

# Further Answers to Questions from Sermon

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- In Genesis 10:5, it says "From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations." Seems like it's saying that the languages were different for different "family" groups. Yet in Genesis 11:2, the Bible says that everyone spoke the same language. Do you think Chpt 10 is just describing different dialects of the same language?

Good eye, whoever you may be. The simple answer is: Genesis 10 is a record of generations, whereas Genesis 11 goes back and gives more background how it all played out. They do not contradict one another. Check this article out for more info.

<https://answersingenesis.org/contradictions-in-the-bible/the-order-of-nations/>

- Would you consider the live stream by the churches during the quarantine is God's way of scattering his message? Or the Devils way of isolating God's people?

The Scriptures do not specifically answer your question but do give us some overall principles. First, God is sovereign, which means He even uses activities of Satan, effects of sin and evil to accomplish His will. Nothing happens unless God ordains or allows it.

For example, in Job we see the only way Job had his trials is because Satan had to ask God and God even gave parameters to what he could and could not do to Job.

In Acts 2:23 in Peter's sermon we hear him declare that God used the evil acts of Pilate and Herod to kill Jesus so that He would die for the sins of the world and salvation could be possible. Acts 4:27-28 records the same concept.

Acts 8:4 tells us, "Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word." It was because God allowed persecution in Jerusalem to happen that the Gospel spread as quickly as it did in the early days of the church. God used persecution as a means to a greater end.

Therefore, no matter what happened behind the spiritual scenes of the lockdown, we know God is using it to build His church and to refine His people. For example, we already know many churches have had more people worshiping and listening to the preaching of God's Word via live-stream during the pandemic than were attending worship services beforehand, so that is already a victory for our Lord.

- You gave a good explanation for Genesis 11:6, but when you couple it with Genesis 3:22, and God's sovereignty, it's confusing as to what is really being said and seems there is more than just God's humor.

There are varying interpretations of this verse.

*Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.*

It can be rhetorical, as Doug taught in his sermon.

It could also be an exaggerated statement of truth by the Lord about human's abilities to create things, because they are made in His image. On one hand, we know it does not have a literal meaning that humans can do anything they want because only God can have no limitations to what He proposes to do. That is omnipotence or being all-powerful. Humans are not God nor can they become like God in omni-potence. On the other hand, the extent of man's ability to create because we are in the image of God is amazing! I continue to be amazed at the creative and intellectual abilities of humans around this world and worship God for such abilities He has given us, but we still have many limitations.

Why did God then step in? As preached in the sermon, one clear reason is because they were disobeying God to spread out, as God commanded them to. They chose not to and instead to make a name for themselves.

A deeper question then is, "why would God tell people to spread out?" Doug mentioned one reason and that is so His glory would spread throughout His creation. Most theologians agree this was an undergirded reason for His command to spread.

Another possible reason God may have commanded them to spread out and then stepped in is because He wanted to slow their civilization process down. God had an ultimate plan of redemption to send Jesus to die one of the most horrible methods of murder as possible on a cross, during the Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread, etc, and God was moving the pieces of human history to make His exact plan and timeline work out. For example, if the cross was invented earlier due to man's faster civilization, then other details of God's plans would not have lined up and so forth. Mankind could have been messing up His timeline by disobeying His command to spread out. This is just theory, but an interesting one for sure.

- **What does it mean, "God came down" in Genesis 11?**

There are at least a couple possible meanings. First, it is possible it was the preincarnate Jesus who literally came down from Heaven and walked around looking at the Tower of Babel. God coming to Earth can also be described as a theophany. To learn more about this, read this article addressing the various Scriptures to support it.

<https://answersingenesis.org/jesus/incarnation/theophanies-in-the-old-testament/>

Another possible meaning is this is just a poetical way to say God focused on that specific area of the world.

One thing we know it doesn't mean is that no matter the exact interpretation of "God came down", unless God did so, He would not have known what was going on. To be God is to be omniscient, all-knowing, which means He already knew what was going on. Either God wanted to personally visit the place as an emphasis of His activity in what was going on or He was just focusing in on what was happening, but He already knew what was happening.