

Sin from Noah to Nations at Tower of Babel

Genesis 9:18-11:9

Read Genesis 9:18-29.

Noah prophesied after his sin was revealed by Ham and covered by Shem and Japheth.

- How did Ham, Shem and Japheth respond differently to their father's sin?
- What warning from God's Word will you choose to take seriously?

Principle: God has all power to bring about His will.

Read Genesis 10.

The nations descended from Noah's sons spread out over the earth.

- What names of the sons of Japheth do you recognize from other Bible passages?
- What reasons could you give to show others why Genesis 10 is important today?

Principle: God controls nations as they rise and fall.

Read Genesis 11:1-9.

The Lord confused the language of and scattered those who built the Tower of Babel.

- How did God show mercy and judgment to the people?
- What is God revealing about your motives?

Principle: God is our merciful Judge.

Review Genesis 9:18-11:9.

- What do you learn about God from how He responds to the people and their plans?

Main truth: God is sovereign over all people and nations.

Scripture Memory Verse

“But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.” – Genesis 11:5

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Exploring the Christian Faith

An Attribute of God

from this week's passage

Merciful

God, in His mercy, does not give us what our sins deserve. He limits the extent of pain. He restrains evil and holds back sin. He makes His gospel known in places where people have turned their back on Him. God seeks those who are lost, alone, hurting and in need. He forgives and restores those who repent and turn to Him in faith.

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A Basic Truth of the Christian Faith

What defines or describes the providence of God?

God's providence means He wisely directs and permits all that happens in His creation.¹ God involves Himself in all events and directs all things to accomplish His good purposes.² Health and sickness, riches and poverty come to us, not by chance,³ but from the Father's loving hands.⁴

Isaiah 46:8-11¹; Acts 17:24-26²; 1 Chronicles 29:11-12³; Matthew 10:29-31⁴

Think About It

Why does God allow bad things to happen?

All bad things (death, illness, injury, suffering, etc.) can be traced back to the Fall, when sin disrupted God's perfect world. God limits suffering and restrains much evil. When God permits evil, He will use it for good, even though we may not see the good during our lifetime. Nothing happens by chance. For example, Joseph suffered terribly and could not imagine all God was doing. He eventually realized the wonderful things God accomplished through his suffering. God planned good through Joseph's suffering that continues even today and will bring Him glory forever.

Are people just puppets if God controls everything?

People are not puppets. We make actual choices and are responsible for our actions. God does not override our will, but He does direct circumstances to accomplish His will. God always acts for good. When people act in an evil way, they are guilty of doing wrong, even though God works through their actions to bring about good. God never deserves blame for people's evil actions. He always deserves our praise.

Why doesn't God show me His purposes when my life is hard to understand?

We can trust God's good purposes even when we do not understand what He is doing. Living by faith gives God's children joy and brings Him glory. We must trust Him to show us all we need to know. Only God knows His infinite purposes for everything that happens. God leads His children by His Word, His Spirit and other good gifts – our parents, natural abilities and good desires. We do not need to look for signs to know what to do. Knowing our heavenly Father is in control is more than enough for us.

To learn more Basic Truths of the Christian Faith, visit mybsf.org.