

Babel: When Unity was a Bad Thing
Genesis 11:1-9

Human arrogance: Come let us build a tower to reach into heaven. 1-4

- ◆Chronologically, the Babel event triggers the dispersion in ch. 10.
- ◆Settling here and this building project = arrogant, see 9:1/6:4
- ◆Again this is the human tendency to ignore what God sees as *good* and the vain grasping for what is perceived as *good*.

Heaven's awareness: The LORD came down to see the city and tower. 5,6

- ◆The LORD's investigation—see 18:21, Mk. 12:15, Jn. 18:4,7.
- ◆The LORD's concern is human overreaching as in the Garden of Eden and thus a potential for even greater calamity. See 3:22.

Heaven's intervention: Come let Us go down and confuse their language. 7-9

- ◆The LORD'S response to *come down* (18:21) is sarcastic but is an act of punishment meant to protect (though not in the people's eyes!).
- ◆Confusing human languages will lead to disunity/scattering of people groups, leading to distinct nations in diverse areas, as God had desired. Note the irony here!
- ◆This scattering of nations is a turning point—from primeval history to the history of the blessing. Nations will develop in futility till God will make a great nation through one man (make his *name* great, 12:2).

Babylon has a future role with Israel and our world, see Rev. 17,18



Can you see the spirit
of Babel in our world
today?