

With the completion of Genesis 11, the first section of this historical narrative concludes with the final episode of the four major events: the Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and the Tower of Babel. Here we see a civilization defying God in their pursuit of autonomy and greatness, a desire we understand all too well in our own culture and fight with sin today.

Genesis 11:1-32

The Tower of Babel

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

In secular circles the Bible is sometimes seen as an outdated book, ancient and irrelevant today. There can be a perception that Truth is shifting, progressing into something new everyday. When we encounter ancient stories like those found in Genesis, even as Christians, we too can struggle to understand what it means for us today.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW important is it for history and Scripture to align in order for you to have faith in God?

DO you think there are discrepancies between God's Word and history?

WHAT of the four major events occurring in Genesis 1-11 (Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and the Tower of Babel) do you struggle to understand or apply the most?

WHEN you consider the tower of Babel, what details of the story come to mind?

Genesis 11:1-32

The Tower of Babel

Read Genesis 11:1-32

OBSERVATION

How is the earth described in vs. 1?

From where did the people migrate, and where did they choose to settle (vs. 2)?

According to vs. 4, what was the peoples' motivation for building the tower?

How are the people described in vs. 6?

How does the Lord deal with the people and the decision they make?

What do you observe about the generations of Shem (vs. 10-26)?

In vs. 31-32, where do Abram and his family leave? Where do they travel to?

INTERPRETATION

What do we know regarding the origins of Shinar and this particular geographic location? Consider Genesis 10:10.

How do the motives of the people in vs. 4 contradict the commands previously given by the Lord in 9:1, and 7?

What does it mean that the people wanted to make a name for themselves, and how is this contrary to the desire of God?

Why do you think the people devised to make a tower to accomplish their objectives?

Do you think God is threatened by this civilization? Do you think He is against unity? Explain your response.

Is the language confusion in this story a blessing or a punishment?

In vs. 10-26, why do you think the age pattern decreases?

APPLICATION

What might you consider to be some of the "towers" in your life, similar to Babel, that you are building to make a name for yourself, and what might be a Godly way of dealing with them?