

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 **Creation**, which explains who we are and where we came from.
- ⇒ The second event was **Corruption** (or the Fall), which explains why we are as we are and the reason for our fallen nature.
- ⇒ The third event was **Catastrophe** (or the Flood), which explains God's attitude toward sin and sinners.
- ⇒ Today's lesson addresses the fourth event, **Confusion** – the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH: God resists the **proud** but gives grace to the **humble**.

- ⇒ If you are alive, you will be fighting pride. 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 work against. Can you imagine anything worse than God actively working against you? That's exactly what happens when we are proud.
- ⇒ The good news is that Peter goes on to tell us that when we are humble God will give us grace. That's what every Christian needs and ought to desire.
- ⇒ 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. **Humanity** Comes & Builds (Genesis 11:1-4)
 - a. Context: When the flood was over, God gave Noah and his family the same commission He had once given Adam and Eve. Read 9:1. They were to fill the earth!
 - b. Notice that the whole earth had one **language** (vs. 1).
 - c. The people also had one **location** (vs. 2).
 - i. Instead of not scattering across the earth the people had settled in Shinar.
 - ii. Interesting note: The geographical note in verse 2, "from the east," means that they had turned their backs on the sun and moved away from the light.
 - iii. This was an act of rebellion against God. Remember that every time you go away from the Lord, you turn from the light and are moving toward darkness and confusion.
 - d. The people also had one **goal** (vs. 3-4) expressed in three phases:
 - i. Their rebellion began with building a **city** (4). This represents a political unity.
 - ii. Their second act of rebellion was to build a **tower** whose top is in the heavens. This represents a religious unity. The Tower of Babel was an attempt to establish a one-world worship of creation rather than God.
 - iii. Their third act of rebellion was designed to make a **name** for themselves so they wouldn't have to scatter. This represents a cultural unity.
 1. The people wanted to exalt themselves. This is the essence of secularism and humanism.
 2. They rejected the opportunity to be God-centered.
 - e. The earth's population, all speaking the same language, all living in the same location were united in their rebellion against God.

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

- a. In verses 3 & 4 we read twice the word “Come.” In these two instances, it was the people uniting against God.
- b. In verse 5 we read that God “came down” to observe what was happening, and in verse 7 God says to the other members of the Trinity, “Come, let Us go down.”
- c. 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.
- d. 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 **ingredient!**
- e. 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.
- f. God acknowledges that with a unified language, human rebellion can accelerate quickly, so He decides to confuse their language.
- g. God does what the people feared: He confuses their languages which leads to their scattering across the earth.
- h. The place is called “Babel” or **confusion**. 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.