



A BETTER WORD

BEYOND REPAIR

A Study Through Genesis 1–11 | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

Within View

Genesis 10:1–11:9

THE BIG IDEA

Pride drives humanity to build its own way up to God on its own terms, but the God who sees every nation and every heart was already working out a plan, within view, to come down to us in humility instead.

SERMON SUMMARY

Genesis 10 traces the spread of nations after the flood — seventy of them, a number signaling completeness — showing that God’s sovereign care extends over the whole sweep of human history. Within that list, the line of Shem is highlighted twice, foreshadowing the people through whom God would eventually bring Abraham, Israel, and ultimately Jesus into the world. Even in a genealogy, God’s redemptive purpose was already within view.

Genesis 11 then turns to the Tower of Babel, where humanity’s pride takes a specific shape: building a tower to “make a name for ourselves” and to manipulate God into coming down on their own terms. God responds by confusing their language and scattering them — not out of insecurity, but to prevent their unchecked pride from compounding further. Yet this is not the end of the story. The same God who refused to descend the ladder of Babel would, in time, come down anyway — not in pride, but in the humility of his own Son.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Genesis 10 lists seventy nations, a number associated in Scripture with completeness. What does this detail-filled genealogy reveal about God’s sovereign awareness of all of human history and of your own life specifically?
2. Pride at Babel didn’t appear overnight; it was built piece by piece as people set out to “make a name for themselves.” Where do you see a similar pattern, perhaps through small steps of self-promotion or self-reliance, building in your own life right now?
3. The message describes three ways we try to “humanize” God today: assigning him desires apart from his revealed character, limiting his power to fit our circumstances, or assuming he owes us something for our obedience. Which of these three tendencies hits closest to home for you?
4. Ancient ziggurats like the one likely at Babel were built so that a deity might come down to bless the people on their own terms. How does it strike you that the true God would later come down himself — not through a tower humanity built, but through the humble birth of Jesus?
5. God’s short-term response to Babel was to scatter the nations, but his long-term response was to set apart a people, eventually fulfilled in Jesus. What hope does this long-range redemptive pattern offer you?

LIVING IT OUT

Pride rarely announces itself outright — it grows quietly, decision by decision, as we try to secure our own name, our own security, our own version of blessing. But the same God who saw through humanity's pride at Babel sees you too, and his plan to come near to you in humility was already within view long before you needed it.

Heart Check: Where have you been trying to “make a name for yourself” or subtly manipulate God to bless your own plans, rather than submitting to his?

This Week: Identify one specific way you've been assigning God desires he hasn't revealed, limiting his power to your own circumstances, or assuming he owes you something. Bring that specific tendency to him honestly in prayer this week, and ask him to reshape your view of who he actually is.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

— **Romans 5:8**

Confess any way you've tried to shrink God down to fit your own terms, and thank him for the humility of Christ, who came down to you long before you ever sought him.

Your Prayer:

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