



## Week One: The Tower of Babel

### 01. INTRODUCTION

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Hello Church, My name is \_\_\_\_\_

### 02. TRANSITION TO MESSAGE

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Starting today and going through Easter, we will be teaching through a new series called **"Under God"** where we will be focusing on what the Bible has to say about some of the most political issues in our culture. Each week we will build on the next and we will start from a Biblical foundation, specifically a story in the Bible that helps us understand the issue.

Turn in your bible to **Genesis 11:1-9**

**As we kick off this new service and series.** I think it is so important that we are really intentionally about honoring God and inviting the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us understand God's Word in a deeper way.

**We are going to do something new:** Would you stand to your feet, I want to start each message off reading our guiding passage of scripture each week and then pray before we jump in.

#### **Genesis 11:1-9**

At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. <sup>2</sup>As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia<sup>[a]</sup> and settled there.

<sup>3</sup> They began saying to each other, "Let's make bricks and harden them with fire." (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.) <sup>4</sup> Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world."

<sup>5</sup> But the Lord came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. <sup>6</sup> "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! <sup>7</sup> Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."

<sup>8</sup> In that way, the Lord scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the Lord confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.

## 03. MESSAGE

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### CONTEXT:

**Context:** The story of the Tower of Babel takes place in the land of Babylonia, after the great flood, when all people spoke the same language and had migrated to the east.

### Some things to understand:

- The people were building a great city and a towering structure for themselves, with the aim of making a name for themselves and avoiding being scattered over the earth.
- The building of the tower was seen as a direct challenge to God's command to "fill the earth" and spread out to different lands.
- The new technology of baked and hardened bricks was used in the building of the tower, which was intended to reach the heavens, symbolizing their desire to be like gods and to make a name for themselves.

- The word "Babel" or "Babylon" in the Bible often represents the world system that is aligned against God and His plans.

### **Six Observations from the Tower of Babel:**

1. **Man without God.** The people's desire to build a tower was to make a name for themselves and assert their own power and authority. **We lose meaning & purpose**, it is no longer to glorify God but ourself. Sad state.
2. **Man's disobedience.** In asserting their own power and authority they disobeyed God's command to fill the Earth.
  - God gives us the choice between life and death. Our capacity to choose is His greatest gift. **We choose free to be enslaved.**
3. **Man's desire to be God.** The tower was intended to reach the heavens, symbolizing the people's desire to be like gods and to be in control of their own destiny. **The clay, overthrowing the potter.**
  - Ever heard of a God complex, our society is suffering from it today.
4. **Man's pride is always his downfall.** The story of the Tower of Babel serves as a reminder of the dangers of pride and the need for humility before God.
  - Lust of the flesh, Lust of the eyes, pride of life. Pride is the worst because it is a disease of the heart and mind. **Self deception always leads to greater misery.**
5. **Progress is often an idol.** The use of new technology, baked and hardened bricks, in the building of the tower highlights the idea that humanity's progress and **advancements can be used for both good and evil.**
  - **Scientific revolution was birthed in the Catholic Church.** It was a desire to know God and how He ordered the Universe.
  - The great advances in science led to **scientism.**

- Scientism is the belief that natural science is the only source of knowledge and that all other forms of understanding, such as the arts, humanities, and the social sciences, are inferior.
- In this view, scientific knowledge is considered to be the only reliable knowledge and all other forms of knowledge, such as spiritual or philosophical beliefs, are often dismissed as unscientific and therefore irrelevant.
- An Is doesn't determine an ought. **Matter and what matters.**

6. **Man is not God.** The story of the Tower of Babel serves as a warning against putting ourselves above God and his plan for humanity.
- This is a huge lesson. This goes to the heart of purpose, they purposed in their own heart... without God.
  - God is ways are higher, his thoughts are higher. **It is an inescapable issue of perspective.**

**Look around our world.** Today and since the first man and woman sinned in the garden, There has only been two ways. God's way and our way.

### **TWO WORLDVIEWS COLLIDE**

**The story of the Tower of Babel perfectly illustrates the only two worldviews that exist today and that have ever existed:** The Biblical Worldview and The Secular Humanist Worldview.

1. The **Biblical Worldview** is based on the belief in the existence of a sovereign God who created the world and holds authority over it.

This worldview is grounded in the belief in the Bible as the ultimate authority for understanding the world and our place in it. For example, in the book of Genesis, it states that God created humanity in his image (**Genesis 1:27**) and that he is sovereign over all things (**Psalm 103:19**).

2. The **Secular Humanist Worldview** is based on the belief that humanity is the ultimate authority and that the world can be understood solely through human reason and scientific inquiry.

This worldview denies the existence of a higher power or authority and promotes the idea that humanity can create its own destiny and solve its own problems.

**For example**, Karl Marx, a famous secular humanist, stated "Religion is the opium of the people" and that "The first requisite for the happiness of the people is the abolition of religion."

**The dangers of Syncretism.** **Syncretism** is the blending of two or more religious or philosophical beliefs, practices, or cultures.

Many well meaning Christians buy into this idea that they can have it both ways, but they can't. Jesus said as much:

### **Matthew 10:32-39**

"Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven. "Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword. 'I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Your enemies will be right in your own household!' "If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

### **Effects of Syncretism:**

**Family:** Progressive values that prioritize individualism and equality are replacing traditional family values that emphasize the importance of traditional gender roles, marriage, and family structure.

**Church:** The influence of secular humanism has crept into the church, leading to a dilution of biblical teachings and a compromise of Christian values.

This syncretism of secular and Christian worldviews has led to confusion and a lack of clear direction for many Christians.

**Government:** Secular humanist policies and ideas are increasingly shaping government decisions, replacing the principles of biblical morality that once guided our leaders.

This has resulted in a decline in religious freedom, an increase in anti-Christian legislation, and a growing hostility towards traditional values and beliefs.

**Education:** Secular humanist ideas are infiltrating the education system, replacing biblical truth and traditional values with progressive teachings that promote emotionalism, tribalism, and equity theories.

This shift has led to a decline in the teaching of critical thinking and a rise in indoctrination, particularly in areas such as history, social studies, and sex education.

**Economics:** Secular economic theories that prioritize individualism, consumerism, and government intervention are replacing biblical principles of work, ownership, and stewardship.

This shift has led to a decline in personal responsibility, an increase in debt and consumerism, and a growing dependency on the government for basic needs.

**Hollywood:** Portrayal of secular humanist ideals and values in movies, TV shows, and other forms of media, promoting a progressive agenda and eroding traditional values.

The entertainment industry often uses its platform to push a secular, liberal agenda and to attack biblical beliefs and values, leading to a distorted view of reality for many people.

**Media:** The media also shapes public opinion by presenting a biased view of current events and political issues, further advancing the secular humanist agenda.

The influence of media and Hollywood in shaping societal beliefs and values cannot be underestimated, and it's important for Christians to be informed and discerning in their media consumption.

**This process is always in play.**

**DIETRICH BONHOEFFER – BOOK** – Conviction. 1933 The Church in Germany could have stopped Hitler but they didn't.

### **Adolf Hitler in Mein Kampf**

"The heaviest blow that ever struck humanity was the coming of Christianity."

"The war will end for the simple reason that we shall be victorious. Christianity will be overcome and will finally be liquidated."

"Christianity has reached the peak of absurdity... and that's why someday its structure will collapse."

Turning Point USA – Charlie Kirk, I love this, he makes this so clear:

### **Three Types of Churches and Christians:**

1. The Cowardly Church.
2. The Complicit Church.
3. The Courageous Church.

**The long march on the institutions:** family, church, government, education, economics, etc. progressive Marxists, ultimately secular humanist.

**1 John 4:1 (NLT)** - "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

### **Matthew 10:16**

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves."

**Proverbs 14:15 (NLT)** - "A naive person believes everything, but the prudent give thought to their steps."

## **Six Common Errors of the Cowardly and Complicit:**

1. They define love by tolerance, acceptance, and affirmation. This is not the definition of love in the Bible: Love is God not you.

**John 14:15-17** "If you love me, obey my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. <sup>17</sup> He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

2. They hold competing worldviews. The Bible says you cannot serve two masters. We think we can have it both ways.

**Revelation 3:16 (NLT)** "So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

3. They idolize evangelism. The Bible says evangelism comes from our fear of God, not our love of man. Jesus teaches that we are to make disciples, not converts. Beattitudes – wow!

### **Luke 6:22-23**

What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> When that happens, be happy! Yes, leap for joy! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, their ancestors treated the ancient prophets that same way.

4. They trust and defend those who hate God. They choose the ones who will kill them. The apologist for the world...

**2 Corinthians 6:14** "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"



5. They criticize those who love God. Lack of loyalty to God and His Leaders. When pastors stand, we criticize them for not being loving. **Galatians 6:10** "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

6. They choose this world over the next. This world is fading, those who's hope in it, will suffer great harm.

**1 John 2:15** "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them."

## 04. CLOSING & PRAYER

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### TWO TREES, TWO WORLDVIEWS, TWO CHOICES

1. The Tree of Life – Biblical Worldview – Life.  
Freedom to thrive and live.
2. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil – Secular Humanist Worldview – Death.  
Freedom to do what destroys and die.

### Proverbs 9:10

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

### Three Responses of Courageous Churches & Christians:

1. They Fear God.
2. They Know God.
3. They love God.

**As we continue in this series, we are going to build on this idea. God wants to make Himself known to us.**

**Fear Not – 366 times in the Bible, the opposite of fear is faith.**

When you're faith is greater than your fear of people, God can use you and

us to do extraordinary things. Lets be the courage church and the courageous Christian...

**Let's Pray**