

“THE WORLD WILL STAND STILL”

In preparation for the 2026 World Cup, FIFA’s president Gianni Infantino called it, *“simply the greatest event that humanity—that mankind—has ever seen and will ever see.”* He said, *“The world will stand still.”*

Think about everything we have seen in our study so far (and we’re just a handful of chapters in). Now, with respect to Mr. Infantino, I think he’s oversold it a bit. The World Cup was an incredible spectacle, no doubt. When the world comes together, it can accomplish incredible things. However, I hope one takeaway from this study for you is that the world has indeed seen, and will certainly see, far greater things than the 2026 World Cup.

In fact, I think we’ll see one of those “greater things” today. Certainly, the attempt was to create the *greatest thing that humanity has ever seen or ever will see!*

RHYME REVIEW

1	CREATIONS GLORY NOW UNDONE
2	FLOOD OUT THE WORLD, START FRESH WITH YOU
3	NEW LANGUAGE BRINGS DISUNITY

GENESIS 11:1–9

¹ Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 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.” ⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” ⁸ So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Like so many passages we’ll cover each Week, there’s so much more we could say about Genesis 10 & 11. For instance, we’ve barely scratched the surface on how every civilization has grown out of the generations found in Genesis 10.

Thankfully, there’s many great resources that can provide much more information than we can cover here. Scan the QR code to find your family tree in Genesis 10.



DISCUSSION

In how many languages can you say the word “Hello”? (or something else like “Thank you”)

1. Describe the status of verbal communication in the world at the beginning of this account? (1)

2. What did they intend to build (4) and what was the result (8)?

3. What was this city called and why? (9)

4. In your own words, what character traits motivated this worldwide project?

5. What attributes did God display in judging Babel?

6. Looking at this story through the lens of the Gospel, how is God challenging you regarding division caused by sin and pride?

The world is divided more than ever. The reason is simple, sin. The only answer for sin is the Gospel of Christ. If you have questions about this, talk to you coach today!

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

RUN THROUGH THE BIBLE

ATHLETE STUDY

STUDY NOTES

THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

Looking around your school, you'll see lots of people that look and sound different. Last Week, we saw Noah and his family step off the ark to start over. We might look at that story, then look at the diversity around us, and think, *"How did one family create all this?"*

Genesis 10 records what many call *"The Table of Nations."* It's a genealogy of the initial repopulation of the earth after the flood.

Two things to remember about Genesis 10. First, this isn't an exhaustive list—it records only certain generations and people based on a purpose. And while these men fathered literally every nation on earth, *Genesis* was written to Israel just after they escaped slavery in Egypt. This is probably why there is so much emphasis on the origin of those they will soon encounter.

Second, Genesis 11 begins, **"Now the whole earth had one language and the same words."** However, Genesis 10 states that the groups spread out, *according to their own language* (10:5). The really important thing to understand to make sense of these chapters is that chapter 10 tells us *what* happened. Then, Genesis 11 rewinds the tape to explain *why* it happened.

In other words, Genesis 10 & 11 provide an explanation to the original audience for the abundance of people groups and languages. It answers the implied question, *"How did so many languages and so many people groups come from one family?"*

Genesis 1–11 records true history, but history told as a narrative. It's explaining to the first generation of freed slaves the world as they knew it: Creation, sin, & origins. Today's passage explains the various languages and people groups. However, the true message is that sin is alive and well in a post-flood world and always results in division and disunity.

GOD CONFRONTS PRIDE

Eventually, things got crowded for Noah's growing family. So, some people **migrated east and settled there**. With the building materials they resourced and made, **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."**

These people thought they could build a tower to God's dwelling place, but notice the **Lord** had to come **down** to see it. Despite the Lord flooding the earth to quell the ravages of sin, sin still existed. Pride led them to seek their own glory, rather than giving it to God—the only name that matters.

Knowing their wickedness and capacity to achieve it, the Lord said, **"Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech."** And it was from that place **called Babel** that humanity spread **over the face of all the earth** because they could no longer communicate.

#3, NEW LANGUAGE BRINGS DISUNITY

Think about what the Lord said: *"nothing they propose will be impossible."* In other words, unity magnifies. God's image in humanity means we have a huge capacity for greatness—creativity, planning, execution. But sin corrupts. It makes us think we can reach God, take his place, that our name can be greater than his. As humanity unified around a sinful pursuit, the Lord knew where it would lead—sin never leads to true unity, only disaster. The rainbow in the sky provided that reminder.

However, God, in his grace forestalled their efforts. He didn't flip a switch to command robotic obedience. He didn't smite them. He simply **confused the language of all the earth**. Because where unity magnifies, disunity inhibits. God graciously inhibited the impact of sin by hindering unity for a greater purpose as the story continues.

Unity in diversity reflects God himself as Trinity: three Persons, one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Through Christ's saving work on the Cross, believers today are called to be unified. Jesus even prayed for this in John 17:22–23, *"The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ... so that the world may know that you sent me."*

Sin divides and distracts. The world still has languages, but there's very little language barrier—Google Translate is a huge help. But has that connection increased unity or righteousness? No, we're more divided than ever!

Unity only comes from the Gospel, and Gospel unity points people to Jesus—*"that the world may know."* In Christ, there is no white, black, rich, or poor—sin divides. Any person who stirs hate based on racial categories or anything else identifies more with Satan (literally "Adversary") than with God. Not only are we all literally one family, descendants from the ark, but if you are in Christ, you're adopted into God's family. On that basis, there is way more that unites us than could ever divide us.