

Lesson #3 – Sunday, August 16, 2026

BIG IDEA: God opposes the proud.

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ In the first 11 chapters of the Bible, we have the general history of humanity. It is outlined in four great historical events.
- ⇒ The first event was _____, which explains who we are and where we came from.
- ⇒ The second event was _____ (or the Fall), which explains why we are as we are and the reason for our fallen nature.
- ⇒ The third event was _____ (or the Flood), which explains God's attitude toward sin and sinners.
- ⇒ Today's lesson addresses the fourth event, _____ – the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH: God resists the _____ but gives grace to the _____.

- ⇒ No one hates themselves; rather, we love, cherish and nourish ourselves quite well (see Ephesians 5:29).
- ⇒ Peter wrote a sobering warning in 1 Peter 5:5, "God resists the proud." When you study that verse, you discover that to resist means to actively fight against.
- ⇒ The good news is that Peter goes on to tell us that when we are humble God will give us grace.
- ⇒ The Tower of Babel was a project of pride. As we study the account, let's not forget that we are just as susceptible to the sin of pride as the people of Genesis 11.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. _____ Comes & Builds (Genesis 11:1-4)
 - a. Notice that the whole earth had one _____ (vs. 1).
 - b. The people also had one _____ (vs. 2).
 - i. Instead of not scattering across the earth the people had settled in Shinar.
 - ii. This was an act of rebellion against God..
 - c. The people also had one _____ (vs. 3-4) expressed in three phases:
 - i. Their rebellion began with building a _____ (4). This represents a political unity.
 - ii. Their second act of rebellion was to build a _____ whose top is in the heavens. This represents a religious unity.
 - iii. Their third act of rebellion was designed to make a _____ for themselves so they wouldn't have to scatter. This represents a cultural unity.
 - d. The earth's population, all speaking the same language, all living in the same location were united in their rebellion against God.

2. _____ Comes & Confuses (Genesis 11:5-9)

- a. It's ironic that the people determined to build a tower to the heavens, but the God who inhabits the heavens still had to "come down" to see it.
- b. There was one little mistake that the people made in all their planning: They left God out. When we leave God out, we leave out the main _____!
- c. The rebellious people had been saying, "Let us; let us." In verse 7, God says, "Let Us go down." Now the Trinity intervenes in human affairs.
- d. God acknowledges that with a unified language, human rebellion can accelerate quickly, so He decides to confuse their language.
- e. The place is called "Babel" or _____. It is a wordplay on the Hebrew term for "to confuse." This is origin point of divided languages in human history.

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ The lesson is simple: Rebellion against God never ends well. We saw that in last week's lesson on the Flood, as well as today's lesson.
- ⇒ What we understand so clearly in Sunday School is often difficult to remember throughout the week! In what ways does our pride often manifest itself?
 - An easy application: Social media. Does our social media feed point others to Jesus or to ourselves?
 - How about how we respond to circumstances that don't go our way? Do we always have to be right? Do we always have to have the last word?
- ⇒ What can we do daily to "put on" humility and "put off" pride? How do we learn to recognize our pride "tendencies?"

LIFE CONNECTION:

- ⇒ The people had built a monument to exalt themselves. In what ways do we continue to do the same? (We put a lot of energy into how we appear to others – through our looks, possessions, positions, etc.)
- ⇒ Man's problem is that we most often pay too much attention to self, not too little. A proper view of self comes from an understanding of who you are in Christ (Romans 8:14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21).
- ⇒ A great passage of Scripture to memorize and apply is Philippians 2:3-8. The antidote to pride is fixing our eyes on Jesus and on others.