

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Genesis 10:1–11:26

Key Verse: 11:9

1. In 10:1–5, whose descendants are described first? Who do these “coastland peoples” seem to be? Whose descendants are described next (6–7)? What stands out about Nimrod (8–12)? How is he related to Babel (10; see 11:2)? What is said about Egypt (13–14)? About the clans and territories of the Canaanites (15–20)?
2. Whose descendants are described last, and why (21–24; 9:26–27)? How is Eber highlighted (21,25), and who were his two sons? Who were Joktan’s sons (26–29)?
3. In this genealogy, note the repeated summary statements (5,20,31). Note also how the author repeats the words “spread” or “dispersed” (9:19; 10:5,18,32; 11:8,9). How is this related to God’s purpose (9:1,7)?
4. As chapter 11 opens, what situation is described (1)? Where did people go (2)? What building method did they develop (3)? What did they plan to do, why, and what was wrong with this (4)?
5. What did the LORD do and say (5–6)? What was his plan, and what does this teach us about him (7)? What happened (8)? How does the author describe the meaning of the name “Babel,” and why (9)?
6. Note how the author again lists the descendants of Shem (11:10–26), and how it differs from Shem’s earlier genealogy (10:21–31). How is it similar to Adam’s genealogy in chapter 5, and how is it different? What can we learn from these chapters about God?