



GREAT NAME BUILDING

GENESIS 11:1-9 BIBLE STUDY

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OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD

- By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for **dust you are** and to **dust you will return.**” (Gen 3:19, NIV)
 - 13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you **alive** with Christ. He **forgave** us all our **sins**, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having **disarmed** the **powers** and **authorities**, he made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them by the cross.** (Col 2:13-15, NIV)
 - And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your **offspring** and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (Gen 3:15, NIV)
 - 8 When the Most High gave to the nations their **inheritance**, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the **sons of God.** (Dt 32:8, ESV). 9 But the LORD’s portion is his people, Jacob his allotted **heritage.** (Dt 32:9, NIV)
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GENESIS 11:1-9 NIV

- 1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and **settled there**. 3 They said **to each other**, “**Come, let’s make bricks** and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, **let us build ourselves a city, with a tower** that reaches to the heavens, so that we may *make a name for ourselves*; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”
- 5 **But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower** the **people were building**.
- 6 The LORD said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 **Come, let us go down and confuse their language** so they will not understand **each other**.” 8 So the LORD **scattered them from there** over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth. (Gen 11:1-9, NIV)



CONTEXT



- God blessed them and said to them, “**Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” (Gen 1:28, NIV)
 - Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. (Gen 9:1, NIV cf. Gen 9:7)
 - (From these the maritime peoples **spread out** into their territories by their clans within their nations, each with its own language.) (Gen 10:5, NIV)
 - Later the Canaanite clans **scattered** [*pûš*] (Gen 10:18b, NIV)
 - These are the clans of Noah’s sons, according to their lines of descent, within their nations. From these the nations **spread out over the earth after the flood** (Gen 10:32, NIV)
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GENESIS 11:1 ONENESS



- And it came to pass that all the earth had one language and one speech (Gen 11:1, AT)
- That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one [*'eḥad*] flesh. (Gen 2:24, NIV)





GENESIS 11:2 EASTSIDE



- And it came to pass: they migrated from the East to the plain of the land of Shinar and settled there. (Gen 11:2, AT)
- Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the **east**, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed (Gen 2:8, NIV)
- After he drove the man out, he placed on the **east side** of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. (Gen 3:24, NIV)
- So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, **east** of Eden. (Gen 4:16, NIV)





GENESIS 11:3
LET'S BUILD



- And they said to each another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone and bitumen for mortar (Gen 11:3, AT)





GENESIS 11:4 TOUCH THE SKY



- And they said, "Come, let us build a city for ourselves and a tower with its top reaching the heavens. And let us **make a name for ourselves**, lest we be scattered upon the surfaces of all the earth (Gen 11:4, AT)
- Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" (Gen 3:1, NIV)





GENESIS 11:4 DIVINE ACCESS



- When Marduk heard this, | Brightly glowed his features, like the day: | “Construct **Babylon**, whose building you have requested, | Let its brickwork be fashioned. You shall name it ‘**The Sanctuary.**’ ” | The Anunnaki applied the implement; | **for one whole year they molded bricks.** | When the second year arrived, | They raised high the head of Esagila equaling Apsu. | **Having built a stage-tower as high as Apsu,** | They set up in it an **abode** for Marduk, Enlil, (and) Ea. | In their presence he was seated in grandeur. – *Enuma Elish*
- He had a dream in which he saw a **stairway** resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. (Gen 28:12, NIV)
- Make a likeness on earth of what he [Marduk] has wrought in heaven.” – *Enuma Elish*
- Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (Jn 14:6, NIV)



GENESIS 11:5
HEAVEN COMES DOWN



- The LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the sons of Adam were building (Gen 11:5, AT)





GENESIS 11:6
NIP IT IN THE BUD



- And the LORD said, "Look, the people are one and there is one language for all of them. This will be the beginning of what they will do. And now nothing that they will scheme to do will be too hard for them (Gen 11:6, AT)





GENESIS 11:7
LET'S MIX IT UP



- "Come, let us come down there and mix up their language so that they will not understand each other's language (Gen 11:7, AT)
- Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. (Lk 12:51, NIV)





GENESIS 11:8-9
SCATTER



- 8 And from there the LORD scattered them upon the surfaces of all the earth, and they stopped the building of the city. 9 For this reason, its name was called Babel – because there the LORD mixed up the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD scattered them upon all the surfaces of the earth (Gen 11:8-9, AT)



REVERSE OF THE CURSE



- After Terah had lived 70 years, he became the father of **Abram**, Nahor and Haran. (Gen 11:26, NIV)
 - 1 The LORD had said to Abram, “**Go** from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. 2 “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; **I will make your name great**, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples on earth | will be blessed through you.**” (Gen 12:1-3, NIV)
 - 7 Understand, then, that **those who have faith are children of Abraham**. 8 Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the **gospel in advance** to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” 9 So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (Gal 3:7-9, NIV)
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REVERSE OF THE CURSE



- 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my **treasured possession**. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a **kingdom of priests** and a **holy nation** (Ex 19:5-6a, NIV)
 - 9 But you are a **chosen people**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, **God's special possession**, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Pet 2:9, NIV)
 - 8 When the Most High gave the nations their **inheritance**, when He separated mankind, He established the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God 9 For the portion of the LORD is His people, Jacob is His **allotted inheritance** (Dt 32:8-9, AT)
 - Arise, O God! Judge the earth, for you will **inherit** all the nations (Ps 82:8, AT)
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REVERSE OF THE CURSE



- 2 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and **all nations** will stream to it. **Many peoples** will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He will judge between the **nations** and will settle disputes for **many peoples**. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. **Nation** will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore (Is 2:2-4, NIV)
 - At that time I will change the **speech** of the peoples to a **pure speech**, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him with **one** accord. 10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia | my suppliant, my **scattered** ones, shall bring my offering. (Zep 3:9, NRSV)
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REVERSE OF THE CURSE



- 9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from **every nation, tribe, people and language**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”
(Rev 7:9-10, NIV)



REVERSE OF THE CURSE



- 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from **every nation** under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in **our native language**? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own **tongues!**” (Ac 2:5-11, NIV)