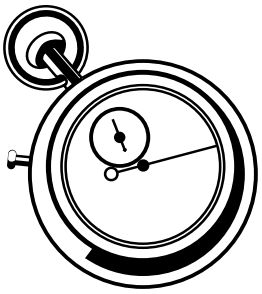
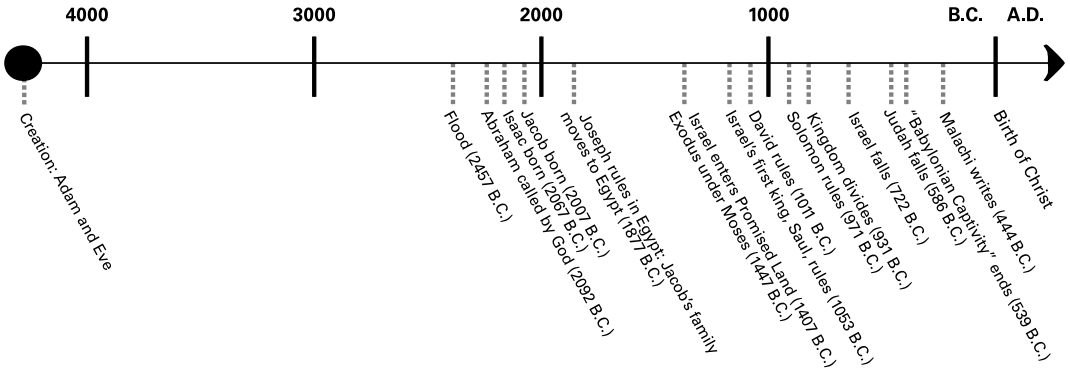


19-Minute Bible Study

Genesis 11

Take a minute to study the timeline and the approximate dates.



[1]Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. [2]As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. [3]They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. [4]Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." [5]But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. [6]The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. [7]Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." [8]So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. [9]That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

1. Take note of the pronouns in verse 4. What was the motivation of these people? How was this similar to the motivation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? Of people today? How does this differ from what God has in mind?

2. Verse 4 mentions a second sinful desire that contradicted the will of God. What was it?

VERY IMPORTANT CHAPTERS

Genesis 1	Creation
Genesis 2	Marriage
Genesis 3	Fall into Sin
Genesis 4	Cain and Abel
Genesis 6–9	The Flood (2)
Genesis 11	**Tower of Babel**
Genesis 12	Abraham
Genesis 19	Sodom and Gomorrah
Genesis 22	Abraham Tested
Genesis 28	Jacob's Ladder
Genesis 37	Joseph's Coat of Many Colors
Genesis 41	Joseph Rules
Exodus 2	The Baby Moses
Exodus 3,4	The Burning Bush
Exodus 12	The Passover
Exodus 20	The Ten Commandments
Joshua 6	Jericho's Walls Come Tumbling Down
1 Sam. 17	David and Goliath
2 Sam. 11,12	David and Bathsheba (2)
1 Kings 3	Solomon's Wisdom
2 Kings 2	Chariots of Fire
Psalm 23	The "Good Shepherd" Psalm
Psalm 121	The "Hills" Psalm
Isaiah 53	Christ Our Substitute
Matthew 5–7	The Sermon on the Mount (2)
Matthew 18	Church Discipline
Luke 2	Christmas
Luke 10	The Good Samaritan
Luke 15	The "Lost" Chapter
Luke 19	Palm Sunday
Luke 22,23	Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday (2)
Luke 24	Easter
John 2	Jesus' First Miracle
John 17	Christ's High-Priestly Prayer
Acts 1	Ascension
Acts 2	Pentecost
Acts 9	Saul's Conversion
Acts 16	Paul in Philippi
Romans 3	Righteous through Faith
Romans 8	More than Conquerors
Romans 13	Government
1 Corin. 13	"Agape Love" Chapter
1 Corin. 15	Paul's Great "Resurrection" Chapter
Ephesians 5	Marriage
2 Thess. 2	The Antichrist
Hebrews 11	Heroes of Faith
2 Peter 3	Christ's Second Coming
Rev. 21	Heaven

3. Why would God want to limit the potential of mankind (verse 6)?

4. Can you find a reference to the Trinity in the text?

5. Name some of the advantages that people who work together have when they share a common language.

6. What are some of the disadvantages for people who do not share a common language? How do we sometimes feel toward those who speak different languages?

7. The church often uses the story of the tower of Babel as a Scripture reading on the day of Pentecost. Review the events of Pentecost. What is the connection between the two stories? How do the stories show us God's justice as well as his mercy?

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, forgive the times when our lives have been motivated by a desire to make a name for ourselves. Lead us through a knowledge of your love for us in Christ to do everything to your glory alone. Amen.

At home

- Read Acts 2.
- Try to commit to memory the list of V.I.C.s on the front of this page.

Helps

(1) Adam and Eve, the people of Babel, and certainly people today are disobedient and proud. They have in mind their own glorification. However, God created mankind for his glorification— *Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God* (1 Corinthians 10:31). **(2)** Contrary to God's command to *fill the earth* (Genesis 9:1), the people of Babel defiantly attempted to *not be scattered over the face of the whole earth*. **(3)** Because people are, by nature, sinful, if they realized their potential, they would only move further and further away from their Savior God. **(4)** Verse 7: *Come, let us . . .* **(5)** Cooperation, trust, and obviously communication are aided. **(6)** Communication between people of different languages (especially those working on a major building project) is very difficult, and working together and cooperating becomes nearly impossible. As is the case today, people who speak alike will gravitate toward one another, creating, at times, a distrust toward those of different languages. **(7)** The confusion of languages at Babel not only hindered mankind's sinful plans but sadly also hindered the spread of the saving gospel. What was done at Babel was undone at Pentecost. God the Holy Spirit gave his messengers the ability to speak in different languages previously unknown to them so that the good news of the Savior could be shared with the people of the world. God in his justice punishes sin, but in his mercy he offers salvation.

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