

Sermon Title: How Do You Want To Be Remembered?

Sermon Text: Genesis 11:1-10

Our passage this morning is sandwiched between 2 lists of names. For many of the names on these lists, this is the only record we have of their lives!

How they are remembered throughout history is revealed here!

Have you ever wondered how you will be remembered after you are gone?

Have you ever thought about what might be written about your name?

We all want to be remembered, don't we? For our names to matter? Don't we all want to leave a legacy, & know that we have left our mark on history?

Well, every name in Noah's day, had been wiped away from history (except for Noah & his family). And for those who came immediately after, they left nothing but "a name" on the pages of Scripture (until we get to Abraham).

But as we will see, it wasn't for a lack of trying! This passage, between the list of names, reveals man's attempt at making a name for himself, yet doing so in all the wrong ways! It's the story of the Tower of Babel. **Genesis 11:1-10**

At this time there was a common language, a unity in communication throughout the known world. But their unity, in this common language, brought about a united front against God!

After the flood, God wanted mankind to disperse and multiply throughout the earth! Yes, for the purpose of fulfilling His creation mandate, but also to protect mankind from uniting together in the evil inclinations of their hearts.

But the further the people moved away from the garden of Eden, the further they moved away from listening to God and His commands!

Sticking together & building a city that they could all reside in may sound innocent, but it was in direct disobedience to God, and the true inclinations of their hearts was being revealed - verse 4...

"Come, let us build ourselves a city & a tower with its top in the heavens, & let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

- The people were not interested in what God was building in this world, they wanted to build their own thing - a city & a tower for themselves!

- The people were not interested in worshipping the name of the Lord, & making His name great, they wanted to make their own name great!
- The people were not interested in God's plan for filling the earth, they wanted to do things their own way! And if they could only be in the seat where God sits, then they could be the ones calling the shots!

So they built their tower with a top that reached the heavens (so they thought)! But don't miss the significance of vs. 5... **"And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower; which the children of man had built."**

God had to descend to reach man on his level! Try as we may, to reach the seat of God, to elevate ourselves to His status, but we will always fall short!

But wait... didn't God seem to fear what man could be capable of? **Vs. 6...** **"And nothing that they propose to do will be impossible for them."**

God was not referring to the level of their accomplishments, but to the level of their disobedience and rejection of Him! Whatever evil man devised in his heart, his sinful ambitions would be able to accomplish it!

So... man finds himself in this place again - far from God & at a crossroads of God's wrath & mercy! What was the outcome? **Vs. 8-9**

God overcomes man's resistance (man's resistance to God and His ways), He confuses their language so they can no longer proceed, He disperses them over the face of the earth, and He leaves man's pursuit of self in the dust!

This place was called "Babel", which to the Babylonians means "the gateway to God", but in Hebrew it is given this name because "Babel" sounds like the Hebrew word for confusion! Which applies in both language and pursuit!

What an appropriate message for us today... When we think that everything is about us, we too are very confused! This life is not intended to be about us making a name for ourselves, but about lifting up the name of God/Christ

Our identity as "somebody" is not found in us elevating ourselves, but in God coming down to us, on our level – in Christ, to do the necessary work in us so that we can live into God's glorious plan for His creation!

The gospel is what gives our lives meaning! Our names matter, & they will be remembered, not because of what we do, but because of what God has done!

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Have you ever thought about what might be _____ about your name?

We all want to be remembered, don't we? For our names to matter? Don't we all want to leave a legacy, & know that we have left our mark on history?

Well, every name in Noah's day, had been _____ from history (except for Noah & his family). And for those who came immediately after, they left nothing but "a name" on the pages of Scripture (until we get to Abraham).

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But the further the people moved away from the _____, the further they moved away from listening to God and His commands!

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The _____ is what gives our lives meaning! Our names matter, & they will be remembered, not because of what we do, but because of what God has done!