**Genesis 11:1-9** Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. **2**And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. **3**Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. **4**And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” **5**But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. **6**And the Lord said, “Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. **7**Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” **8**So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. **9**Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

We’re in the book of Genesis tonight. The time is after the flood. The world is repopulating, vegetation is coming back, animals are multiplying, and the people are beginning to spread out.

A few weeks ago, we looked at the story of Noah being discovered uncovered by his son Ham. We learned of the curse that Noah placed on Canaan, instead of Ham. Canaan was Ham’s youngest son. Ham was Noah’s youngest son.

But Ham had other sons as well, as we talked about, and one of these son’s was named Cush. Cush, early Hebrew history says, founded the land of Ethiopia. He had many sons - Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah. I find it interesting that these five are listed together, but then, in Genesis 10:8-9 we see another son Nimrod… Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.” Nimrod established a kingdom and it is within that kingdom that we find ourselves tonight.

Verse 1 says - Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. That makes sense that the earth would be one language. All mankind wiped out and this is the third generation from the Great Flood. The only language remaining was the language that Noah spoke.

Verse 2, And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Shinar is what is today known as modern day Iraq. It’s in ancient Mesopotamia. Two ancient kingdoms sprang from this area – Assyria and Babylon. God used these two civilizations to chasten first the Northern kingdom of Israel and later the Southern kingdom of Judah, but just like Israel descended from Noah, so did Assyria and Babylon. It’s so fascinating how the Bible threads together.

Until now, we’ve seen the people multiplying and spreading. They are indeed being fruitful on the earth. Genesis 9:1, it says - So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. God has given a commandment that the people spread and repopulate the earth. It’s clear that Noah heard it and Noah’s sons heard it. Now, we arrive with the people of Noah’s great grandson. They were told to spread out! Listen to verses 3-4 Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” Listen to the sin of pride. Let us build for ourselves… a tower whose top is in the heavens… let us make a name for ourselves! Pride is the sin we’re seeing here. Now listen to the direct rebellion against what God had said just a few years earlier - lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth. God’s directive was to scatter, cover the face of the whole earth and the people contradicted this.

How often we contradict God in our effort to make a name for ourselves… we’re too busy building what we feel like will give us security to realize that we’re rebelling against the only source of true security we will ever know. God is not against us building. God is not against us exceling. God is against us when our pride takes over and it becomes about us and not about Him. Proverbs 6:16 says These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him. In verse 17, the very first one is A proud look. Pride is a relationship killer… between people and between us and God. Want to kill a relationship? Let pride enter in.

Verses 5-6 **5**But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. **6**And the Lord said, “Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Focus with me on the words – this is what they begin to do. The Greek word chalal is used for begin. It’s doesn’t have the idea of starting… it has the idea of breaking one’s word, profaning someone or someplace. God is saying, “These people are all one language and they have used My blessings to profane Me and break our relationship. Very, very powerful insight into the hurt God is feeling in His heart as He watches His children, the ones that He saved just a couple of generations ago, and they are returning to the evil that caused the flood in the first place and they are profaning the relationship with Him through pride.

How often God must look upon this earth and see us wasting our talent and time that He provided… on useless pursuits that, when we die, someone else will possess. Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Too often, we, like the people of Babel all those years ago, forget to honor God and we wonder why our way gets confused.

Verse 7 **7**Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” God’s Will will not be stopped. His plan will be fulfilled. His word will not return void. He confounded their language so they couldn’t understand one another anymore.

Years ago, NASA sent a spacecraft to Mars. Millions of dollars, millions of miles, millions of man hours. As they approached, the spacecraft, which was supposed to still be hundreds of miles above the planet, suddenly slammed into the surface. Why? The programmer had used inches as the unit of measure while the designer used centimeters. Over all those miles, the difference between where mission control thought the lander was and where it actually was constituted 100’s of miles. The result was a waste.

Let’s finish the verses **8**So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. **9**Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth. God scattered the people. For His reasons – disease happens, war happens, natural disasters happen… God knows all and He knew staying all in one place was not the right answer.

God will still confuse our language when He decides. He will cause confusion to move people out of places they shouldn’t be. He will confuse plans to keep us on course. God uses clarity when clarity is due and God uses confusion to cause us to run back to the only One who is sure. Keeping our eyes firmly on Jesus, seeking God in the scriptures, clinging to the Cross when confusion comes calling is the only way to keep from profaning God. May our eyes always stay fixed on Him – whether we are being gathered or scattered – may we praise Him in all our circumstances.