

The Story of Babel

It is important because even though people live in unity, it must be for the right purpose and motivation. Unity that has evil as its purpose or outcome is not something God desires. The people of Babel were unified in such a way that they were working against God's desire that mankind (men and women) multiply (have children), fill the earth and glorify God in the process. Instead they had united in one place so they could raise themselves up to God. The building of the Tower was all about trying to be equal to God. The confusion of languages served two purposes. First it kept people from uniting for the evil purpose of trying to make equal to God. Second, it forced them to scatter across the earth, in order to have children and take care of all the earth.

Question Time:

1. Why did people build the tower?
2. Do people today think they need God?
3. Do people today think they are as smart or smarter than God?

Scripture: Genesis 11:9

The Tower of Babel

¹Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ²As people moved eastward,^[a] they found a plain in Shinar^[b] and settled there.

³They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴Then 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; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

⁵But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶The 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. ⁷Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

⁸So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹That is why it was called Babel^[6]—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Next Steps: When we show unity, it must be in God. Too many people today don't think they need God. They think that they are their own God. Things like a virus can make people realize that they are not that powerful and they need to communicate with God for His mercy and grace.