



“Unholy Unity”

God’s Will through Separation
Genesis 11:1-9

Unholy Unity has it’s :

I. Companions - “Go to, let us make” (vs. 1-3)

Misreading their:

- A. **Direction** – “journeyed from the east”
- B. **Disposition** – “they found a plain”
- C. **Dialogue** – “let us”

II. Conceit – “Go to, let us build” (vs. 4-6)

Conceit: an excessive favorable opinion of ones ability

Misunderstanding their:

- A. **Success** – “whose top...unto heaven”

Ps. 127:1-2

- B. **Security** - “lest we be scattered”

Ps. 127:1

- C. **Significance** – “the Lord came down to see”

III. Confusion - “Go to, let us go down” (vs. 7-9)

Missing the significance of the:

- A. **Person** – “the Lord”
- B. **Purpose** – “name of it called Babel”
- C. **Plan** – “scatter them abroad ...all the earth.”

Sentence Sermon:

“Choose to Honor God over having Unity with Man.”

Additional Verses

- **Zephaniah 3:9-11**
- **Jude 3**
- **II John 7-11**
- **Matthew 10:34-36**
- **Ephesians 4:3**
- **John 4:31-34; 17:21**
- **I Corinthians 15:33**
- **II Corinthians 6:14**
- **Psalms 1; 127:1-2**
- **Proverbs 1:10-14; 13:20**

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. Why did the descendents of Shem and Japheth follow Nimrod?
- 2. Is there any significance in the mention of bricks and slime?
- 3. What were the biggest concerns of the people expressed in the passage? Why do you think that is so?
- 4. How has the scrambling of languages hurt God’s program today? How has it helped it?
- 5. What is lesson is there for us concerning labor, fame, and monuments?

INTRODUCTION

How should this chapter go? God pronounced blessing on Shem and Japheth...cursed Ham's descendents....SO....Shem and Japheth went their own way and Ham went his way ...Right?

V. 1

- **The whole earth = everywhere there were people**
- **Was of one language = Same way of talking**
- **Of one speech = same sounds**
 - **Therefore same words w/ same meanings**
 - **Reasonable since all came from same man – Noah**
 - **A blessing or grace which should lead to vibrant worship**
 - **An opportunity to :**
 - **Use what natural resources and open doors to leave a legacy or monument to God's goodness by service and worship**
 - **or**
 - **Use the empowerment from God to pervert grace into infectious evil with pride at its root in an attempt to leave behind a monument to ourselves.**

V. 2

- **Journeyed to the east = (journey = literally “pull up” stakes) the east often indicating away from the presence or way of the Lord.**
- **Found a plain in the Land of Shinar = If they found it...guess who left it there?**
- **They dwelt there = (dwelt = literally “to set or place down” stakes. They dug in their heels and said no more change. This is going to be home....forgetting the commands of God to go all over the earth and the reality of heaven being the end of the road and home.**

v. 3

- **They said to one another = (Likely, Nimrod taking some lead in the conversation – 10:10)Not talking to God about the situation...choosing to leave out God and His commands out of the equation.**
- **Go to = Come now...notice this expression 3 times in this passage, twice man says it, once God (the Trinity) says it.**
- **Let us make brick = (3 times in this passage) Eerily similar to God's statements of “let Us make man” – reflecting mankind making their own future and forgetting to consult with the creator God.**
- **Brick for stone = clay**
- **Slime for mortar = tar**
 - **Man has an ability to adapt and seek to circumvent the natural process of things.**

We can forget that God may give us abilities that He wants us to not use at this time. Oftentimes we circumvent the obvious nudging of God to keep looking and not settle for what we can make out of a flawed situation.

v. 4

- **Go to – 2nd occurrence of expression ...**
- **Let us = again man taking God out of decision making**
- **Build us = establish or cause to continue**
- **A city and a tower = Large and tall**
 - **Top reaches to heaven = greatness of it**
 - **Make us a name = Importance of it and us**
Richardson put his finger on this when he wrote:
The hatred of anonymity drives men to heroic feats of valour or long hours of drudgery; or it urges them to spectacular acts of shame or of unscrupulous self-preferment. In the worse forms it attempts to give the honour and the glory to themselves which properly belong to the name of God
 - **Lest we be scattered = (God's stated will) come to nothing – amount to nothing in man's eyes = Security through possessions and popularity. (Fame and Fortune)**

v. 5

- **And the Lord = Oh, yes, Him...have we considered Him lately in all our plans?? He might have some thoughts**

- **Came down to see the city and the tower = Near sighted ? I don't think so ...**
 - **The literary beauty of this part must not escape us...Man is building a tower to pierce the heavens...so large that they will be seen by all men on the earth and be impressed...God meanwhile is so far above man, He would have to come way down to see the speck of a building that man has been working on...It is the insignificance of man in contrast to the grandeur of God that is being reflected in the writing ...not the ignorance or feebleness of the Holy.**
 - **The emphasis of the entire passage is also clearly acknowledged in the coming down of God or reminder that There is always a time of reckoning where the works of man will be examined by the Holy God.**
- **Which the children of men builded = what have they done with:**
 - **What I have given them**
 - **What I have told them**

V. 6

- **And the Lord said = Oh, yes, He has an opinion...and it really does count.**
- **The people are one = Unity of focus and purpose...not seeking God...but seeking self importance. (Romans 3:10-12)**
- **All one language = fact that aided man...also a weakness in their unholy unity that God could utilize to get their attention.**
- **An this they begin to do = They are directly disobeying my will.**
- **Now nothing will be restrained from them = *Men would conclude that since they were able to build this city despite many obstacles, they could do anything they set their minds to. A bit of that mentality was evidenced when man first set foot on the moon. I recall that something like this was said: "One small step for man, one giant step for mankind." When man's ingenuity was successfully employed to overcome the many barriers to reaching the moon's surface, man felt that no problem was beyond a human solution.***

V. 7

- **Go to = 3rd occurrence ...this time God says "come now, let Us" and the trinity goes to work.**
 - **Go down = intervene into the world of men**
 - **Confound their language = rearrange the way they think**
 - **They may not understand one another's speak = loss of ability**

v. 8

- **God scattered them abroad = God's sovereignty wins out every time...man had a free will to join in with God's plan but in the end...God's purposes and plans will be done.**
 - **Man's biggest fears often do come to roost when we fear other things more than the displeasure of God.**
- **They left off to build the city = man leaves lots of unfinished business behind...hopefully not the business of our soul's salvation.**

v. 9

- **Babel = "the gate of God" turned into the "confusion" --- many are confused today on how to reach God...Jesus made it clear in John 14:6 , I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the father but by me.**
- **The Lord :**
 - **Confounded the language – gives words**
 - **Scatters them abroad – places people**

Genesis 11:1-9

Key Thought The greatest of all vices is...

pride.
Overview Ever since the Fall, humans had increasingly chosen to go their own way instead of God's. The Tower of Babel became a defiant expression of pride, "We're in charge here." But it wasn't true and that's why God confused and scattered the people of Babel (11:7-9). And pride is not just a problem for "them." It infects us all. In the end, the tower didn't come crashing down. It was left standing as a monument to the futility of trying to live without God.
Sermon Outline
1. Pride Leads Us Away From God. Pride infects us in many insidious ways (Obadiah 3)
b. God opposes the proud (James 4:6)
2. Pride Leads Us Toward Futility and Despair. The builders: confused and scattered (11:9)
b. The tower: unfinished symbol of futility (11:8)
3. Humility Leads Us Back to Fellowship with God. Remember the example of Noah (Genesis 8:20-22)
b. God gives grace to the humble (James 4:6)
Challenge Turn your back on pride and turn in humility to God