

# Controlling God

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Genesis 11:1-9.
- B. This centers on the life of Abraham.

## II. Understanding society.

- A. The text shows the mystery of a race hungering after unity.
- B. The land had one set of words.
- C. God's intention was to build a city, but man was not ready for this.
  - 1. Man is body, soul and spirit to be satisfied in the need for a city and a tower.
  - 2. God is not to be left out of the city of man, and He is represented in the tower.

## III. The race was conscious of the force among them that would scatter them abroad leaving them unremembered—this fear caused them to want to build a city.

- A. Making a name for oneself has become the model of humanity.
- B. They were trying to use God instead of giving glory to Him, by making Him available to themselves.
- C. The irony is that man thinks he can impress God when He can hardly see what man makes to impress Him.

## IV. The divine analysis—what God noted.

- A. Man's unity.
- B. Man's creativity.
- C. Nothing that man proposes to do will be impossible to him in his own perspective.

## V. The result.

- A. Man ended up doing the very thing he feared.
- B. God did this to prevent man from glorifying himself.
- C. The very solutions that man tries to work out become his very problems.
- D. God confused the languages of the people, and this persists to this day.

E. A confusion of languages represents a loss of basic understanding—man is still haunted by the need of unity.

F. God continues to scatter and humiliate today because the poor in spirit are the ones who are blessed.

**Application questions:**

1. Why does God scatter?

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2. What is the irony in man's attempt to protect his memory and unity?

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3. How will you prevent God's scattering in your own church and in your own fellowship? Explain.

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