



Lord of Nations

Gen 10:32-11:9

[based on the sermon preached on 25.9.22 – available on the [church app](#) or at <https://lwac.org.au/sermons>]

KEY IDEAS

1. God is not only Lord of the nations, but Lord of the outcomes in our lives as well.
2. Our constant temptation is to try and save ourselves, without God, to make ourselves righteous through our own efforts.
3. Sometimes when we experience frustration, it is God keeping us from success so that we don't become prideful, self-sufficient and self-righteous.

CONNECT

- Have you ever been frustrated and unable to accomplish or complete something which you wanted very badly? What was that like?

STUDY

Read Genesis 10:32-11:2

- Thought to ponder: given that culture and language are closely linked, would you prefer to have one, single global culture with one language? Or do you prefer the many languages and cultures we have today? What would be the advantages of a single culture and language? What are the attractions of differing cultures and languages?

Read Genesis 11:3-4

- The people who settle on the plain of Shinar begin to build using baked bricks instead of stone. Bricks were uniform and allowed for more precise building than stone. Bricks were a technological advancement over stone, which inspired the citizens to begin building the tower. In light of this, are technology and technological innovation value neutral or can it also be value laden, even value negative? What are some examples of technological advances which had both good and evil applications or implications? Can you think of any technological advancement which had (or has been predicted to have) only evil applications?

What about Artificial Intelligence and computers becoming self-aware, sometimes referred to as “the singularity”?

- Building a city in itself is not wrong or prideful. What do you think it was about the city and especially the tower which God found so troubling?
- The desire to make a name for themselves is essentially pride. Why does God find communal, corporate pride to be so egregious, so harmful?
- What are some examples of achievements or accomplishments in which humans today take inordinate, unhealthy pride?
- Is there such a thing as healthy pride? Consider Galatians 6:4-5. What does Paul’s understanding of healthy pride look like?
- What is something (a quality or ability or achievement) about which you have struggled with unhealthy pride? What is something about which you have healthy pride? What is the difference between the two types of pride in your life?

Read Genesis 11:5-7

- God’s concern over the achievements of the people on the plain of Shinar and his decision to confuse their language reveals the importance of communication to human achievements. Improving communications has been at the forefront of modern civilization from the printing press to the telegraph, telephone, movies, television, the computer, internet and smartphones.
- Given the difficulties of communication posed by the many different languages (not least for the propagation of the gospel), the pride problem identified by God and thwarted by the confusion of the languages must have been very great indeed. The next time you experience a communication challenge or problem, let it be a reminder that God is Lord of our achievements and outcomes and not us.
- What are some communications challenges you have faced in your life? These may be cross-cultural and across languages, or spouse with spouse, child with parent, friend with friend, employee with employer, or others.

Read Genesis 11:8-9

- The building of the tower of Babel is testimony to the creativity and ingenuity of humans. However, with all humans initially being able to speak the same language, humans were too creative and ingenious. And if they thought themselves so creative and ingenious, what would they need God for? Would you consider God confusing their language and frustrating their efforts to be, in the big picture, a favour, for their own good?

- What is something in your life about which you have been frustrated? Re-visit the frustration(s) you identified in the Connect section at the beginning of our study. Is it possible God could have used that frustration to keep you humble and prevent you from becoming prideful? What might this new insight or approach to that frustration look like?

APPLY

- What do you need to do in order to adjust your attitude so that you can see frustration over unsuccessful efforts as potentially God's efforts to keep you humble and keep you from becoming prideful?
- Which other aspect of this study has struck you the most and why? What are you going to do as a result ?
- Identify one or more truths from this study which speak to and can be applied in your life.
 - 1.
 - 2.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH AND FOR ONE ANOTHER

- According to need.