

INTRO: If we all evolved from one common ape-like ancestor, why don't we all speak the same language? Well, we all do have created, common ancestors in Adam and Noah. And this historical account which occurs after Noah, explains the origins of languages.

I. WHAT WE SEE IN THE EVENT AT BABEL

A. One barrier separating God from us is defiance against His will

1. Gen.1:28 & 9:1 "...be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth..."
2. 11:4 ...build city...lest we be scattered abroad...earth...
3. desire for evil had precipitated the Flood
4. even as Eve had defied God's will
5. but then isn't that a definition of **every** sin?
6. the carnal mind is enmity against God (Rom.8:7)
7. Babel is but one more example of defiance separating man from God

B. Another barrier between God and man is man's pride

1. related to – perhaps preceding – defiance against God
2. Babel's beginning (v.4) "Let us make a name for ourselves.."
3. definition of good work in sight of God (to the glory of God)
4. 1 Cor.10:31 "Whether therefore ye eat...do all to the glory of God"
5. glorifying self is an example of 'finer idolatry' vis-à-vis 'gross'
6. ascribing to self what belongs to God (so common!)
7. Luke 12:20 rich farmer's "thou fool"

C. A barrier between God and man is man's zeal to sin

1. Heb. **hortative** verbs (v.3 'make bricks'; v.4 'build city')
2. in English, only by intonation or punctuation (!)
3. in v.3 and v.4 highlighted with "Come (on)"
4. such enthusiasm, zeal to do what is sinful
5. sad to say, zeal to sin may be worse today than then
6. facebook flashmobs; corporate advocacy for 'gender transition'
7. not that we are immune to enthusiastic sinning ourselves

D. The barrier of languages brings confusion to mankind

1. God thwarts Babblers' plans and humbles them
2. languages cause barriers and prevent unified activities
3. all commercial aircraft at international airports must use English
4. a personal example: Brigitte Vidhe's "huh" (continued)

5. misunderstanding to suspicion: Kristal Freisleben
6. humbling helplessness when in a foreign country
7. as simple as choosing a toilet in Israel; Egypt? I don't do Arabic!
8. problem intensifies when 'way of salvation' is at stake

II. WHAT WE SEE IN THE EVENT OF PENTECOST

A. The barrier between God and man is broken down by Christ

1. God acted on behalf of the helpless and uneducated
2. our efforts to solve sin are as effective as Babel's cause was
3. He is One with the Father; in perfect communication
4. conformed to Father's will in His active obedience
5. even as Father charged our sins to His account
6. figuratively, Jesus built a tower to heaven; with an angelic elevator
- 7 He Himself ascended visibly after paying for all sins of all ages

B. Sin's barrier is broken down in the use of His name

1. Holy Spirit inspired apostles with 'tongues'
2. not 'babbling' but intelligible languages (Acts 2:9-11)
3. Peter explains who Jesus Christ is, for all to understand
4. v.38 preaches repentance for forgiveness of sins
5. forgiveness for crucifying Christ, for starters in Acts 2
6. but any sin of defiance or pride; cure is 'repent'
7. God's solution is Jesus, in every language (Gordon at Bunkpurugu)

C. This barrier is broken down by Spirit-given zeal

1. amazing transformation of formerly timid disciples
2. from locked doors; to streets of Jerusalem; to the then-known world
3. only God's Holy Spirit could effect such a change
4. God inspired their enthusiasm
5. to build a **spiritual** city (kingdom) to the glory of God

D. The barrier of languages is overcome by the Gospel of Jesus Christ

1. this kingdom is not made with human hands
2. gospel of Jesus Christ is power of God for salvation (Rom. 1:16)
3. intended to be carried to, and translated into every language
4. because it is intended to go into 'all nations'
5. not just a few on the plains of Shinar

CONCLUSION: Sin separates man from God. Sin separates people from one another. The Holy Spirit through the message of Jesus Christ breaks down sin's barriers and makes us one with God. It makes us one with fellow-believers in the Triune God. This is God's doing. To Him be all thanks and praise and glory. Amen.