



***Almost Famous***

Genesis 10:1-11:9

Pastor John Sloan

**Introduction:** “Come, let us build a city.” Nothing wrong with that initiative. In fact, a big part of God’s original instructions to mankind was to fill out all the cultural possibilities of the earth. After all, the story of the Bible begins in a pristine garden and ends in a bustling metropolis, the new Jerusalem. Cities are God’s design. So why was God so upset with the architectural plans of Noah’s descendants? The answer is one that surfaces throughout the book of Genesis: the issue was not **what** they were doing but **why** they were doing it.

**Barriers to Resting in Grace**

**01.**

**02.**

**03.**

**IN THE BEGINNING ... GRACE**  
[A Study through the First Half of Genesis]



1. Throughout the scriptures, God graciously promises to some that He will “make their name great” (Gen. 12:2; 2 Sam. 7:9). What does this mean? How do the folks at Babylon take matters into their own hands?
2. What command do the descendants of Noah violate when they congregate in Babylon (see Gen. 9:1)?
3. What are some things in which we are tempted to locate our identity? How do those vain pursuits lead to feelings of hopelessness and failure?
4. In what sense is Christianity a “downward progression”?
5. Twice in this story we’re told that the Lord “came down” to Babylon. What is significant about this phraseology?
6. Why does God scatter the people at Babylon? What does this reveal about His grace?

# IN THE BEGINNING ... GRACE

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1. **Barriers to Resting in Grace**
2. **01. A misplaced longing for significance.**
3. **02. The relentless drive in the human heart for self-salvation and independence from God.**
4. "The primeval history reaches its fruitless climax as man, conscience of his new abilities, prepares to glorify and fortify himself by collective effort."  
- Derek Kidner
5. **03. A deep-seated trust in human ingenuity and potential.**
6. "[God recognized] that the apostasy of the human spirit would shortly bring the race to the brink of another catastrophe such as the deluge." - Allan Ross
7. "The sweet sound of amazing grace saves us from the necessity of self-deception. When I go to church I can leave my white hat at home and admit that I have failed. God not only loves me as I am but knows me as I am. Because of this I can accept ownership of my powerlessness and neediness."  
- Brennan Manning

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