally eliminating God from their plans and lives. They were building the secular city and religion, a godless empire, and a man-made religion, all as a memorial to their names and generation.

3. The people had a worldly purpose for building the city and great tower. They were out to gain security, to protect themselves, but without God. Note what Scripture says: they sought...
 - to keep everyone together
 - to keep from being scattered all over the face of the earth
 - to keep everyone within one great empire.

They knew what any of us would have known: the population was going to grow and people were going to move out farther and farther from one another. As they did, conflicts of interest would arise, and factions would grow, and skirmishes and wars would break out. The solution to this was a unified people: keep everyone within the same empire, under one rule, one state, one government. This was probably the reason Nimrod went all about building city after city and keeping the population under his control and within his empire (Gen 10:10-11).

Now, note this: there is nothing wrong with security and unity among people. These are noble ambitions. In fact, security and unity are needs that we desperately need both as individuals and nations. The wrong is this:

- => leaving God out of our search for security and unity.
- => denying God's part in security and unity.
- => seeking security and unity only from a worldly and humanistic basis, as though man himself can secure and unify people.
- => ignoring man's first and deepest need: the need to know beyond any question that he is secure and united (reconciled) with God; that he is never going to die, but rather live forever and ever with God.

Thought 1. It is God — the only living and true God — that gives man the foundation of security and a unified spirit with others. God is the basis upon which all security and unity must be built; in fact, man can never be perfectly secure and unified until he bases his life and security upon God. Nations and people will continue to be insecure and divided until they begin with God, begin with the security and reconciliation that He gives. Once a person has been truly reconciled to God, he loves God and he loves all the people of God. Again, God is the basis of security and unity, the only true basis upon which man can build an earthly and national security and unity.

This was the tragic mistake of the human race: they undertook the building of an empire apart from God. They sought security and unity from a worldly basis, not from God.

Note another fact as well: the people were disobeying God and rebelling against Him by not scattering over the whole earth and subduing it. God had told Adam and Eve and then Noah and his sons to populate the earth and to gain dominion over it (Gen 1:28; 9:1). Of course, as the people moved out upon the earth, God wanted the people to base their security and unity upon Him. But, as is seen above, this was not what they did. They sought to build an empire without God.

Thought 1. Mathew Henry says this:

They [sought to] unite in one glorious empire... to build this city and tower, to be the metropolis of the their kingdom and the centre of their unity. It is probable that.. .ambitious Nimrod was in all this. He. . .aimed at universal monarchy... under pretence of uniting for their common safety, he contrives to keep them in one body, that, having them all under his eye, he might not fail to have them under his power. (Mathew Henry's Commentary, Vol. 1, p. 79).

4. The people had a religious purpose for building the city and great tower: they were out to reach heaven by themselves, through their own efforts. Note several significant facts.
 - a. There is no mention of God in the people's plans; no mention whatsoever of the only living and true God, of the sovereign LORD and Majesty of the universe, of the Creator and Sustainer of all things. Quickly glance at v. 3-4 and note how self and only self is stressed, man and only man. Man was going to build the city (empire) and great tower and man was going to build them *by himself* and *for himself*. God — the only living and true God — was forgotten, completely ignored and neglected.
 - b. The purpose for building the great tower was the same as for the city: to gain a name for themselves (v. 4). They were out to build a worldwide religion and to make Babylon the centre of that religion. They were seeking to be the religious centre of the world down through the centuries, to be recognized and honoured as the religious centre of the empire. Again, note that God's name has no part in their purpose, only *their names*. They were building to honour their names, the names of their empire and generation, not God's name.
 - c. This was definitely a religious centre, a great tower. (See *Tower of Babel*, Gen 11:4.) The tower was what is called in the Middle East a temple-tower, a *ziggurat*. The great temple-towers or *ziggurats* were built as *staircases to heaven*. *The NIV Study Bible* gives the names of several *ziggurats* to illustrate the point:
 - => "The House of the Seven Guides of Heaven and Earth" (at Borsippa).
 - => "The House of the Foundation — Platform of Heaven and Earth" (at Babylon).
 - => "The House of the Mountain of the Universe" (at Asshur). (*NIV Study Bible*, note on Genesis 11:4, p. 23.)

The point is this: the great tower was being built as a symbol that the people were building a stairway to heaven, building a stairway up to God. The people were building...

- a religion, a man-made religion, up to God
- a stairway, a man-made stairway, up to God
- a path, a man-made path, up to God
- a way, a man-made way, up to God

The great tower was only a symbol. The people knew they could never build a temple literally up into heaven. If the people had been ignorant, thinking they could actually reach into heaven with a tower, they would not have built on the plain of Babylon which lies almost at sea level. They would have built the tower on a mountain. As stated, the tower was...

- to be a symbol of their worldwide religion, the religion that was to help hold the empire and people together
- to be a symbol of their name, a name that stood for religion, for building a stairway that reached up into heaven
- to be a symbol of their own works, the great effort they put into building a stairway of religion that reached up into heaven

This was the tragic mistake of the human race: they undertook to build a great tower in reaching up to God, a religion of works and self-effort. They thought themselves capable of reaching God on their own, thought they were good enough and righteous enough to reach God by their own works and efforts.

Thought 1. This is the same tragic mistake made by most people today. Most people still try to reach God...

- by their own works and efforts
- by their own goodness and morality
- by following their own man-made steps to God

Most people still try to build a stairway of works and goodness up to God. But, all human works and efforts to reach God are doomed to failure. There are two reasons why.

- a. God is perfect and any person who is going to enter heaven and live with Him must be perfect. But no person is perfect. We have all sinned and come short of God's glory, of His perfection. Therefore, no matter how many stairways we build up to God — no matter how good we may be — we are not perfect. Therefore, we cannot reach heaven and enter God's presence. If we are ever going to be good enough to enter heaven, God has to remake us and perfect us. But before that, He has to take care of our sin and death problems. This is the glorious gospel. God has taken care of all this through Jesus Christ our Lord, taken care of...
 - the sin problem through the *righteousness* of Jesus Christ
 - the death problem through the *death* of Jesus Christ

God perfects us through Jesus Christ. When we truly believe in Jesus Christ, God takes our belief and counts it as the righteousness and death of Jesus Christ. God counts us...

- as *righteous* in Jesus Christ
- as *having died* in Jesus Christ

Therefore, the punishment for our sins has been borne by the death of Jesus Christ. We stand righteous, sinless and perfect before God *through Christ*. We enter heaven and are acceptable to God — counted perfect — through Christ and Christ alone.

Gen 15:6 *Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*

Rom 4:3 *What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”*

Isa 53:5 *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

Rom 3:23 *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified [counted righteous] freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

Rom 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Gal 1:4 *Who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.*

Gal 2:16 *Know that a man is not justified [counted righteous] by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.*

Phil 3:9 *And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.*

Rom 5:9 *Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!*

Rom 6:7 *Anyone who has died [counted dead, justified] has been freed from sin.*

1 Pet 2:24 *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

1 Pet 3:18 *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.*

1 John 3:5 *But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.*

- b. No person can personally penetrate heaven and enter the presence of God, not by his own works and efforts. We should know this, for we are physical beings in the material dimension and world, and God is a spiritual being in the spiritual and heavenly dimension. The physical world cannot penetrate the spiritual world. For

example, what person among us has ever gone up into heaven? No one! Jesus asked the same question, and He said “No man” (John 3:13). If a person is going to ever enter heaven and live with God, God has to come to earth and show us how to reach heaven. This He has done in the Lord Jesus Christ. As shown in point one above, we reach heaven through the Lord Jesus Christ. This is exactly what Christ tells us.

John 3:13-18 “No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven — the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up. That everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

- d. This was the beginning of false religion after The Great Flood. Babylon was the place where false religion was born upon earth; Babylon is the *Mother of False Religion*. This is exactly what Scripture declares in the last book of the Bible. Note that the first book of the Bible reveals that Babylon gave birth to false religion, and the last book of the Bible declares that Babylon is the *Mother of False Religion*.

Rev 17:5 The name written on her forehead was A MYSTERY: BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

No matter what the religion is, if its emphasis is upon works and human goodness, it comes up short and fails to reach God. The religion may go by the name of...

- astrology
- humanism
- secularism
- any one of the major religions of the earth

But, it makes a tragic mistake and sins before God if it teaches that people can build a stairway to God, that people can work and become good enough for God to accept them. This was the tragic mistake made by the people at the Tower of Babel. This was the beginning of all false religion upon earth. (See note, Col 2:8.)

James Montgomery Boice says:

The citizens of Babylon had rejected the knowledge of the true God. Therefore, we should expect the creation of a false religion as part of their dubious cultural achievements. Again, the Bible speaks of “mystery Babylon, ” that is, of the reality symbolized by the earthly city, saying that it is “the mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth” (Rev 17:5). This refers, as do the ideas of prostitution and abomination throughout the Bible, to false religion.

There is evidence that this was the case historically. Morris notes, "The essential identity of the various gods and goddesses of Rome, Greece, India, Egypt and other nations with the original pantheon of the Babylonians is well established. [In fact], Nimrod himself was apparently later deified as the chief god ("Merodach" or "Marduk") of Babylon. (James Montgomery Boice. Genesis, Vol. 1, p. 341.)

Lev 19:31 *Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.*

Deut 18:10-12 *Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you.*

Some commentators believe that this was the birth of astrology upon earth, that a zodiac actually sat on the top story of the great tower. (See note, Col 2:8.)

=> Donald Grey Barnhouse says this:

The tower was a ziggurat on top of which was a zodiac by which the priests hoped to get knowledge from the stars. It was an open, defiant turning to Satan and the beginning of devil worship. This is why the Bible everywhere pronounces a curse on those who consult the sun, the moon and the stars of heaven. (Donald Grey Barnhouse. Genesis, p. 71).

=> James Montgomery Boice says:

It [the great tower] had a representation of the heavens (a Zodiac) upon it... Astrology, which focuses on a study of the zodiac, originated in Babylon. Turn to any book on astrology and you will find that it was the Chaldeans (another name for the inhabitants of Babylon) who first developed the zodiac by dividing the sky into sections and giving meanings to each on the basis of the stars that are found there. A person's destiny is said to be determined by whatever section or 'sign' he is born under. From Babylon, astrology passed to the empire of ancient Egypt where it mingled with the native animism and polytheism of the Nile. The pyramids were constructed with certain mathematical relationships to the stars. The Sphinx has astrological significance. It has the head of a woman, symbolizing Virgo, the virgin, and the body of a lion, symbolizing Leo. Virgo is the first sign of the zodiac, Leo the last. So the Sphinx (which incidentally means 'joining' in Greek) is the meeting point of the zodiac, indicating that the Egyptian priests believed the starting point of the earth in relation to the zodiac lay in Egypt, on the banks of the Nile.

By the time the Jews left Egypt for Canaan, astrology had infected the population there. Hence, some of the strictest warnings in the Bible against astrology date from this period (Lev 19:31; Deut 18). Still later, astrology entered the religious life of Rome.

The interesting thing about these biblical denunciations of astrology is that astrology is identified with demonism or Satanism in the sense that Satan and his hosts were actually being worshipped in the guise of the signs or planets. This is the reason for the Bible's stern denunciation of these practices. (James Montgomery Boice. Genesis, Vol. 1, pp. 341-342).

Deut 13:1-3 *If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder spoken of takes place, and the prophet says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them, you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul."*

Deut 18:20-22 *"But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death." You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?" If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed.*

Isa 47:12-15 *"Keep on, then, with your magic spells and with your many sorceries, which you have laboured at since childhood. Perhaps you will succeed, perhaps you will cause terror. All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month, let them save you from what is coming upon you. Surely they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up. They cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame. These are not coals for warmth; this is not a fire to sit by. That is all they are to you — these you have dealt with and laboured with since childhood. All of them go on in their error; there is not one that can save you."*

Jer 10:1-2 *Hear what the LORD says to you, people of Israel. This is what the LORD says: "Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the heavens, though the nations are terrified by them."*

GENESIS 11: 04 TOWER OF BABEL

The Tower of Babel was a religious centre, a temple-tower, what is called a ziggurat in the Middle East. They were built as staircases to heaven. (See note, pt. 4, c, Gen 11:3-4.) The temple-towers of Babylon were gigantic structures of several stories that rose upward in the sky hundreds of feet above the ground. They were shaped somewhat like a pyramid with a shrine on the top. A walkway or stairs on the outside led up to each receding story above. □

III. *Genesis 11:05–8 God’s Intervention to Restrain Man’s Godless Purpose*

The intervention of God to restrain man’s godless purpose. Note three significant facts.

1. God saw the secular city and false religion the people were building (v. 5).
When Scripture says that God “came down to see the city,” this is what is called *anthropomorphic* language. This simply means that human traits are ascribed to God. God already knew about the secular city and great tower. Scripture is just using descriptive language to give us a clearer and more interesting picture of what happened. What really happened was this: God saw the godless purposes of the people, so He came down to earth in *judicial action* to judge them.

Throughout history God has often allowed the evil purposes of men to continue, to take their course. (See Hitler, Stalin, and others who have sought to build world empires, enslaving and slaughtering millions to achieve their ends.) But not this time, not when Nimrod had united the whole human race to build a one-world empire and religion. Why? Four reasons are given by Scripture.

- a. God saw the unity, the single-minded purpose of the people (v. 6). They were as one people, as one body, set on a single purpose, and that purpose was godless.
- b. God saw the one language of the people (v. 6). They were able to communicate and understand one another without any problem. They had the same concepts, thoughts and mind processes that enabled them to plan and to execute their plans both efficiently and effectively. And, again, their plans and actions were secular and godless.
- c. God saw that the people had great capability (v. 6). If they were left on their own — left as one people with one language — they would succeed in building a godless empire and tower of religion.
- d. God saw the pride of their imagination and the evil of their purpose (v. 6). He knew all about their rebellion and godless purpose in building the secular city and religious tower. God knew their imaginations — how prideful and egotistical man was — that man wanted...
 - to gain fame
 - to be his own person
 - to gain wealth
 - to be honoured
 - to gain power
 - to do what he wanted
 - to gain recognition
 - to govern his own life

God knew man’s imaginations — how prideful and egotistical man was — that man did not want to admit...

- that he needed help
- that he could not build the right kind of society and world by himself
- that he is sinful and depraved and cannot bring utopia — the glorious empire — to earth through his own efforts

These are the reasons why God intervened in the building of the city of Babylon and the great religious Tower of Babel. God knew the godless purpose of man, that man was building a city and empire and a man-made religion that was to be godless, to exclude God entirely — the only true and living God — from the earth.

2. God pronounced His verdict: to restrain man's evil purpose by confusing man's language (v. 7). Language is learned, and as it is learned, the mind develops an ability to arrange and organize its thoughts in a certain way. That is, the minds of the human races differ: minds differ as to the way they organize and arrange material and thoughts. Just how the mind organizes and arranges thoughts is determined to a large degree by the language a person learns.

The point is this: when God confused the language of the people, their minds — their world of concepts and thoughts — were bound to be affected as well as their languages. There was a total lack of communication and understanding as to the thoughts, concepts, and meaning of the other languages. The people simply could not understand one another. There was apparently only an understanding among various family groups.

3. God restrained man's evil purpose (v. 8). Note what Scripture says: God scattered the people over the face of the whole earth. He had confused their language; they could not understand one another. Consequently, they slowly — probably over weeks and months — drifted apart and developed communities and cities of their own. The history of the various families is recorded in *The Table of Nations* of Chapter 10.

The point is this: God stopped the people's secular empire and false religion, stopped them by confusing their language and scattering them over the face of the earth.

Note this: God was having mercy upon man by stopping man's evil purposes. We know this because of the name of God that is used throughout this passage, the name *Jehovah* or *Yahweh* (vv. 5-9). This is the redemptive name of God (see note, Gen 2:4). God was stopping man from building a worldwide godless empire in order to pave the way for man's salvation. If a worldwide empire was allowed to rule the world — a godless empire — then God would not be able to raise up a people through whom He could send *the promised seed*, the Saviour of the world. Thus, in confusing the language and scattering the people over the earth...

- God was stopping man's godless purpose, but God was also preparing to save man by raising up a godly people

Job 5:12 *He thwarts the plans of the crafty, so that their hands achieve no success.*

Job 12:17 *He leads rulers away stripped and makes fools of judges.*

Isa 37:27 *Their people, drained of power, are dismayed and put to shame. They are like plants in the field, like tender green shoots, like grass sprouting on the roof, scorched before it grows up.*

Isa 40:22-23 *He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.*

Isa 41:11 *All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish.*

Isa 44:24-25 *“This is what the LORD says — your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, the Maker of all things, who stretches out the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself. [The Lord] who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense.*

Isa 45:15-17 *Truly you are a God who has been hiding himself, the God and Saviour of Israel. All the makers of idols will be put to shame and disgraced; they will go off into disgrace together. But Israel will be saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation; you will never be put to shame or disgraced, to ages everlasting.*

Jer 20:10-13 *I hear many whispering, “Terror on every side! Report him! Let’s report him!” All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying, “Perhaps he will be deceived; then we will prevail over him and take our revenge on him.” But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonour will never be forgotten. O LORD Almighty, you who examine the righteous and probe the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.*

IV. Genesis 11:09 The Eternal Memorial to God’s Power

The very name *Babel* or *Babylon* means confusion. The name was given to the city and tower because God confused the languages of men there. Later on, the people of the area changed the meaning to *the gate of God* (Victor Hamilton. *The Book of Genesis*, p. 357). But no matter what meaning man tries to give to the name of Babel, it stands as a memorial to God’s great power. When we hear the name Babel or Babylon or hear a different language from our own, we should always think of the enormous power of God, of just what He did at Babel.

⇒ Both Babylon and the different languages and nationalities of the earth stand as an eternal memorial to God’s great power.

Thought 1. God expects us to remember Him at every turn of life. It is our duty to remember and acknowledge Him.

Psa. 63:6 *On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.*

Prov 3:6 *In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Eccl 12:1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them."

Jona 2:7 "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. ■"