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Assembly Times
Sundays
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Retaining The Standard
Of Sound Doctrine

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Know Your Bible: Answers

- 1. Diana [or Artemis] (Acts 9:46-49)
- 2. John (Revelation 11:1-2)
- 3. The Ark Of The Covenant (1 Samuel 5:2-4)
- 4. Solomon (1 Kings 6)

Rebellion At Babel (Contniued from Page 2)
achieve in the kingdom if we genuinely and diligently sought to preserve the unity of the Spirit in a bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3)?

Also, we find many in our world who reflect the same kind of defiance. Like their ancient predecessors, they seek greatness apart from God. They look to build a world marked by human achievement, a utopia of their own design—but all they create is an atmosphere marred by conflict and hostility. But for those who are Christians, we know of a place of lasting fellowship, where unity is to be the rule, where race is a non-issue, where peace is to prevail, and love is ever-present. Those things aren't found in a world where God isn't, but rather in a "body" of people where God is. And it is here that humanity is able to find the very thing sought for so long ago—a name that is eternal. By Terry Slack Focus Magazine, May 20, 2015

This Week's Assignments & Events		
Sunday Worship	Sunday Afternoons	
Greeter: Aaron Emerson	Aug 30	Nothing
Announcements: John Van Baale		
Encouragement Talk: Arturo Orozco	Sept 6	Nothing
Opening Prayer: Jordan Thomas		
Scripture Reading: Aaron Heald	Sept 13	3PM Gospel Meeting
Luke 23:44-49		
Song Leader: Billy Lovell	Sept 20	Nothing
Table Talk: Tyler Blazek		
Contribution: John Franks		
Helper: Truett Blazek		
Fruit of Vine: Leighton Daniels		
Helper: Kemaury Bluiett		
Helper: Gobi Warner		
Closing Prayer: Josh Emerson		
	Wednesday Evening	
	Song Leader:	Josh Emerson
	Speaker:	John Franks



Standing Firm

“Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm”
Ephesians 6:13

Volume 23
Number 35
August 30, 2026

Rebellion At Babel

In today's world there are some 200 different languages and more than 2000 dialects spoken. Many linguists concur that initially there was just one language. So how did we go from one to two hundred? As one might expect, the most popular response theorizes that human language evolved along with man, thus as the millennia passed humanity moved from grunts to words and from a single language to several. The Bible, however, paints a much different picture. In Genesis 11:1-9 we are not only told how, but even more importantly, why the many languages came to be.

Following the flood God gave specific instructions to Noah and his sons. They, like Adam and Eve, were to be “fruitful and multiply” and “fill the earth” (Genesis 9:1,7). This “filling” would eventually transpire, but not because of man's cooperation. Instead of spreading over the earth in keeping with God's commands, man believes he has a better idea. Earth's residents rebelliously make up their minds to settle down in one place—and to do it without God. They decide to build their city and their tower in order to emphasize their name!

Surely these people were aware that God had previously judged human disobedience by means of a universal flood, weren't they? But while the names and faces may differ, the same attitude of defiance remains. This new generation will function according to the same personal ambition and human pride that marked previous generations. They, too, would choose their own will over the revealed will of God.

Facilitating their rebellion is the fact they “used the same language and the same words” (Genesis 11:1). They did more than speak the same tongue, they employed the same vocabulary. Because Americans speak English, there are a lot of places we can travel in the world and still communicate with those who are foreign to us. But while we may speak the same language, we will quickly discover there are numerous variations in how certain words are used. For example, our flashlight is a torch in England and where we instruct people to form a line, the British are told to queue. But for the folks in Genesis 11, not even these small barriers existed; with no barriers to communication, there were no obstacles to a unified effort of rebellion. Instead of scattering, they chose to journey east and together settle in the land of Shinar (v. 2).

It is here we see the ingenuity of human enterprise. Had they been somewhere else, stone might have been the building material of choice, but Shinar doesn't have much of that; what it does have is an abundance of clay and tar. As they move forward with their objective using bricks and tar mastic,

they demonstrate a keen understanding of architecture, engineering, and mathematics. They look to build a city they believe will prevent them from being scattered. They make plans to build a tower, but not a watchtower to provide defense (there aren't any enemies to attack them), but a structure connecting them to heaven (the emphasis is on its purpose, not its height). Finally, they desire to make a name for themselves; that is, they refuse to recognize God's authority with the intention of establishing their own. They want to leave their mark on the world, to be remembered after death, to outlive their life!

God responds by *"coming down"* to view the results of their efforts (v. 5). Moses isn't suggesting that God didn't know about it. His point is that in spite of their ingenuity and diligence, they didn't get close to heaven! God's perspective of this project is much different than humanity's. What man believed to be glorious, was in the eyes of God so insignificant that He had to descend from His lofty place to even know it existed!

But God also recognized they had crossed a line. This was not sin on an individual level as had been true in the days of Noah (Genesis 6:5). This was sin resulting from a concentrated and collective human effort! Hence, their success in this act of defiance would only produce greater levels of rebellion and more tragic enterprises. They have huddled together in one place, but God will prevent the achievement of their sinful objective in a way they never would have conceived.

By altering their languages God confounds their wicked imaginations. One minute they're conversing, making further plans, and marveling at the grandeur of their tower—then suddenly they can't understand someone they've known their entire life! Confusion becomes fear, and fear rapidly accelerates to utter panic. The noise of unintelligible speech compels them to search out those of common language, thus separating them into much smaller groups. The power of a unified yet rebellious humanity is shattered, leaving behind an unfinished tower as a testament to their failure. A name is given, Babel, a Hebrew word meaning "to mix up, confuse." The multiple earphones used during meetings of the United Nations stand as a lingering testament to the rebellion of an earlier generation.

What can we learn from Moses' record of this ancient account?

We certainly see the power of unity. *"Nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them"* (Genesis 11:6). If that is true regarding men in rebellion, how much more so would it apply to those who seek to walk according to God's will? Is it any wonder that we are so frequently called upon to be of the same mind (Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10)? How much more could we

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***Know
Your
Bible***

Houses Of Worship

1. Which goddess had a notorious temple at Ephesus?
2. Who was told in a vision to measure the temple in Jerusalem?
3. What holy object was taken by the Philistines into the temple of Dagon causing his image to fall down?
4. Who built the first temple in Jerusalem?

Answers On Back

Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



Knowing **God** *Through Receiving* **The Word**

Series #4 of 5

"For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe" (1 Thess. 2:13). The revealed word of God is powerful and can perform a work in us. The word is *"the power of God for salvation"* (Romans 1:16), but each one of us must "receive" the word. Received (from the Greek word *paralambano*) means: "metaphorically: to accept or acknowledge one to be such as he professes to be...not to reject, not to withhold obedience" (Thayer). The Thessalonians accepted not only Paul as he professed to be, but God was accepted as well. The word was believed and obeyed. This is the meaning of the word "received."

Jesus plainly taught *"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day"* (John 12:48). When He first taught this, many did not comprehend His message. Yet this is exactly what is taught through the New Testament. On the day of Pentecost when the gospel was first proclaimed, *"those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls"* (Acts 2:41). Note it was an acceptance of the word taught which led to obedience. *"Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John"* (Acts 8:14). Their reception involved obedience in baptism (Acts 8:12–13). We find the same language when Cornelius and his house were converted: *"Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God"* (Acts 11:1). Their reception in obedience is easily seen (Acts 10:48). The example of the Bereans demonstrated the same truth: *"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed..."* (Acts 17:11).

Will we learn from these examples? Receiving the Word of God is not just about hearing the truth and knowing what it says, but in obeying what it says. *"Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls"* (James 1:21). The salvation of our souls is the power of the gospel. The work which the word performs in us is our salvation. We must individually receive the word, not holding back obedience.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall" (Matthew 7:24–27). Our "fall" will be eternal destruction unless we are built upon the rock which are the words Jesus taught.

This truth is inescapable: *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments"* and *"...if anyone loves God, he is known by Him"* (1 Corinthians 8:3). We cannot know God or be known by Him unless we are obedient. *"The Lord knows those who are His"* (2 Timothy 2:19).

Charles Willis