

Text: Genesis 11:1-9
Title: Reversing the Curse
Theme: The sin of mankind's arrogance at the Tower of Babel brought about the curse of confused languages and the splintering and scattering of mankind. Nevertheless, the advance of the Gospel of Jesus is undoing the effect of that curse of Babel in anticipation of the total and final reversal of the Curse.
Response: Corporate Prayer
Benediction: Genesis 12:2-3

I. Introduction

- A. Cacophony v. symphony (Bad sound v. same sound)
- B. International Airport Din

II. Sin and it's curse

A. Genesis 11:1-9

1. The Plain of Shinar and the descent of the Kingdom of Man
 - a) The story
 - (1) Whole world had one language
 - (2) "Let us"
 - (a) Bake bricks
 - (b) Build a tower to Heaven
 - (c) Make a name for ourselves
 - (d) not be scattered
 - (3) The Irony and the Curse
 - (a) God came down to see the tower
 - i) there will be no limitation to their ability
 - ii) "Let us go down and confuse their language"
 - (b) a restriction of ability
 - (c) unfinished work
 - (d) Scattered over the whole earth
 - (e) Achieved fame: "At Babel God Baleled"
 2. The Historical context
 - a) *Genesis 10:10
 - (1) Shinar is Babylon
 - b) Genesis 11:10
 - (1) *Shem "the name"
 - (a) Shem's name is made great
 - i) Genealogy lists the names
 - ii) Abraham and Israel are of Shem (Semites)
 - c) Genesis 12:2-3
 - (1) I will make you a great nation
 - (2) I will bless you
 - (3) I will make your name great
 - (4) I will bless and curse those who...
 - (5) through you the whole world will be blessed
 3. The Narrative Arc
 - a) OT - Babylon is a foil for Israel
 - (1) present throughout the story

- (2) pagan and idolatrous
 - (3) ultimately used to judge Israel
 - (4) Destroyed the Temple and took Judah into Exile
 - b) *NT - Babylon is the World system opposing God's people
 - (1) Babylon is conquered before the open of the NT
 - (2) Rome is the world power in the NT
 - (3) Matthew 1:17 Abraham to David to Babylon to Christ
 - (4) 1 Peter 5:13 "She who is in Babylon, and Mark - send greeting"
 - c) Tribe, people, tongue, and nation
 - (City, State, Region, Country)
 - (1) Rev 5:9; 7:9; 10:11; 11:9; 13:7; 14:6; 17:15
- III. Redemption and the Reversal of the curse
- A. *The incarnation of the Word
 - 1. John 1:14
 - 2. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
 - B. The word goes out to the distinct and scattered
 - 1. Acts 2:1-8
 - 2. "each one heard in his own language"
 - C. The word spoken and heard leads to faith and salvation
 - 1. Romans 10:13-17
 - 2. How shall they hear? Faith comes by hearing.
 - D. The Tower or Babel and Revelation
 - 1. Revelation 14:6-8
 - a) The Gospel goes out to every tribe, people, language and nation
 - b) Fear God and give Him glory, worship the creator
 - c) Babylon the Great has fallen
 - E. *The Final unmaking of the Curse
 - 1. Revelation 21:1 "no more sea"
 - 2. Revelation 17:15 "the sea is the tribe and people and language and nation"
 - 3. Revelation 5:9 "they sang a new song"
- IV. The English Language and the G
- A. The average Christian does not look like us: But they do speak English
 - B. Some Observations about the world
 - 1. The gospel is thriving
 - 2. The people are under tremendous oppression
 - a) spiritual darkness
 - b) poverty
 - c) family expectation
 - d) educational demands
 - e) despair and suicide
 - C. Why English
 - 1. Education
 - 2. Globalization
 - 3. Money
 - 4. Influence
 - 5. Dominance
 - D. What we can do
 - 1. Understand where we are in redemptive history
 - a) The church is experiencing revival

- b) The center of Christian influence is already shifting ... again
- c) The spread of the Gospel looks different today than it did even 15 years ago
- 2. Influence where we are planted
- 3. Support where we are not
- 4. Go where we are called
- E. Application
 - 1. Prayer