

## Genesis 11:1-9 – Man & Woman in God’s Image – Sermon Outline

**Intro:** We’ve asked what a woman and man is, what a family is, the church, etc. Now, what is a nation?

**Need:** The formation of mankind into nations was always necessary for taking dominion over the earth.

**Theme:** God has divided mankind into nations to glorify Him throughout all the Earth.

1. The pride of man prevents him from spreading and subduing for God’s glory. (1-4)
2. God’s curse of confused languages forces man to spread out into distinct nations. (5-9)
3. Pentecost lifts Babel’s curse so that nations will serve Christ for God’s glory. (Acts 2)

### I. The pride of man prevents him from spreading and subduing for God’s glory. (1-4)

- A. Gen. 9:1, God told Noah and his 3 sons to be fruitful and multiply, fill and subdue the earth again.
  1. Noah had no sons after the flood. All of us come from the line of either Shem, Ham, or Japheth.
  2. Noah gets drunk & his nakedness is uncovered, is seen by Ham/Canaan, who rather than covering Noah’s nakedness & shame as God had done in covering Adam & Eve’s sin/nakedness/shame, tells Shem and Japheth as well, either to mock their father’s nakedness/shame or worse.
  3. But Shem and Japheth, without seeing their father’s shame/nakedness, cover it, like God did.
  4. After Noah is sober and realizes what happens, he pronounces God’s judgment on Ham/Canaan’s line, and blessing upon Japheth and Shem, and from Shem would come Father Abraham.
  5. In Gen. 5:29 Noah was named, \* his name means rest/comfort; *“This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed.”*
  6. The N.T. calls Noah a preacher of righteousness, yet none heeded and only his household is saved.
  7. Yet a rest was given, for judgment wiped out all evil, and the righteous inherited the new earth as the floodwaters receded. The call to fill the earth and subdue is given once more, but Noah/his son sins.
  8. Man was making Babels of the heart prior to the flood, and that of course continued after the flood.
  9. Noah’s rest was very temporal and imperfect. The full rest must await Christ and His final coming.
- B. Note: Moses wrote Genesis for the Israelites, so this history all matters to them, and should to us too.
  1. We also came from Noah/his sons, and redeemed in Christ, we are true Israel/true Jews inwardly.
  2. Poole notes that Noah lived until the 58<sup>th</sup> year of Abraham’s life, that Noah’s parents were alive when Adam himself was still living, so Adam could teach them of the Fall of man, God’s mercy, etc.
  3. There’s a continuous chain from Adam to Noah, to Abraham, to the Jews, and from the Jews/Christ and His apostles to the whole world. Noah saw the Tower of Babel, his children’s rebellion and wars.
  4. Imagine living through the flood as a righteous man, your children are to restock humanity, & immediately you get drunk, your son uncovers your nakedness, & conflict begins among the peoples/soon to be nations that all came from your loins.
- C. 11:1 -- Prior to Babel, all/the whole earth had one language/“lip”, one speech.
  1. Recall what was stated before in Genesis 10. The nations are divided up from Noah’s children. Genesis 11 explains how the nations of Genesis 10 came about – from God’s curse at Babel.
  2. Ham, and his son Canaan in particular, are cursed, to be the servant of the line of Shem and Japheth. 10:19 also indicates that the Canaanite border included Sodom and Gomorrah.
  3. After each son of Noah’s line is listed, it says in verses 5, 20, and 31, that nations are formed after families, naturally clustered together, and develop into their own nations.

4. Genesis 11 describes how tongues, languages, nations, came about; each child of Noah formed along the lines of their families into nations/common languages.
  5. God did not confuse the languages across family lines, but rather the languages/tongues cut along the lines of families, and so those families extended out to form nations with a common tongue.
- D. Babel was under mighty Nimrod the tyrant's reign, who was a son of Cush, a son of cursed Ham.
1. Too much and too little can be made of the Table of Nations in Genesis 10; yes there was a cursed line, but also in Christ there are redeemed sinners even from the cursed line of Ham/Canaan.
  2. We can grant inferior & superior nations & cultures, even as we can recognize inferior and superior individuals or families. But God has chosen to redeem some from every tribe, tongue, nation.
- E. 11:2-4, Shinar is where Babel was, Gen. 10:10. For all to gather here under the cursed line is bad.
1. Probably some 100-300 years pass after the flood before God confuses the languages of the people.
  2. Gen. 10:25, this division took place sometime during the life of Peleg.
  3. So there has been some time for Noah's 3 sons with their wives to be fruitful and multiply and repopulate the whole earth for God's glory, as God commanded them to do.
  4. Instead, they decide to continue together as one, and make a name for themselves, rather than for God, by trying to lay hold of heaven's throne by ascending to heaven by their own man-made tower.
  5. The cursed earth and wilderness are scary, there are safety in numbers. Better not to take dominion but stay put and live life to the fullest, take it easy, show our prowess in this tower/city of Babel.
  6. Here is man's pride, his hubris, like Satan seeking to usurp God's authority, man thinks his building and power and wisdom is great and exceeds that of God. Do not think this way, but submit to God!

## II. God's curse of confused languages forces man to spread out into distinct nations. (5-9)

- A. The Lord has to "come down" to even see this mighty city and tower exalting man's pride/prowess!
1. Picture an elephant bending his head low to see if that pile of dirt is actually an ant hill. But all the ants are boasting that they are greater than the mighty elephant. Such is our sinful pride before God.
  2. V. 6, With the unity of language coupled with the sinfulness of man, man could all stay together, rebel against the dominion mandate to spread out over the earth and eventually form into distinct nations.
  3. After the flood, God gives the covenant of creation, with the rainbow as the sign, and promises not to destroy all mankind and his works upon earth with a flood again. Seedtime and harvest will continue.
  4. This matters because God is promising not to wipe out man's dominion over the whole earth again. But sin is still the problem, it must be wiped out. So in Gen. 9:5-7, God proscribes the death penalty for murderers to curb evil after the flood, which will prevent all mankind from unrestrained evil.
  5. There will still be great evil, murders, etc., and corrupt governments do not punish evildoers, especially murderers. This leads to chaos and failure to take dominion, with wickedness reigning.
- B. 7, God says "let Us go down and there confuse their language" recalling His Triune Nature once again.
1. Gen. 1: "Let **Us** make man in our image, according to Our likeness". Man is created male and female to reflect God's image, including and especially His Triune nature, that He is 3 in 1, diversified unity.
  2. Gen. 3: "Behold, the man has become like one of **Us**, to know good and evil," then God prevents man from taking of the tree of life and eating and living forever in this horrendous, sinful state.
  3. He drives man out of the Garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.
  4. Gen. 11: the battle of the "**Us's**": Man says let us build ourselves a city, to make a name for ourselves. Triune God says in 11:7 "Let **Us** go down and confuse their language".

5. Then the people are scattered again, paralleling the fall of Adam/man from the garden.
  6. Man is following seductive voice of Satan, sin, self, which we in Christ must put to death by God's Word and Spirit. Do not build towers for yourself/us/man, but spread and build for God's glory.
- C. 7-9, As God cursed Adam and Eve in the Garden, now divided languages are a curse among peoples.
1. Man was cursed in working the ground, woman in bearing children, now there are language barriers.
  2. Yet God by punishment is bringing about His purpose – to stop men from building for their own glory, but to spread out, fill the earth, and take dominion ultimately for His own glory.
  3. When God refers to Himself as “us”, it hearkens back to God's Triune nature and man made in His Triune image. God curses by dividing us into languages, but not contrary to but along family lines, to stimulate us to do what we should have done already – spread into distinct nations of families/tribes.
  4. It is critical that we understand the curse was divided languages, not divided nations. Yes, one brought about the other, but it was necessary for God to do so, even as the death penalty after the flood was necessary for sinful man to restrain evil, spread out and serve God's glory, not man's.
  5. Our own nation has different dialects, we have Midwesterners, Northerners, Southerners, Californians, etc. If man were obedient, we'd have one language but still many nations/regions.
- D. Genesis by and large is grim and miserable to this point, but take heart, The Gospel is preached throughout, including at the end of Genesis 11 and into the beginning of Genesis 12.
1. God will make of Abram a great nation, who will become the father of many nations, God's covenant will be with him and his descendants, and God will do it by going into the belly of the beast as it were.
  2. Abram must go to the land of Canaan, the Promised Land, so the cursed Canaanites will be toppled.
  3. The cursed line will become the blessed land flowing with milk and honey, as the wicked are driven out and the righteous will inherit the earth. Terah was Abram's father, and Terah is in the line of Shem, and Canaan was cursed for the sin with Noah, so Canaan indeed will serve Shem, Gn. 9:26.
  4. Beloved, God will destroy all evil, God will overcome the powerful wicked, the mighty Nimrods, the Towers of Babel, the globalist elites in our own day. If God is for us, what can stand against us?
  5. He has given us His Word and His Spirit, and His Church body to tear down the strongholds of Satan, the Babylons/confusions of our day, turning them into banners of the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ and His glorious kingdom of Truth and Goodness.
  6. Every nation must be discipled by God's Word, God's Gospel, b/c nations are made up of sinful men.
  7. But nations were always inevitable, necessary even, and are good, not merely post-fall evils.

### III. Pentecost lifts Babel's curse so that nations will serve Christ for God's glory. (Acts 2)

- A. In Acts 2 we see Christ's outpoured Spirit uniting the languages of nations to hear the Gospel.
1. The Apostles speak in other languages/tongues, and/or the peoples gathered of other tongues hear the Apostles/Gospel message in their own tongue.
  2. Why? Not to erase nations, but for the Gospel to be disseminated quickly to each and every nation!
  3. This was not an everlasting miracle. The people did not forever after hear the Apostles speak in their own language, nor did the Apostles or other continually have the gift to speak in tongues not native to them, or not studied and learned by them.
  4. Church history bears out the necessary but tedious nature of translating the Scriptures into every language and dialect over all the Earth. Divided languages are the curse, not nations as such.
  5. Further, to reach an unreached tribe of people, you have to learn their language or have a translator.

6. In heaven, the curse/barrier of multiple languages will be lifted in some form or another, without erasing national distinctives altogether. The Lord has not revealed heaven in great detail to us.
- B. Note, the Gospel does not overcome nations, for they are good, but divided tongues, which are bad.
1. If you erase national distinctions, you might as well go beyond “there is no Jew nor Greek” to the rest of Gal. 3:26-29 and add there is LITERALLY no longer male or female, slave or free. But that would be to erase God’s image in man as male and female; thus nationality is connected to image bearing.
  2. So a government that wants globalism, and a Church that preaches a false Gospel of uniformity that obliterates national borders and ethnic distinctions, is contrary to God’s purpose of dominion taking, and is contrary to our natures as God’s Triune image bearers.
- C. Nations continue not only until Christ returns, but in glory for all eternity. Rev. 21:
1. *“But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And **the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light**, and **the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it**. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). **And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it**. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”*
  2. National distinctions flow from peoples living together around commonality, tribes, tongues, nations.
  3. Individuals marry, have children, and the family unit is formed. Clusters of families form communities.
  4. This works its way up to towns, cities, states, nations, etc. National bonds, rightly understood, are just family bonds writ large. But with the destruction of the family, which was accomplished by destroying womanhood especially, we are also destroying communities, towns, cities, and national distinctives.
  5. Today the push is for a techno-global Babel, a confused mess, and we call it a monument to man’s glory! We erase gender borders by chopping off private parts, and we have open borders to erase American identity. The Church imbibes this false teaching and Christianizes it, saying love your neighbor means the family is an idol and you need to go lay down your life for some pagan foreigner.
  6. We have women who function as Teachers in ostensibly Reformed denominations that have said when Adam saw Eve, he saw his own destiny/telos, since the Church is to be the bride of Christ.
  7. Therefore, men have to become like women to enter the kingdom of heaven, & women can preach.
- D. The nations rage in vain, Christ is King of Kings and Lord of nations. Nations enduring are inevitable.
1. Male and Female will continue forever. A man will always be a man, a woman will always be a woman, and not medical procedure or depraved insane mind will be able to erase God’s image.
  2. Nations will not be erased, but redeemed, restored, brought into the kingdom to worship the Lord. Yes, it will be individuals from each nation, families, but as those increase as the Kingdom comes/spreads like leaven, the nations will be leavened and won for Christ as well.
  3. Distinct nations all glorifying God reflects the Triune nature of the Godhead, and mankind as made in the image of the Triune God. As man and woman in marriage reflect the diverse yet united image bearing of God, so do nations distinct yet united in service to God reflect His diversified unity, His harmonized complexity, His Triune, three-in-one Glory.
  4. Ultimately, Satan and his legion of demons & reprobate hoards can no more erase nations and families and man and woman and children than He can the God Himself. For all these are made for God’s glory, and are redeemed through Christ His Risen Son & will praise Him forever. **Let us pray.**