

***Our Sovereign God***  
***Genesis 11:1-9***

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**Getting Started**

- ❖ Share with one another an occasion in your life where you experienced God's sovereignty in and over your life.

**Key Ideas for Discussion**

1. Why would Moses end this section on Primeval History with the Tower of Babel?
  - A. Establish his God-given authority to lead Israel
  - B. Explain the world in which Israel lived
  - C. Encourage Israel to obey God and conquer the Promised Land
2. What does the Tower of Babel teach us about God and humanity?
  - A. Moving to Shinar
  - B. State of the People (one language implications; pride & disobedience)
  - C. The Tower's Religious significance
  - D. Paganism defined, explained & illustrated
3. How does this story relate to the gospel and followers of Christ?
  - A. Babel challenges us to admit our predisposition to paganism.
  - B. Takeaway Truth: Since God is sovereign, no scheme of man or devil will thwart God's redemptive plan.

**Digging Deeper**

- ❖ Go back and read Genesis 9:21-27 and describe/discuss the emerging sin in part of Noah's family. Note the following:
  - Noah's folly
  - The action of Ham compared to the action of Shem and Japheth
  - The attitude of Ham compared to the attitude of Shem and Japheth
  - Noah's response to what Ham did
  - What may be implied about Canaan's character
  - Noah's response to Shem (ancestor of Israel) and Japheth
- ❖ Read chapter 10:1-6 and answer the following:
  - The birth order of Noah's sons was Shem, Japheth, and Ham. Yet, they are referred to in chapter 10:1 as in the order of Shem, Ham and Japheth. Then, the listing of the generations is in the order of Japheth, Ham and Shem. Why do you think this order is different than the boy's birth order? (Hint: It's similar to the reason why generations are skipped, and a great-great grandson may be referred to as the "son of Shem".)
  - What does this tell us about the genealogies that we find in Genesis?
  - Of what personal comfort should it be to you to know that God has kept track of these people in Genesis 10 when secular history easily dismissed them from memory as insignificant?
  - What importance do these genealogies suggest there is in passing on to the next generation a fear and reverence for the Lord?

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- ❖ Read Genesis 11:1-9 and answer/discuss the following:
  - This story occurs right in the middle of the listing of nations and genealogies. Why would Moses put it here?
  - What were some details in the story, especially the first four verses, that the Israelites would have immediately identified with considering their 400 years of slavery in Egypt?
  - Discuss within your group verse 4 and how it relates to paganism. What stood out to you the most during this portion of the sermon?
  - Why was it a bad idea for humanity to achieve all of its purposes? (v.6)
  - Compare verse 5 with Genesis 8:1 and Exodus 2:23-25. You could read these verses and conclude God wasn't aware of what was going on and then suddenly "remembered" and "saw" and then took action. Is this what happened? Why would Moses phrase it like this in these critical points of the narratives?
  - How is verse 5 actually a sarcastic insult towards the people of Babel?
  - Think about and discuss how this story and city loom large in the Scriptures from this point on in both a literal, historical context and also a spiritual context all the way through to the book of Revelation. Brainstorm how "Babylon" plays-out in the Bible from this point forward.
  
- ❖ The people of Babel made their plans and began to carry them out without consulting or caring about God's agenda. This story shows how that works out! Have you ever made your plans without God? If so, how did that work out for you? How do you submit your plans to God to ensure you are walking in His will?
  
- ❖ Think about the following quote and discuss how we are often "practical pagans" even as followers of Christ.

**Think About It!**

*We all have at least a seed of paganism within us that is reflected when we view God as limited, when we try to get him to respond to us on our terms, when we view him as needing us or our abilities, or when we try to make him do what we want him to, when we want him to. (John Walton)*

## WORSHIP RESOURCE

December 13, 2020 | Third Sunday of Advent

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### WORSHIP SONGS

#### O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

*Latin Hymn | Music by John Francis Wade, 1751*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold him, born the King of angels!

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation. Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above. Glory to God all, glory in the highest!

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning. Jesus, to thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

#### HOPE HAS A NAME

*Words and Music by Kristian Stanfill, Sean Curan,  
and Jacob Sooter, 2020*

Breaking through the silence with glory in the highest,  
the hope of all creation resting in his mother's arms.  
A song on the horizon ringing through the heavens.  
The long awaited Savior come to set the captives free,  
come to set the captives free. Come set us free.

*Hope has a name: Emmanuel, the Light of the Word  
Who broke through the darkness. All hail the King,  
Emmanuel, the Light of the World, the Glory of Heaven.*

We didn't see it coming, the story of redemption.  
What started in a manger ended in an empty grave.

Come if you're broken, come if you're searching.  
If you need healing, He's where you find it.  
Lay down your burdens and breathe in forgiveness.  
If you need freedom, He's where you find it.

#### BEHOLD HIM

*Words and Music by Paul Baloche and Mitch Wong, 2019*

He who was before there was light, walked across the pages of time.  
He who made every living thing, behold Him.  
He who heard humanity's cry, left His throne to wake as a child.  
He became like the least of us, behold Him.

*Jesus, Son of God, Messiah, the Lamb, the roaring Lion.  
Oh, be still and behold Him. Jesus, Alpha and Omega,  
our God the risen Savior. Oh, be still and behold Him.*

He who dined with sinners and saints, healed the blind,  
the lost and the lame, even now He is in our midst. Behold Him.  
He who chose a criminal's end, paid with blood to settle our debt,  
buried death as He rose to life, behold Him.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.  
Jesus, you're my hope and stay.

#### IS HE WORTHY

*Words and Music by Ben Shive and Andrew Peterson, 2018*

Do you feel the world is broken, we do. Do you feel the shadows deepen, we do. But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through, we do. Do you wish you that you could see it all made new, we do.

Is all creation groaning, it is. Is a new creation coming, it is.  
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst, it is.  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this, it is.

*Is anyone worthy, is anyone whole. Is anyone able to break the seals  
and open the scroll. The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave,  
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.  
Is He worthy, is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy of this, He is.*

Does the Father truly love us, He does. Does the Spirit move among us, He does. And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves, He does. Does our God intend to dwell again with us, He does. From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue, He has made us a kingdom and priest to God to reign with the Son.

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### DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 110; Isaiah 13:1-13; Hebrews 12:18-29; John 3:22-30  
MONDAY | Ps. 40; Isaiah 8:16-9:1; 2 Peter 1:1-11; Luke 22:39-53  
TUESDAY | Ps. 33; Isaiah 9:2-7; 2 Peter 1:12-21; Luke 22:54-69  
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 50; Isaiah 9:8-17; 2 Peter 2:1-10; Mark 1:1-8  
THURSDAY | Ps. 62; Isaiah 9:18-10:4; 2 Peter 2:11-16; Matt. 3:1-12  
FRIDAY | Ps. 102; Isaiah 10:5-19; 2 Peter 2:17-22; Matthew 11:2-15  
SATURDAY | Ps. 72; Isaiah 10:20-27; Jude 17-25; Luke 3:1-9

### PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Lord Jesus, during this Advent season, we recognize you as the Messiah, the anointed one sent to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. Help us, O Lord, to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, and to give thanks in all circumstances; for this is your will for us. May we not quench the Spirit, but hold fast to what is good; and abstain from every form of evil. Our desire is for you to sanctify us entirely; and for our spirit and soul and body to be kept sound and blameless at your return. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

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