



“GREAT NAME BUILDING”

GENESIS 11:1-9 BIBLE STUDY SLIDES

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DUST TO DUST



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)





CONTEXT:
DIVINE DEFEAT



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)





CONTEXT:
DIVINE DEFEAT

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)





CONTEXT:
DIVINE TRIAL



God [*Elohim*, singular] presides in the **divine assembly**,
among the **gods** [*elohim*, plural] He judges:
(Ps 82:1, AT; cf. HCSB)





CONTEXT: DIVINE TRIAL



- 2 How long will you vindicate the unjust,
and show partiality to the wicked?
 - 3 Vindicate the lowly and the fatherless,
for the poor and oppressed do justice.
 - 4 Rescue the lowly and the needy,
from the hand of the wicked, deliver them.
- (Ps 82:2-4, AT)





CONTEXT:
DIVINE TRIAL



They do not know, they do not understand,
they walk about in darkness,
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

(Ps 82:5, AT)





CONTEXT:
DIVINE TRIAL



I said, "You are gods,
you are all sons of the Most High.
(Ps 82:6, AT)





CONTEXT:
DIVINE TRIAL



But in fact, like mortals you will die,
and like any prince you will fall.”

(Ps 82:7, AT)





CONTEXT: DIVINE JUDGMENT



21 In that day the LORD [YHWH] will **punish**
the **powers** in the **heavens above**
and the **kings** on the **earth below**.

22 They will be herded together
like prisoners bound in a dungeon;
they will be shut up in prison
and be **punished** after many days.

(Is 24:21-22, NIV)





CONTEXT:
DIVINE JUDGMENT



Then He will say to those on the left,
"Depart from Me – you who have been
cursed – into the **eternal fire** prepared for
the **devil and his angels**. (Mt 25:41, AT)





CONTEXT:
DIVINE TRIUMPH



Arise, O God! Judge the earth,
for you will inherit all the nations!
(Ps 82:8, AT)





CONTEXT:
DIVINE DELEGATION

20 So he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to **fight** against the **prince of Persia**, and when I go, the **prince of Greece** will come; 21 but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except **Michael, your prince**.)

(Dn 10:20-21, NIV)





CONTEXT:
DIVINE DELEGATION



- 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 [YHWH] is His people,
Jacob is His allotted **inheritance.** (Dt 32:8-9, AT)
- 



CONTEXT:
POST-FLOOD SCATTERING



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)





CONTEXT:
POST-FLOOD SCATTERING



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)





CONTEXT: POST-FLOOD SCATTERING



8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: 9 “I now establish my **covenant** with you and with your descendants after you 10 and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. 11 I establish my **covenant** with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.” (Gen 9:8-11, NIV)





CONTEXT: POST-FLOOD SCATTERING

12 And God said, “This is the **sign of the covenant** I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a **covenant** for all generations to come: 13 I have set **my rainbow in the clouds**, and it will be the **sign of the covenant between me and the earth**. 14 Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the **rainbow** appears in the clouds, 15 I will remember my **covenant** between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. 16 Whenever the **rainbow** appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the **everlasting covenant** between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.” (Gen 9:12-16, NIV)





CONTEXT:
POST-FLOOD SCATTERING



(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)





CONTEXT:
POST-FLOOD SCATTERING



Later the Canaanite clans

scattered [פּוּזָ | *pûṣ*]

(Gen 10:18b, NIV)



CONTEXT:
POST-FLOOD SCATTERING



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)





GENESIS 11:1
ONENESS



And it came to pass that all the earth had one language and one speech. (Gen 11:1, AT)





GENESIS 11:1 ONENESS



That is why a **man** leaves his father and mother and is **united to his wife**, and they become **one** [אֶחָד | *'eḥad*] **flesh**. (Gen 2:24, NIV)



GENESIS 11:2
EAST



And it came to pass: as they migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

(Gen 11:2, AT)





GENESIS 11:2
EAST



Now the LORD [YHWH] God had
planted a garden in the **east**, in Eden;
and there he put the man he had
formed. (Gen 2:8, NIV)



GENESIS 11:2
EAST (OF EDEN)



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)





GENESIS 11:2
EAST (OF EDEN)



So Cain went out from the LORD
[YHWH]'s presence and lived in the
land of Nod, **east** of Eden.

(Gen 4:16, NIV)





GENESIS 11:3
LET'S BUILD BETTER



And they said to each other, "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
LET'S TOUCH THE SKY,
LET'S REACH HEAVEN



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** [פּוּץ | *pûṣ*] upon the surfaces of all the earth. (Gen 11:4, AT)



GENESIS 11:4
TEMPTING TO CROSS
GOD'S BOUNDARIES



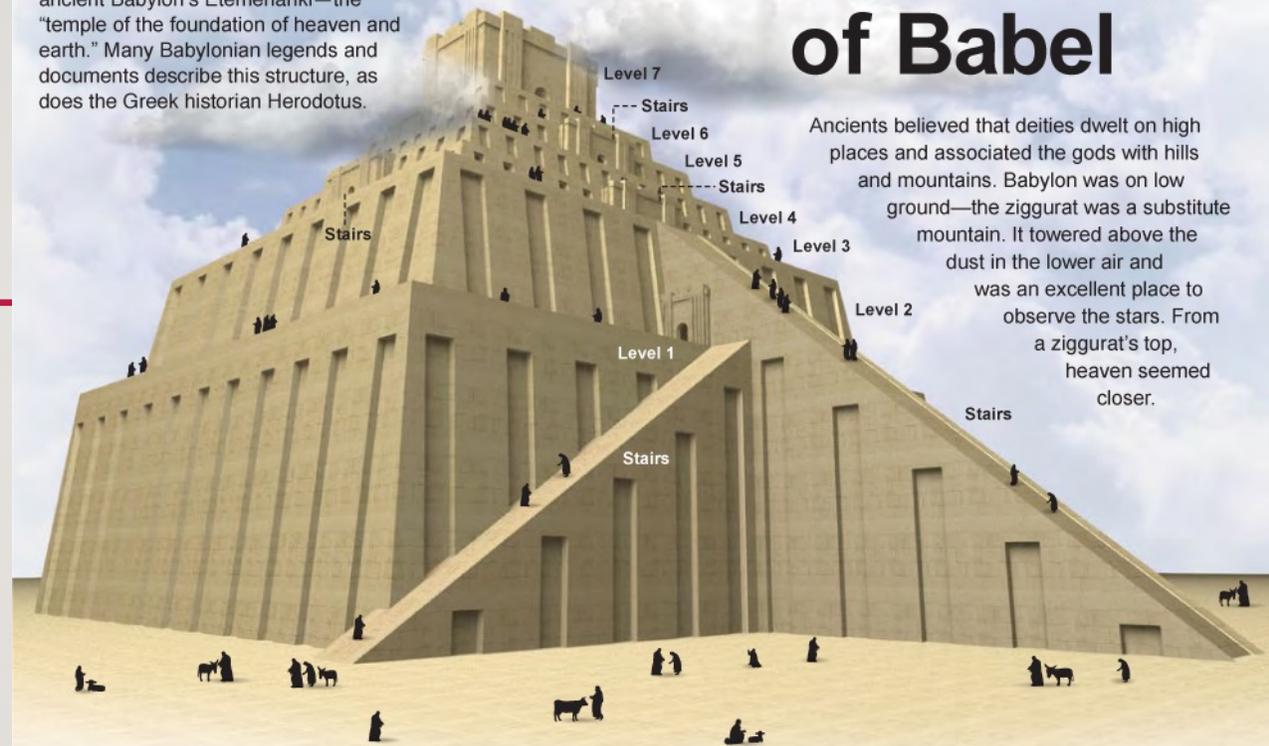
Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD [YHWH] God had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?**” (Gen 3:1, NIV)



The Tower of Babel would have been built in ziggurat form. It probably was ancient Babylon's Etemenanki—the “temple of the foundation of heaven and earth.” Many Babylonian legends and documents describe this structure, as does the Greek historian Herodotus.

The Tower of Babel

Ancients believed that deities dwelt on high places and associated the gods with hills and mountains. Babylon was on low ground—the ziggurat was a substitute mountain. It towered above the dust in the lower air and was an excellent place to observe the stars. From a ziggurat's top, heaven seemed closer.

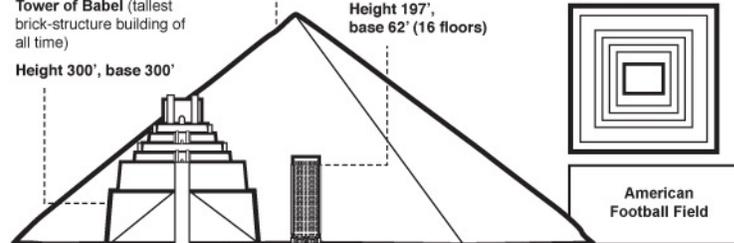


Size comparison (approximate):

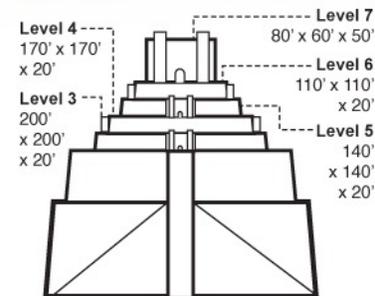
Great Pyramid of Giza (tallest building in the ancient world)
Height 480', base 755.5'

Tower of Babel (tallest brick-structure building of all time)
Height 300', base 300'

Monadnock Building in Chicago (tallest brick-structure building now standing)
Height 197', base 62' (16 floors)



The Esagila Tablet from Uruk describes the Etemenanki with these dimensions. The stairs for the top levels are interior.





GENESIS 11:4
LET'S TOUCH THE SKY,
LET'S REACH HEAVEN



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)





GENESIS 11:4
LET'S TOUCH THE SKY,
LET'S REACH HEAVEN



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 [YHWH] 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 [YHWH] 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
THINGS 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)





GENESIS 11:7
WORLDLY PEACE/UNITY
IS NOT THE SAME AS
GODLY PEACE/UNITY



You think *peace* I have come to
establish on the earth? No, I tell you,
but rather **division**. (Lk 12:51, AT)





GENESIS 11:8-9
POST-FLOOD
SCATTERING

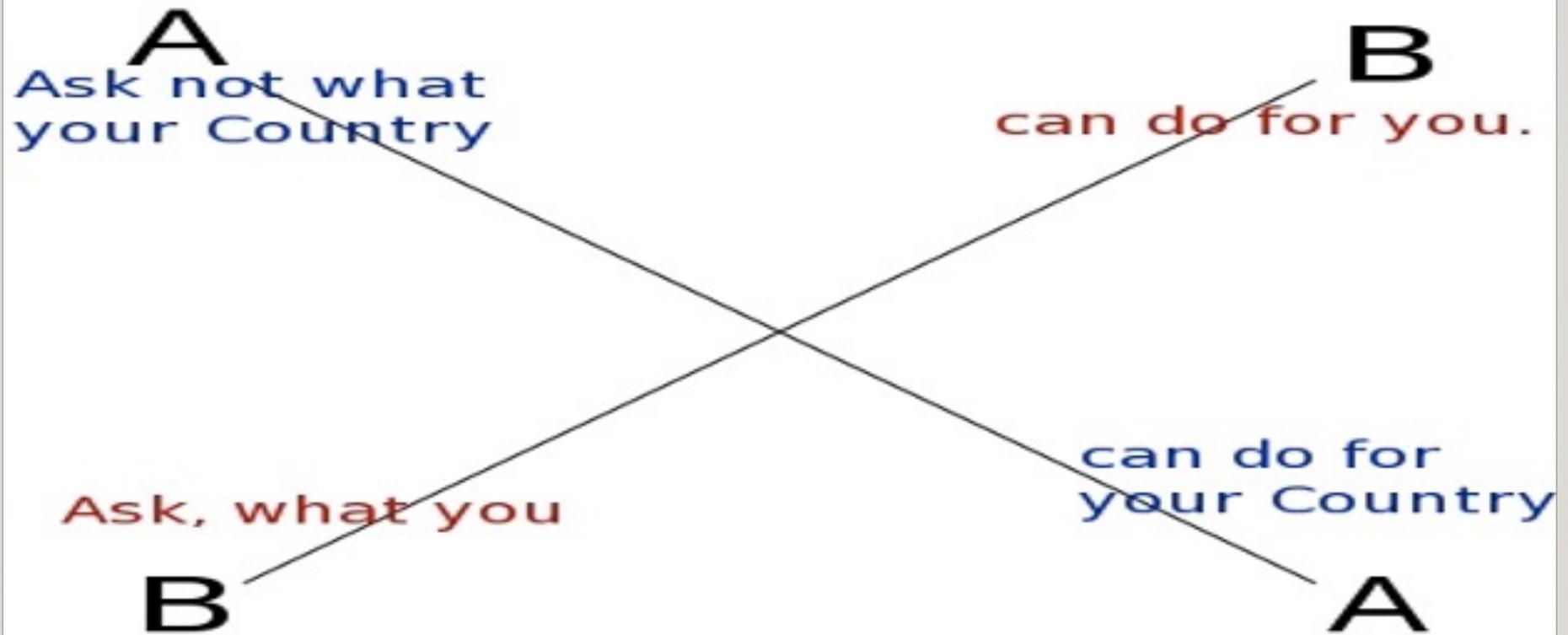


8 And from there the LORD [YHWH] **scattered** [פּוֹצֵץ | *pûṣ*] them upon the surfaces of all the earth, and they stopped the building of the city. 9 For this reason, its name was called Babel – because there the LORD [YHWH] mixed up the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD [YHWH] **scattered**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





CHIASTIC STRUCTURE

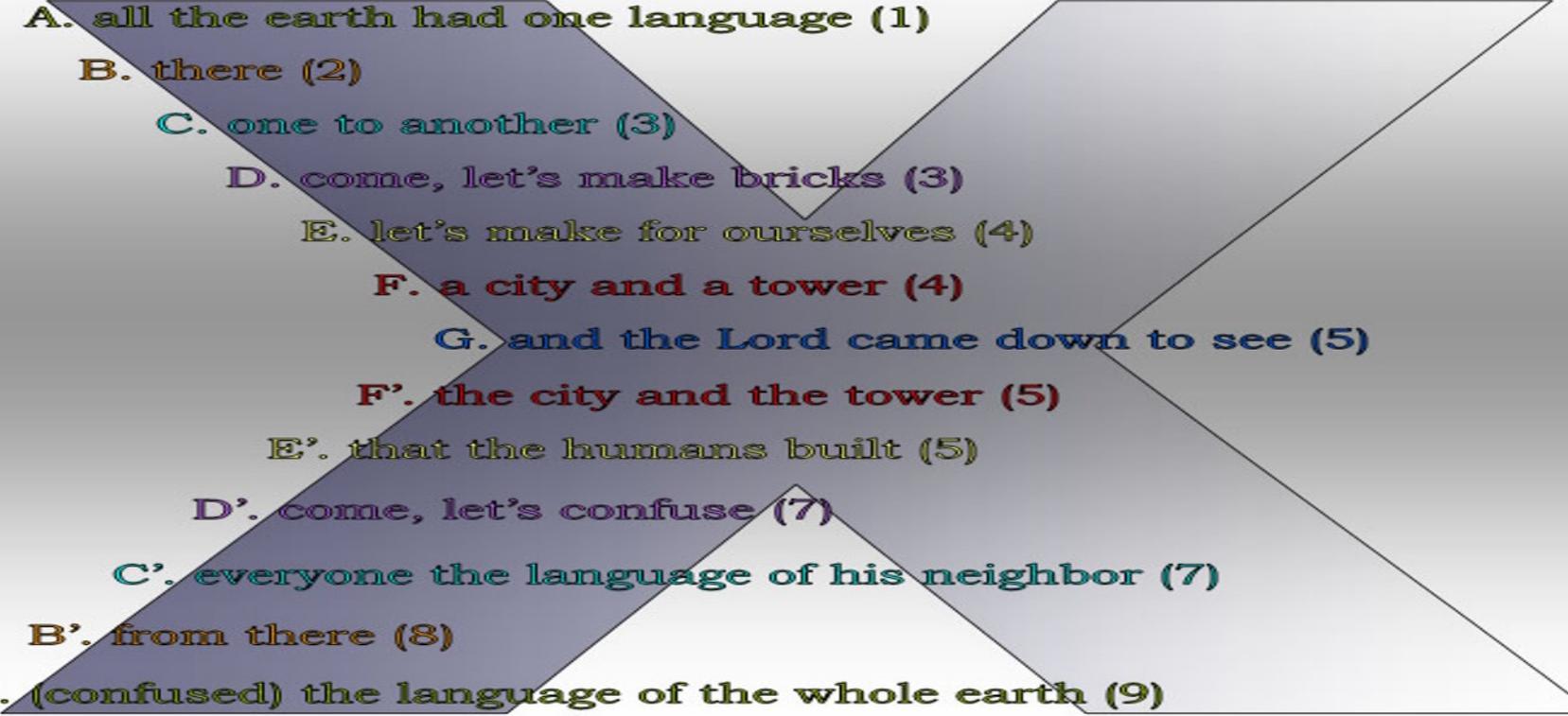




CHIASTIC STRUCTURE



The Structure of the Tower of Babel Story Genesis 11:1-9

- 
- A. all the earth had one language (1)
 - B. there (2)
 - C. one to another (3)
 - D. come, let's make bricks (3)
 - E. let's make for ourselves (4)
 - F. a city and a tower (4)
 - G. and the Lord came down to see (5)
 - F'. the city and the tower (5)
 - E'. that the humans built (5)
 - D'. come, let's confuse (7)
 - C'. everyone the language of his neighbor (7)
 - B'. from there (8)
 - A'. (confused) the language of the whole earth (9)



WHERE IS
THE HOPE?



After Terah had lived 70 years, he became the father of **Abram**, Nahor and Haran. (Gen 11:26, NIV)





GENESIS 12
THE BLESSED
LINE OF ABRAHAM

1 The LORD [YHWH] 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.

(Gen 12:1-2, NIV)





GENESIS 12
THE BLESSED
LINE OF ABRAHAM



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 12:3, NIV)





GENESIS 12
THE BLESSED
LINE OF ABRAHAM

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; cf. Rom 4:16-17, 9:24-26)





GENESIS 12
THE BLESSED
LINE OF ABRAHAM



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)

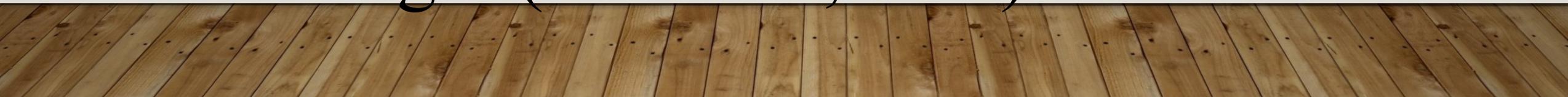




GENESIS 12
THE BLESSED
LINE OF ABRAHAM



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)





THE REVERSE
OF THE CURSE
AT BABEL



- 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 [YHWH] is His people,
Jacob is His allotted **inheritance**. (Dt 32:8-9, AT)
- 



THE REVERSE
OF THE CURSE
AT BABEL



Arise, O God! Judge the earth,
for you will **inherit** all the nations.
(Ps 82:8, AT)





THE REVERSE OF THE CURSE AT BABEL



2 In the last days

the mountain of the LORD [YHWH]'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.**

(Is 2:2, NIV)





THE REVERSE
OF THE CURSE
AT BABEL

- 9 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 [YHWH]
and serve him with one accord.
- 10 From **beyond the rivers of Ethiopia**
my suppliants, my **scattered** [פִּזְרָה | *pûṣ*] ones,
shall bring my offering. (Zep 3:9-10, NRSV)
- 



THE REVERSE OF THE CURSE AT BABEL



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)





THE REVERSE OF THE CURSE AT BABEL



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**? (Ac 2:5-8, NIV)





THE REVERSE OF THE CURSE AT BABEL



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 2:9-11, NIV)

