

BABEL

UNDONE

Acts 2:1-11
MESSAGE BY PASTOR JOSH LAKE

Babel Undone - May 2020

If you've spent even a little bit of time with me, you've inevitably heard me talk about the (cue big-budget, major movie production announcer voice) **Big Picture of the Bible**. By *Big Picture of the Bible*, I'm referring to the fact that the Bible (Old Testament and New) is *one story* — The story of how God is redeeming His world through His son Jesus.

Pentecost (the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit) is one of the easiest and most fulfilling ways to see that Big Picture. In Acts 2, we read of Jews from all over the world speaking any number of different languages and to these folks from different cultures and languages the Apostles begin to proclaim the Gospel — the Good News that Jesus is God come in the flesh and He has lived, died and risen from the dead so that all who trust/rest/rely on him will be saved from their sin and live with God forever.

The remarkable thing about the Apostles' sermon is that everyone understands the Apostle's message in their own language. God has poured out his Spirit so that all can understand who Jesus is and how they can be saved. It's the unwinding of the Tower of Babel in found in Genesis 11.

Out on the plain of Shinar, sinful men (that's all of us by the way) began a tower in opposition to God's rule and his command. They are making a name for themselves" rather than exalting the name of God. They are *building a fortress and refuge* rather than finding refuge in the Lord who is strong tower. God confounds their language to

keep them from continuing in their hard-hearted rebellion and disobedience. By confusing their speech God is showing both his judgement over their rebellion, and his grace in keeping them from continuing on in such sin. The Tower of Babel stands half-built as a reminder that God's name is the only one which should be adored, and men must find their rest and security in Him and Him alone.

Pentecost is the beginning of Babel coming undone. Where mankind was divided because of their sin and rebellion, God is making a new humanity. Where confounded languages made unity impossible, the new languages of the Gospel unwinds those ancient divisions. It's another step of many in God's work of unwinding the curse and the fall and making all things new.

Questions to Consider

- What Babel towers are we building in our own lives? How are we making a name for ourself rather than exalting the Name of God? How are we laboring of our own security rather than trusting in the Lord?
- When we hear the Gospel preached is it like a foreign language? Have we prayed for ears to understand? Have we prayed for the preacher, that his words may be pure and true?
- Do I long for the day when the world will be untied under the Kingship of Christ? Am I diligently praying and laboring for that day?

