

Week 4 – Confusion

(Genesis 11:1-9)

So far this season, we have talked about big events that happened in the book of Genesis in the Bible. First, we talked about **Creation** and how God made everything good. Everything was made perfectly and God was a perfect ruler. Then man decided to rebel against God and break that relationship. From that point forward, there was a pattern of man rebelling and disobeying God. We saw that pattern with the **Corruption** as sin became a mark for every person and we saw it in the **Catastrophe** of the universal flood as God punished the whole world for the wickedness of its people.

Today, we will see the pattern continue. After the flood that wiped out life on the earth, God made a covenant with Noah and his family. God said that He would never again destroy all life with a flood. He then commanded Noah and his family to “multiply and fill the earth” (Genesis 9:1).

God had originally created man to rule over the rest of creation and represent Him. When people were wiped out in the flood, the earth was empty. God wanted them to fulfill their purpose and spread out over the whole world so that they could do their job.

Unfortunately, when God judged the world for its sin, sin remained. Even though Noah and his family were chosen by God to start over, in a way, they were still sinful people. All of their children were also sinful. Sin continued to be passed down and multiplied through the years and generations, and people continued to rebel against God.

A big event we will call the **Confusion** happened later in Genesis when people rebelled against God’s commands in a big way. God had told all of the people to spread out and fill the earth, but the people instead chose to disobey and stay together. They decided to make a big city and worship themselves instead of God. They were building a tall tower and were happy to rebel and disobey God.

God decided to do something about it. Out of all the people in the world, they all only spoke one language since they had all come from one family. That commonality is what God decided to change.

One day God decided to make a big **confusion**. God saw all of the people building their city and their tall tower and made it so they all spoke different languages. They were no longer able to understand each other so they couldn’t continue their building. They had to stop and so called their city Babel “because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of the earth” (Genesis 11:9).

God had shown multiple times that He cannot tolerate sin. It ruins the relationship that He wants with man. He punished the utter sinfulness of mankind in the universal flood, but even the sin of Noah and his family got passed down and everyone was still in conscious rebellion against God. God dealt with sin again at Babel as He **confused** their languages and caused them to follow His commands.

It is clear that sin was still a problem and needed to be dealt with another way. In order for people to have a restored relationship with God, people needed someone to be able to defeat sin all together. We’ll talk more about that next week.

Discussion Questions:

- What are the 4 C's that we have talked about so far? (Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, and Confusion)
- What was changed in the **Confusion**?
- Why did God decide to confuse the languages of the people at Babel?