

Genesis

The study of the beginning

Lesson #8

Return Church

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

July 29, 2026

Genesis

A study of the beginning

- Lesson #1 – The Creation
- Lesson #2 – We were made for relationships
- Lesson #3 – We were made for stewardship
- Lesson #4 – Paradise lost
- Lesson #5 – East of Eden
- Lesson #6 – The Flood
- Lesson #7 – The Rainbow
- **Lesson #8 – The Tower**
- Lesson #9 - Abram

Genesis

The book of Genesis reveals 4 big events:

1. The creation
2. The fall of mankind
3. The flood
4. The tower of Babel

Then it reveals 4 men and the story of their lives:

1. Abraham
2. Isaac
3. Jacob
4. Joseph

The Tower of Babel

The earth was populated

So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. ***Genesis 9:1 NKJV***

Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham *was* the father of Canaan. These three *were* the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

Genesis 9:18-19 NKJV

The table of nations

Now this *is* the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood. **Genesis 10:1 NKJV**

- Genesis 10 is commonly called **the Table of the nations**.
- The 10th chapter of Genesis is a chapter of genealogies.
- We see 70 different nations that came from Noah here in chapter 10.

These *were* the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood. **Genesis 10:32 NKJV**

This is not a contradiction

From these the coastland *peoples* of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, **everyone according to his language**, according to their families, into their nations. **Genesis 10:5 NKJV**

These were the sons of Ham, according to their families, **according to their languages**, in their lands *and* in their nations. **Genesis 10:20 NKJV**

These were the sons of Shem, according to their families, **according to their languages**, in their lands, according to their nations. **Genesis 10:31 NKJV**

Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. **Genesis 11:1 NKJV**

The Table of nations

- Chapter 10 is a summary written first. Chapter 11 goes back in time.
- Like when you read an article in a magazine and the writer puts the summary first, then he writes all of the details going back in time telling us how everything occurred.
- Chapter 11 is an insertion. It would have needed to have been put somewhere in chapter 10 to be in chronological order, but the Bible has a lot of things that are not in chronological order.
- Noah and his 3 sons were still living during the time of the tower of Babel.
- Noah lived after the flood 350 years.
- The tower of Babel was built 101 years after the flood.
- By the 3rd generation after Noah, we see different languages and nations.
- How could you have different languages and nations in just 101 years after the flood.
- This is what the story of Babel is all about.
- There are 70 nations in Genesis 10 in the table of nations, how did 70 nations and languages occur in 101 years?
- The story of the tower of Babel is inserted to help us understand this.

Nimrod

Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir. Calah, **Genesis 10:8-11 NKJV**

- **Nimrod** means a rebel, to revolt to rise up in defiance.
- This is the only person with a repeated phrase in Biblical genealogies.
- “Mighty hunter before the Lord” – is not a compliment. Means standing against. He was a tyrant, a rebel who turned the people against the Lord.

Nimrod

- Nimrod, the grandson of Ham is the leader who built the tower of Babel.
- His kingdom was great. Babylon and beyond including the land of Shinar, where the tower of Babel was built.
- He was the worlds first global tyrant, and he wanted the first world empire. He wanted a global kingdom.
- He is referred to as mighty 3 times, one who rules with violence, a hunter of men, he conquered people.
- This phrase, before the Lord means he was in rebellion to God and hostile to God and his laws.
- Nimrod decides to build the tower. It was probably a ziggurat.

Ziggurat

Nimrod probably built a ziggurat. A type of massive structure built in ancient Mesopotamia. The Sumerians believed that the gods lived in the temple at the top of the ziggurats, so only priests could enter. The tower of Babel was probably much wider and taller than this one in the photo.





The tower

- At the bottom of the ziggurat was a temple.
- The purpose of the ziggurat was so the gods could descend from the heavens to earth.
- The tower was believed to be a gate to the gods.
- The ziggurat had a stairway all the way to the top.
- The gate of the gods was a small room at the very top.
- Let's make a heaven gated tower, they are building a ziggurat, a high tower, in the middle of the city, a temple, a place that would help you get to heaven, in hopes that the gods would come down.

Let us build a city

And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly. They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; **Genesis 11:2-4 NKJV**

- They journeyed from the east.
- They stopped in Shinar and said let's us build a city.
- Bricks and asphalt, this was new technology.
- They were going to build a tower higher than any ever built before.
- Nothing wrong with any of this.

Let us make a name for ourselves

Let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth. **Genesis 11:4 NKJV**

- Here we get to the core problem.
- This is ultimately the reason God had to come down and confuse the languages at the tower of Babel.
- The fallen nature of mankind is always trying to make a name for himself, instead of lifting up and glorifying the LORD's name.
- With every decision in life, you can either lift up your own name, glorify yourself, or you can lift up God's name and give Him the glory.

3 universal judgments

There were 3 universal judgments in Genesis chapters 1-11, or during the first 2,000 years of history.

1. The fall of mankind.
 2. The flood.
 3. The tower of Babel.
- The reason for all of them is **pride**.
 - The story of the tower of Babel is a story of man's pride and God coming down in merciful judgment.
 - **Pride** – commonly called one of the seven deadly sins by the church, is the root of all other sins.
 - Self-centeredness is the essence of sin, or the main problem with humanity.

Pride

- Pride is not only sinful, but foolish and destructive.
- The people moved eastward to Shinar, let us build a city with a tower that reaches to the heavens.
- Nothing wrong to trying to make a great achievement. Or to be the best at what we do. Or being successful. The question is why do we seek to achieve great things. What is our motive?
- Or why do we avoid to seek great things, out of a fear of failure.
- **Let us make a name for ourselves.** That was their purpose.
- God created us to make his name great. We are created for His glory not for our glory.

Making your name known

- When man seeks to make a name for himself, nothing but evil flows out of that.
- Who we are trying to make a name for is at the heart of Christianity.
- With every action we do, we are either trying to make our own name known or to make the Lord's name known?
- The Lord's prayer; Hallowed be thy name.
- In ministry, what are you trying to accomplish, to make a great name for yourself or for God? Do you do good things because you want a good reputation, do you want people to look up to or admire you?
- How many ministers are more concerned with how many followers they have than they are about pleasing the Lord.

Making your name known

- What about when you do something for someone?
- Is it important to you that they know that you did this for them? Or can you be anonymous and cause them to know that God did this for them.
- The essence of sin is self-centeredness. You taking the center or the place of God in your life. You wanting everyone to revolve around you.
- Self-centeredness is pride. This desire to lift yourself up, to defend yourself, to justify your self.
- Pride is simply a desire to make your name great, or to make your name known.
- Jesus wants us to spend our life lifting Him up, or making His name known.

Making your name known

- People give millions to universities and non-profits to name buildings after themselves.
- They are concerned that when they are gone from this world, that people will forget their name.
- What do you do to make your name known?
- Do you defend yourself when someone is putting you down?
- Do you put others down in order to try and lift yourself up?
- What about when someone has offended you and hurt you? Are you quick to forgive or are you bitter and do you want revenge?
- Do you always have to be the center of attention wherever you are?

Chasing the wind

- Solomon tried to make a name for himself through trying everything under the sun he could think of, outside of God.
- He looked to the creation and the creatures instead of looking to the creator for his satisfaction, meaning and significance in life.
- Building up your own name, or making your name known on this earth, to the applause of men is foolish. This world is temporal. Your life is like a vapor, it vanished away.

Everything is meaningless, says the Teacher, completely meaningless! What do people get for all their hard work under the sun? ***Ecclesiastes 1:2-3 NLT***

I observed everything going on under the sun, and really, it is all meaningless—like chasing the wind. ***Ecclesiastes 1:14 NLT***

Chasing the wind

I said to myself, Come on, let's try pleasure. Let's look for the good things in life. But I found that this, too, was meaningless. So I said, Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure? After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine.....In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world. I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves. I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. I collected great sums of silver and gold..... I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire! So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. ***Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 NLT***

The tower of Babel

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth. ***Genesis 11:5-9 NKJV***

Nothing impossible for them

Now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. **Genesis 11:6 NKJV**

Look! he said. The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! **Genesis 11:6 NLT**

- As long as there was this many people, united, working together they would accomplish their purposes, even if their purposes were not of God.
- It appears that Nimrod wanted a one world global government where they could be so strong that they could defy God.

Man is not God

- Human beings can do amazing things. They have abilities, skills to do great things. Look at medicine, science, artificial intelligence, neurology, modern day technology. It is amazing what mankind has been able to do.
- But man is not God, and man should not try to take the place of God.
- This is what Adam and Eve were basically doing in the Garden of Eden, they were putting themselves in the place of God.
- They wanted to be God. The serpent said, ye shall be as gods.
- The new age movement and the word of faith movement has its roots in something called New Thought.
- A philosophy where man looks within himself for the divine instead of looking outward to God.
- Man thinks by looking inward, he can tap into the divine.
- Nothing will be restrained from them which they imagined to do.

I AM WHO I AM

Then Moses said to God, Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they say to me, What *is* His name? what shall I say to them? And God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.**” And He said, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you. ***Exodus 3:13-14 NKJV***

Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad. Then the Jews said to Him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM.** Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. ***John 8:56-59 NKJV***

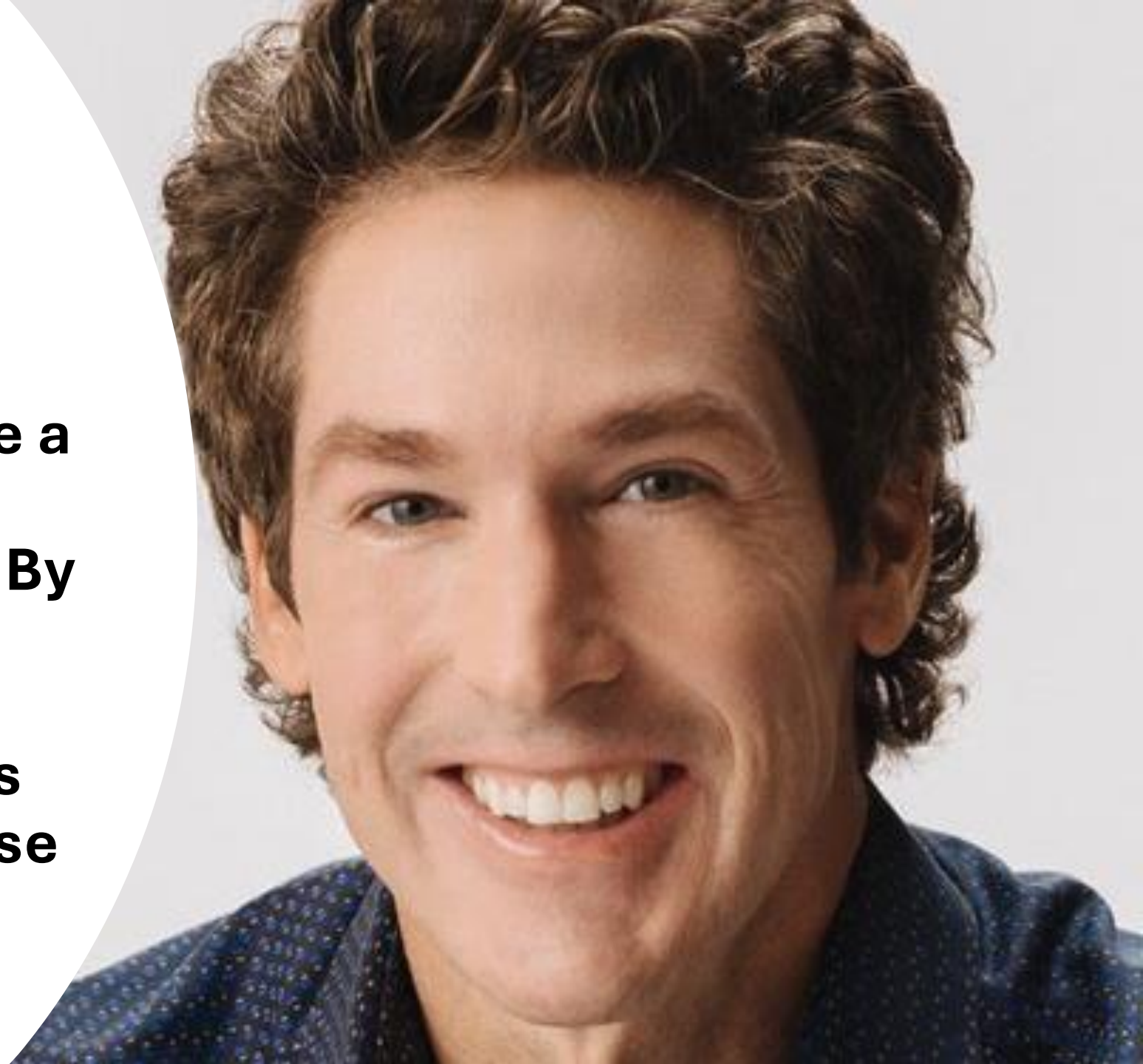
Kenneth Copeland

I say this with all respect so that it don't upset you too bad, but I say it anyway. When I read in the Bible where he [Jesus] says, '**I Am,**' I just smile and say, '**Yes, I Am, too!**' You don't have a god in you, you are one.



Joel Osteen

The words "I am" act like a magnet, drawing in whatever follows them. By making positive, faith-filled declarations, you align yourself with God's promises and invite those blessings into your life.



Joel Osteen – “I am”

I am blessed. I am prosperous. I am successful. I am victorious. I am talented. I am creative. I am wise. I am healthy. I am in shape. I am energetic. I am happy. I am positive. I am passionate. I am strong. I am confident. I am secure. I am beautiful. I am attractive. I am valuable. I am free. I am anointed. I am accepted. I am approved. I am prepared. I am qualified. I am motivated. I am focused. I am disciplined. I am patient. I am kind. I am generous. I am excellent. I am empowered.

Hog wash

- This is hog wash.
- Only God is the great I AM. And only God can be whatever He wants to be.
- Human beings are sinful fallen creatures. We are not divine, and we cannot save ourselves because we are not God.
- We are not supposed to spend our lives trying to make our names great, we are to spend our lives making the name of Jesus Christ (our creator) great.
- If you are a believer, your identity is in Jesus Christ. In Him you are who God says you are and that is pretty amazing.
- This is the opposite thinking of new thought, where they are looking within themselves for God.

The tower of Babel

Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth. **Genesis 11:7-9 NKJV**

- **Babel** means confusion.
- The Lord scattered the people. He confused their languages.
- He gave them different languages to separate and scatter the people.
- Just think of the miracle. How did God do that? All of a sudden, everyone on the earth had a new language that they could speak.
- I would assume that Noah and Shem probably spoke Hebrew, and it was passed down to Israel, and onto Jesus.

Pentecost

- Later you see Gods answer to Babel at Pentecost.
- This explains two very bizarre events in Biblical history.
- First the tower of Babel and everyone getting different and various languages.
- Then 2,000 years later, we have the Day of Pentecost where God gave the early church unknown tongues.
- On the Day of Pentecost, the curse of Babel was broken.
- God gave the early church unknown tongues so people of different languages could hear the gospel.
- Pentecost is viewed as the divine reversal and redemption of Babel.
- While the events at Babel fractured humanity through language, Pentecost began healing that fracture through the Holy Spirit.

Confusion and Understanding

Babel (Confusion): According to Genesis 11, humanity originally shared one common speech. In response to their pride, or wanting to make their name known, God confused their language so they could no longer understand each other.

Pentecost (Comprehension): In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles, enabling them to speak in different tongues. Visitors from many nations could suddenly understand the message in their own native languages.

Pride vs humility

Babel (Human Ambition): The builders of the tower with evil intent, sought to build a structure reaching to the heavens to "make a name for themselves" apart from God. This represents a works-based religion, where man is god and man can save Himself.

Pentecost (Divine Grace): Rather than humanity trying to climb up to heaven, God descended to humanity through the Holy Spirit. The focus shifted from works-based to grace-based, giving all the glory and honor to Jesus Christ. Instead of wanting to make their name known, they were humbly seeking the Lord and wanting to glorify Him.

Scattering and Gathering

Babel (Divided): Because the people could no longer communicate, they were forced to abandon their city and were scattered across the face of the earth, creating global division. This weakened the nations greatly.

Pentecost (United): People from diverse nations were gathered together in Jerusalem. The miracle did not erase their unique cultural languages, but overrode the communication barrier to unite them into a single spiritual family: the Church. This strengthened the church greatly.

The Day of Pentecost

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? **Acts 2:1-8 NKJV**

Come, let Us go down

But the Lord came down.....Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language. ***Genesis 11:5,7 NKJV***

- Come let us go down.
- Was this the Trinity going down to the earth? Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Or was God taking the sons of God, (His divine counsel), down to the earth with Him?
- Maybe the sons of God referred to Genesis 6, Job and in Psalms 82, are archangels or some type of superior angels?

The Lord came down

But the Lord came down. ***Genesis 11:5 NKJV***

- This verse could be called the turning point in human history.
- Man couldn't climb up to God, so God came down to man.
- In order for something to be done about the Babel in my heart the Lord must come down to this earth.
- He must come down with judgment and mercy.
- How does God ultimately deal with the sin of pride?
- God comes down. He came down as a person, God in flesh, Jesus Christ with grace and truth, in judgment and mercy.

God came down

- How does God deal with our pride today? How do we remove this thing that wants to make our own name known from our hearts?
- God comes down with grace and truth, with judgment and mercy, and He confuses our life.
- We have great dreams, for our careers, our relationships, financial security, good health and long life.
- Then we experience confusion as the bottom drops out and God allows things to happen to us in order to turn us to Him, so we will learn to trust and depend upon him.

The Lord came down

- God allows the confusion, (Babel) to come into our lives, in order that we will turn to Him.
- Most people are seeking to make a name for themselves, and they don't even realize how sinful this is. This is the opposite reason we are created.
- The remedy for pride, is to admit that we are sinful creatures, repent of our pride, and turn to the only one who can save us; Jesus Christ.
- God didn't come to wipe them out, but rather He came down to the earth to save them from themselves. The Lord came down.
- The Lord still comes down today, to confuse our lives, so we will repent of trying to make our name known, and turn to Him, to make Him known.