

LESSON 5 - THE HIGHWAY DIVIDES AT CONFUSION CORNERS

Genesis 11

THEME: To show the importance of walking in the light and restoration of fellowship with one another.

Which do you like better: night or day? Why do most of us like daytime the best? We like to see where we are going, what we are doing, what others are doing. You who like night better, would you still like it better if there were no moon or stars? No, there would be no beauty to the night, were it not for the lights in the heavens, and there would be no beauty to the day without the sun.

The Bible says that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5. Light always speaks to us of God and righteousness, while darkness speaks of Satan and evil. God wants His children to walk in His light.

Now we will study whether God's children walked in light or darkness after the great flood. The great flood had destroyed all the unrighteous people so God started with Noah again and gave him some new travel laws. Genesis 9:1-19. Noah was told to be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. Genesis 9:1,7. He had meat added to his diet, whereas before it had been only fruit and vegetables. Genesis 9:3. The punishment for murder was to be death. Genesis 9:6.

Then God established a covenant with Noah that all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth. And God gave the rainbow as the sign of the covenant. Noah and his sons Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with their wives, continued on *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE*. Noah's family multiplied very rapidly. Everyone spoke one language. Genesis 11:1.

As they journeyed from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar. They said, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly. Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." Genesis 11:3,4.

When the Lord came down to see the tower and the city, He was greatly displeased because Noah's family was not filling the earth as commanded in Genesis 9:1. He said: "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech." Genesis 11:5-7.



Source: Sweet Publishing - for illustration purposes of Genesis 11:7-8 only

The Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. The place was called Babel. This name is attributed to the verb *bala*, which means to confuse or confound in Hebrew. Genesis 11:9. On our chart we call this intersection CONFUSION CORNERS.

This language confusion happened about 100 years after the great flood. We know this because Shem became the father of Arphadax 2 years after the flood (Genesis 11:10); Arphadax became the father of Salah 37 years after the flood (Genesis 11:12); Salah became the father of Eber 67 years after the flood (Genesis 11:14) and Eber became the father of Peleg (which means *split* in Hebrew) 101 years after the flood (Genesis 11:16). This is being confirmed by Genesis 10:25 where we learn that in the days of Peleg the earth was divided.

What would God do now? Mankind had been given another opportunity but had failed again, so God gave them up to their sin and wickedness. Romans 1:24-28. The people, called nations or *gentiles* (*non-Jews*), all went off in the direction of the GENTILE BYWAY on the chart. The whole human race had chosen the way which was right in their own eyes, but which proved to be the way of eternal death.

Why was this the way of eternal death? Because men had disobeyed God's way of faith. When they said, "Let us make bricks and build a tower," they undertook to do a work for their own glory and not for the glory of God. Many people today are building towers with the stones of *good works* and depending on those works to take them to heaven. God is only pleased with works of faith.

When they said in Genesis 11:4, "Let us make for ourselves a name," they showed that they did not want honour brought to the name of God. When men worship themselves it brings confusion and it breaks the unity of the Holy Spirit. When they said, "...lest we be scattered," they rebelled against the command of God to fill the earth. Disobedience brings confusion and judgment to mankind.

In our next journey we will take the turn to the left at CONFUSION CORNERS and see how God called out one man to make a fresh start on PROMISE ROAD.

Have you been walking in the light? If you have never trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour from eternal death, trust Him now. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin. If you are a believer already, but you have fallen back, tell it to the Lord in prayer. He has forgiven all sins (Colossians 2:13). So if you walk in the light, fellowship will be restored in order for you to be always a light in the darkness here on earth.

**MEMORY VERSE: "but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."
1 John 1:7.**

LESSON 5 – WORK SHEET

1. Write down 3 of the new travel laws God gave to Noah. Genesis 9:1-7.
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____

2. Soon the earth was filled with people again. How many languages did they speak? Genesis 11:1. _____

3. What did Noah's family do when they found the plain in the land of Shinar? Genesis 11:2-4. _____

4. What did God do when He came down to see the city and the tower? Genesis 11:5-8.

5. Why was God displeased when Noah's family said, "Let us build for ourselves a city and a tower?" Genesis 11:4. _____

6. They also said, "Let us make for ourselves _____" Genesis 11:4.

7. The name of the city Noah's people stopped building is called _____. This name is attributed to the verb *balal*, which means to confuse or confound in Hebrew. Genesis 11:9.

8. Noah's family was not walking in God's light and therefore could not have _____ with God or with one another. 1 John 1:7.

9. Read Romans 1:24 and write down what God did to the gentiles (non-Jews) after this great rebellion. _____

10. Write 1 John 1:7: _____

