



Genesis 11:3-4 *“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; otherwise, we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”*

God gave humans a directive to rule creation. What have they done with that directive?

Welcome to the bonus study of the ten commands of creation. For all intents and purposes God created our world in Genesis 1. Genesis 2 is just a deeper look into God's creative work. In so many ways Genesis 2 is a continuation of how God works. He created it all in chapter 1. Then in this second chapter he is giving creation context. Some people have said this was a second re-creation account. I believe it's a bunch of individual statements that give us insight into the intent of God. It was never about creating a planet. No, it's always been about making a home for humans.

There are just a few things I want to touch on here. The first is that it appears God had made the man outside the garden of Eden. Big deal! It's just consistency. God creates and then God places that creation in motion. In chapter 1 we did not have that. The second is Eden. The Bible actually gives context as to where this place is. It places Eden somewhere near Turkey and Iraq. The point really is that everything flows from God. In context, everything flows from the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The introduction of woman and how

she was made continues God's way. What flows from God flows through Adam. From there it flows through the woman, animals and into creation itself.

I just want to conclude creation with what I call defining statements in the Bible. There are a few. One is in Judges 21:25 *"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit."* I feel that another is in 2 Chronicles 20:12 *"O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."* I also think that there is one right here in Genesis 2:25 *"And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."* These are defining moments where God is about to move. These verses are also points in time where humans are made to choose their fate. Will they look to God or humans for direction?

The Bible is really four sections. We have the history of the Israelites beginning in Genesis 12 with the focus and introduction of Abraham. We also have the four Gospels and the work of the disciples and Paul in the New Testament. With that said, I wanted to touch on an interesting story in Genesis 11. The first section of the Bible covers chapter 1-11. This period of time marks almost half of Bible history yet it's only the eleventh chapter. A lot happens in these eleven chapters. So, for me, this story in Genesis 11 is a point in time where humans are going one of two ways.

Remember that God said in Genesis 1:26 that they made man in God's likeness. I believe that the Spirit of the Lord was meant to flow through humans. What potential does human kind have? If a powerful God made us then what power do we hold? Through Christian history we have seen miracles and divine healing flow through people. Amazing insights into God's word has shaped our theology of God. I do believe that it was always meant to be that way. The four rivers flowing out of Eden represent God flowing out to the four corners of the earth. Look at

another defining statement in Matthew 28:19 *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

Here in Genesis 11, we find humans deciding to take heaven. I just want to touch on two verses that are interesting. The first is Genesis 11: 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.”* Clearly creation was formed so that humans could be fruitful and multiply. This is the second time that humans have tried to be like God. The first was with the fall of Adam and Eve. The second verse is Genesis 11: 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; otherwise, we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”* Look at the wording. These people are saying “let us” build. Humans have always wanted to be God.

I have added this to our creation study because God made and God enacted his creation to move. Here in chapter eleven, Man “made” and man is trying to enact his will on God. As God was consistent with creation, humans have been consistent in trying to be God. Adam and Eve have tried. These people in Genesis 11 tried. I would also say that though history the church has tried. We talked in the beginning of this study about the theme of separation. God separated Adam and Eve from the garden. He separated the people of Babel by scattering them all over the earth. Ironically, by their kinds. Notice, humans were the one creation that God did not separate by kinds when he made them originally.

This whole study has opened my eyes into how God does things. I can see that humans have always tried to be God. Clearly, people have a greater purpose within creation. A spiritual connection that was supposed to rule in love rather than dominance and violence. Realize that when Adam and Eve were not under the cover of God in Eden their child committed murder

right away. Humans tend to want to do what is right in their own eyes. They even tried to be like God here in Genesis 11. To storm the gates of Heaven? Even using the same creation words like “let us.” I would like to end this study with a question. “Who is the God that defines you?” Is it yourself or something much greater?