

# (Genesis) Genesis 11:5-9

by J. Vernon McGee

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*The Tower of Babel represents a judgment on man's rebellion, but God's answer to this judgment is the gospel, which is given in all languages and is for all mankind.*

**Duration:** 6:28

**Scripture:** Genesis 11:1-9, Matthew 6:33, Acts 2:1-4, Revelation 7:9

**Topics:** "Genesis"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the story of the Tower of Babel from the Bible. He emphasizes that the people's attempt to build the tower and unite against God was an act of rebellion. God, recognizing the capabilities of mankind, decided to confound their language to prevent their unity. This language barrier became a powerful separation between people, stronger than any physical barrier. The preacher also highlights that the purpose of speaking in tongues in the New Testament is to signify that God has provided redemption for all mankind, regardless of language or nationality.

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## Transcript

Now, will you notice God's reaction? And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the children of man built it. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language, and this they begin to do, and now nothing will be restrained from them which they had imagined to do. Now, this is a tremendous statement.

You see, language has been a tremendous barrier, and they are now going to attempt to build a tower and get together. They're all one language, and you find here fallen nature in spite of the flood. Man's totally depraved.

And that question is now, God cannot ignore this rebellion, and this is rebellion against God. And so, God's going to put up a protective wall. He's going to throw up a wall, and He has to do it for several reasons.

One reason is, man is a very capable creature. He can go to the moon. He can fly on a jet plane.

I'm amazed. The other day, going to the Hawaiian Islands, sitting five miles in the air in a jet plane, being served a delicious dinner. I just can't get over it myself.

I'll be honest with you, seems unbelievable. Man's done that, friends. Man's a very competent creature.

Now, you can see what he would do with one language if they all came together against God. So, God put up a barrier, and so notice what He did. He says in verse 7, Go to let us go down.

Man said, let us. Well, God says, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from fence, upon the face of all the earth, and they left off to build the city.

Therefore the name of it is called Babel. Confusion. Because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth, and from fence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Now, man is scattered over the face of the earth, and he's scattered now because here they are building the tower of Babel. They can get together, and now they can't understand one another. You know, language barrier is a barrier and a wall that's higher than the wall of China.

It's higher than the Berlin Wall, more effective. It is that which separates people, and it's stronger than any national border or any ocean. The language barrier where there's no communication.

Now, the question has always been raised, and in fact, a great many try to say, well, this took place gradually. Well, it says that God confounded their language so right there as they were building, they couldn't understand each other, and they went in every direction. Now, you have here this tremendous thing that takes place.

Here's a speaking in tongues, and they couldn't understand each other. Also, it's a miracle of hearing as well as speaking because you have a miracle of tongues or ears here. They spoke a different language, and the ear couldn't hear what the other one was saying.

Now, frankly, this is something that God did, and the question arises, and I'd like to ask you the question, was this a blessing in disguise, or was it a curse upon man? Well, for God's purposes, it was a blessing. For man's development away from God, it was definitely a judgment, and it's been a great hindrance, as you well know, down through the centuries. Man has been kept separate, and one of the things that's happening today through this matter of radio and TV and the jet plane is the walls are being broken down, and the walls of Jericho are certainly come tumbling down today.

And that is the reason that I believe that God's coming down again in judgment is because of that. But I'd like to put over against this tongues movement the day of Pentecost. That was another great tongues movement.

And at that time, why we find the gospel is given in all the languages that understood that. It wasn't given in an unknown tongue. That never was the tongues movement to begin with.

And you find on the day of Pentecost, God's giving his answer to the Tower of Babel. God is saying to mankind now, I have a gospel and a message for you, and I'm coming to you with the gospel in your language. And that is the thing that God has done.

And today, the Bible is probably gone into more languages. Well, not probably, it has than any other book. It's gone into more languages than any other book.

And today, it's being translated, and the gospel is being brought to literally hundreds of tribes throughout the world today. You see, the gospel is for all mankind. And the reason and the purpose for the talking in

tongues is to let the human race know that God had answered the Tower of Babel, and he had a redemption for man now.

The mission has been accomplished. No longer necessary today for man to try to work out his salvation. He is now to turn to God and listen to God's message.

And the gospel, therefore, is for you, whoever you are today in whatever tongue you speak. It's for you. It's for the nations of the world.

And we're told that finally in the book of Revelation, they gathered therein his presence out of all the tribes of the earth.

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