

Genesis 11

There are two key events in this chapter. One is the story of building the tower of Babel and its consequences and the other shows the line that leads from Shem to Abram.

These are both very significant and indicate God's sovereign hand despite the sin of man.

One language.

Up until this time the whole world had one language and a common speech. Clearly this meant that communication was easy but it also meant that schemes to defy God and contradict his law were easy to construct and ensnare others into godless ways.

Building a city and a tower.

The plan was to construct a city and its main feature would be a tower. The tower was to reach to the heavens.

This structure was motivated by pride and a desire to enhance their reputation in the world.

They decided also it was necessary to have this focal point so that they could be unified and not become a scattered people.

God's verdict on the tower.

The Lord is concerned that man is demonstrating that despite sin he is very creative and has a lot of potential for evil as well as good. We continue to observe terrible destructive products coming out of man's ingenuity as well as good. When God made man he knew what an incredibly powerful being he had produced.

How important that as Christians we use all our God given abilities for His glory.

The confusion of languages and the scattering of the people.

This act of judgement was sent to limit man's communication skills and also to bring confusion. Scripture reveals how confusion spread among the enemies of God's people

enabled them to defeat armies much bigger than they were. The people are scattered over the face of the earth.

Judgement often means disunity and confusion. Blessing brings unity and order.