BABEL

GENESIS 11:1-9

ANCHOR PASSAGE.

**Genesis 11: 4***Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”*

**Genesis 11:9** *Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confusedthe language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.*

**Helpful Passage:**

* **Revelation 7:9-10** - *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’*
* **Ephesians 2:14-18** - *For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostilityby abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father*

THEMES.

1. The sinful pride of fallen man (v4)
2. The feebleness of man and the greatness of God (v5)
3. God’s plans and purposes will be accomplished despite man’s evil (v9, Revelation 7:9-19)

QUESTIONS.

1. How have you seen the pride of man affect you personally? Was it your own pride or someone else’s?
2. Why does God desire for his people to be fruitful, multiply and cover the face of the earth?

Man is made in the image of God and God desires for his image to be represented by man throughout the earth. Ever since creation God has commanded His people to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth and subdue it (Genesis 1:28). This command was again given to Noah and his family after the flood (Genesis 8:17). For the people in Babel, this was not a new or unknown commandment.

1. How do the consequences of sin, seen at end of our story, end up being used for the Glory of God? What does this say about the grace of God?

First, people do scatter and cover the face of the earth, thus spreading the image of God to every corner of the globe. Secondly, diversity in ethnicities, races, languages, and culture displays God glory through his image bearers. This diversity glorifies God in an even greater capacity because it does so in numerous and unique ways (Revelation 7:9-19). Lastly, Diversity displays the power of God’s spirit through Christ’s death to unify many different and sinful people back to one family, the redeemed people of God, the Church. There is unity in diversity in the church. Through the fall there was division in Christ there is unity (Ephesians 2:14-18).

1. Is there a time in your life God has used consequences of your sin to display His glory?
2. How does the reality of Babel to Revelation 7:9-19 encourage us to bring the gospel to all ends of the earth and in our own backyards?

PRAY.

* Confess to the Lord the pride that manifests in our lives.
* Ask for requests from your group. Pray we would see God’s glory, despite our own failure.
* Pray for boldness to engage a lost world with the gospel to see His glory on display.