

# 4<sup>TH</sup> C OF HISTORY: CONFUSION

**Text:** Genesis 9:18-11:9

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**SUMMARY**—After the Flood, God commanded Noah and his family, the only humans left in the world, and the animals to fill the earth (Genesis 8:17). The disobedient descendants of Noah, however, decided to stay in one place and build a tall tower, which they hoped would keep them together and provide security (Genesis 11:3-4). So, about 1000 years after the Flood waters retreated, God confused the language of the people so they couldn't understand each other (until this time, they all spoke one language). The inability to communicate caused the people to disperse and spread out over the earth. The movement of people to different places on earth resulted in the various people groups we have today.

The different languages created suddenly at Babel (Genesis 10-11) would each subsequently give rise to many more. Languages gradually change, so when a group of people break up into several groups that don't interact with other groups, after a few centuries each group may each speak a different but related language. Today, we have thousands of languages but fewer than 20 language "families." The implications of that event may surprise you. In this study, we will discuss the event God used to scatter people over the surface of the earth.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. If your family were suddenly cut off from the rest of civilization, what types of abilities collectively would you and your family have? Do you or someone in your family know how to build a brick home, or would you and your family have to survive in caves or in houses made of wood? Do you or someone in your family know how to build a fire and kill and cook animals for food? Would your family be able to make your own clothing?
2. Some people teach that marriage between people with different skin colors is wrong. Since we are all of "one blood," is there any such thing as "interracial marriage"? Read 2 Corinthians 6:14. What is true "interracial marriage"?
3. How does this event affect you and the world you live in?

## **RESOURCES ON THE WEB**

[answersingenesis.org/articles/ka/v8/n1/confusion](http://answersingenesis.org/articles/ka/v8/n1/confusion)  
[answersingenesis.org/articles/nab2/was-babel-dispersion-real-event](http://answersingenesis.org/articles/nab2/was-babel-dispersion-real-event)  
[answersingenesis.org/articles/cm/v24/n3/babel](http://answersingenesis.org/articles/cm/v24/n3/babel)  
[answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v1/n2/who-begat-whom](http://answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v1/n2/who-begat-whom)  
[answersingenesis.org/articles/cm/v23/n2/talking](http://answersingenesis.org/articles/cm/v23/n2/talking)

***"Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city." Genesis 11:7-8***