

## “Stalled” - Genesis 11:1-9

Ask - “Can people accomplish more working alone or together? Explain your answer.”

Background - After the flood, Noah’s 3 sons - Ham, Shem, and Japheth - had children and began repopulating the earth. Approximately 150-200 years later, their descendants came together and devised a plan...

“The People’s Plan” - Genesis 11:1-4

(v1) At this point in history, what did the entire population of the earth have in common? Considering the great flood had occurred just a few generations earlier, does this make sense? Explain.

(v2) Where did the people settle? Where is the ancient land of Shinar and what nation would it become?

(v3-4) What did the people decide to do? How would they go about building it? Why did they want to build it? Did their reasoning honor God?

AT THIS TIME ALL OF THE EARTH’S PEOPLE SPOKE THE SAME LANGUAGE. THEY CAME TO THE LAND OF SHINAR AND TOGETHER STARTED BUILDING A TOWER TO HEAVEN.

“The LORD’s Response” - Genesis 11:5-7

(v5) Was the LORD aware of what the people were doing (and why they were doing it)? Read Psalm 94:11.

(v6) Why was the LORD concerned by their actions? Under what circumstances is unity a bad thing? Discuss.

(v7) What did God do in order to disrupt their plan? Who is the “Us” named in this verse? Compare this to Genesis 1:26 and 3:22.

RECOGNIZING THE GREAT DAMAGE THEIR MISGUIDED SINFUL UNITY COULD POTENTIALLY CAUSE, GOD DECIDED TO DIVIDE THE PEOPLE BY CONFUSING THEIR LANGUAGE.

“The Aftermath” - Genesis 11:8-9

(v8) Unable to understand each other’s speech, what did the people do? Did God accomplish His purpose? Is it God’s plan for humanity to be divided into distinct nations? Explain.

(v9a) What name was given to the abandoned city and tower? What does the word “Babel” mean? How is it used today?

(v9b) What are some implications of the people being scattered all over the face of the earth? How did this event impact world history? How are we trying to undo it today?

UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE, THE PEOPLE STOPPED BUILDING THE TOWER OF BABEL AND SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE EARTH. THIS GAVE RISE TO THE VARIOUS NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

Application - It is amazing what people can accomplish when they work together. Consider some of the remarkable advancements that have come as a result of people sharing their ideas, innovations, and labor. Unfortunately, when man’s intentions are set on evil, these achievements can result in great harm. Sometimes God hinders us from “success” in order to protect us from its consequences. He has divided the nations purposely, because the hearts of man are wicked. Close in prayer for the various people groups scattered across the earth.