



THE TOWER OF BABEL

GENESIS 11

Long ago, there was a flood that covered the whole earth, to rid the earth of all the evil people living there. A godly man named Noah was asked by God to build a large boat to save only himself, his family—and lots and lots of animals. The flood lasted forty days and forty nights. When the land dried, Noah's family left the boat. His sons began to have their own families. Many years went by. Noah had grandchildren and great grandchildren. There were even more children born after that. And years after that, there were lots of people on the earth again.

At that time, everyone on the whole earth spoke the same language. All these people living on the earth now came from the families of Noah's three sons, Ham, Shem and Japheth. Instead of each son's family wanting a different place to live, as God planned, they all wanted to live close to each other. They came up with a plan.

The people said to each other, "Let's make a city for ourselves! We can even make a tall, tall tower that will reach into the heavens. We will be famous. We will not need to be divided into separate areas to live, as God wanted. We can continue to all live together. It will be our choice. We will never have to be separated."

The Lord God came down to see the city they were building. He saw the tower they were building to the heavens. The Lord said to Himself, "I see they are all one people. They all have the same language. They can accomplish what they want because they all understand each other. This is only the beginning. They are being disobedient to Me already by not separating into different parts of the land, as I wanted them to. Now, nothing will be impossible to them. They will continue to be disobedient to me."

God had a plan, also. And God's plans always win. The people thought they could do what they wanted. They thought they could build a city and live where they wanted. But God is the most powerful. He has ways of changing the plans people make.

God said to Himself, "Come. Let's go down to the land and mix up their language. When they find they aren't able to have a conversation with each other, then they won't be able to continue to make plans for their city, or anything else."

That's what happened. The tower in the city became known as the tower of "Babel." That word "babel" meant "confusion." The people had to stop building in their city because they couldn't understand each other. Everyone was speaking a different language. God caused them to move to different areas of the earth. Each place would have a language all its own.

This was just what God planned.

THE TOWER OF BABEL - TEACHER'S GUIDE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) God sent a flood to destroy the evil people in the world. God asked a godly man named Noah to build a boat, so Noah and his family would be saved. After the flood, Noah's sons began to have families of their own. After many years, there were lots and lots of people on the earth again.
- 2) All the people spoke the same language. The people came up with a plan to build a city of their own. They began to build a tall tower, also.
- 3) God saw what they were doing. He saw that the people were being disobedient to Him. He wanted them to live in separate areas of the earth.
- 4) God mixed up the people's language. When they realized they couldn't have conversation with each other, the plans of building a tower and a new city had to stop.
- 5) God caused the people to move to all areas of the earth. Each area would have their own language. This was just what God planned.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Where did all these people come from?
- 2) What did the people plan to do?
- 3) What was God's plans for them?
- 4) What did God do for His plan to work?
- 5) What happened to all the people?

ANSWERS:

- 1) These people all came from Noah and his sons' families.
- 2) The people wanted to build a city all their own.
- 3) God wanted them to live in separate areas of the earth.
- 4) God mixed up their language, so they couldn't understand each other.
- 5) The people had to move to different areas of the earth.

