

# The Bible - From Beginning to End Using the Twenty C's

## 4 - Confusion

<b>Scriptures:</b>	Genesis 10:8-12, 11:1-9
<b>Focal Point:</b>	The Tower of Babel
<b>Principal Characters:</b>	Nimrod, God
<b>Primary Events:</b>	Gathering of the People Building of the Tower Confusion of Languages and Disbursement

1. After the Flood, God commanded man to scatter abroad, replenish and fill the earth. God reinforced this command three times. **Genesis 8:17, 9:1, 7**
  - There is no evidence in Scripture that man ever obeyed God's command.
  - Rather, we see in **Genesis 11:1-9** that mankind rebelled, and under their world leader, Nimrod, decided to construct a tower that would reach into the heavens.
  - Their direct purpose for building this tower was to circumvent God's command to replenish and fill the earth (**Genesis 11:4**) and to construct a monument to their own glory and greatness.
  - They built this tower on the plains of Shinar, in a land area known as Babylon.
2. Babylon was a city conceived in rebellion, the seat of the first great apostasy (falling away from God).
  - Nimrod was the political leader (a type of the anti-Christ). His name means "we shall rebel." Spiritually, Babylon was a city of idolatry.
  - Babylon in the Bible is the root of organized evil and rebellion that will continue either nationally or spiritually to exert influence until the time of its destruction in Revelation 17 and 18. **Revelation 18:1-3**
  - There are two aspects of Babylon which will come to an end: religious Babylon and political Babylon. These two aspects find their roots all the way back in Genesis 11 when the people said, "*Let us build us a city and a tower...*"
  - Rebellion is satanic. It's wicked. It's part of our fallen, wicked, sinful nature. All of us are prone to buck against and rebel against authority. Only as we yield ourselves to God's Spirit and our new nature in Christ, can we overcome this sinful tendency.
3. Let us take a closer look at the tower and its implications for us:
  - This tower was built in defiance of God's commands to "fill the earth." 8:16-17, 9:1, 7, 11:4
  - This tower was an exertion of human pride against God Himself. 11:4
  - This tower was an act of idolatry. 11:4
    - "*A tower, whose top may reach unto heaven...*"

- In ancient Babylon, temple towers called Ziggurats were built as monuments of worship to their gods. They had long, descending staircases where it was believed their god would come down from the heavens.
  - They desired to worship the gods they had invented of the sun, moon, and stars.
4. What was God's response? God came down and confounded the language of the people so that they could not understand each other. **Genesis 11:5-9**
- Before this, they had one universal language.
  - God punished this evil attempt and separated mankind into small ethnic groups by confusing their universal language into many dialects.
  - This brought the building project to a halt because the builders could no longer understand each other's speech.
  - It caused them to separate from each other and relocate to different areas of the earth. Here we have the origin of languages and nations.

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## 5 – Call of Abraham

<b>Scriptures:</b>	Genesis 12-50; Job
<b>Focal Point:</b>	Birth of the Hebrew Nation (Israel)
<b>Principal Characters:</b>	Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebekah, Jacob & Leah & Rachel, Joseph & his Eleven Brothers
<b>Primary Events:</b>	Call of Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees Isaac, the Son of Promise is Born Jacob & Esau The Life of Joseph

1. After the tower of Babel, God surely had his witnesses, but there is no Biblical record of any. The entire world degenerated and became idolatrous.
2. God, in His grace, did not destroy the nations, but chose to deal graciously. God singled out one man and decided to start over. His name was Abraham.
  - The importance of this man's life should not be underestimated. He is mentioned 308 times in the Bible: 234 times in the Old Testament and 74 times in the New Testament.
    - He came from Ur of the Chaldees (**Acts 7:2-3**). Ur was a very advanced civilization during this time. Abraham's father was an idol worshipper (**Joshua 24:2-3**).
  - He was to be the father of a nation of people that God would call His own (**Genesis 12:1-3**). This nation is identified as Israel in the Scriptures.
    - Until this time, all mankind had been directly related to God's governing principles. Now God marks out one family and one nation, and in them makes a representative test of all.
    - Genesis 12 is a key and pivotal point in the Word of God. It is the commencement of God's plan to reach the other nations through a chosen nation that would be a light to the other nations.
  - From Abraham came his son Isaac, Isaac's son Jacob, and Jacob's twelve sons. From these twelve sons came the twelve tribes of Israel.
  - Abraham's sons and grandsons are referred to as the fathers or patriarchs of Israel. **Romans 9:4-5, 15:8; Hebrews 1:1**
3. To these men were also given the wonderful promises of God (**Romans 15:8, 9:4-5; Acts 26:6**). The promises included:
  - A land called Canaan. Genesis 15:17-18, 28:12-13 (Canaan land was not heaven. It was a literal land area on earth in Palestine).
  - A nation known as Israel. Genesis 12:2
  - Worldwide blessing through Abraham's seed. **Genesis 12:3, 26:3-4** – through Abraham's line of descent all families are blessed. (The Redeemer would come through the nation of Israel.) **Galatians 3:6-9**