

Tongues As A Sign Of Judgment

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Genesis 11

God has a message for the people:

Gen. 9:1, 7

¹Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.”

⁷“As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.”

The people refuse to listen to God:

Gen. 11:4

Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

God causes tongues to be heard as a sign of judgment:

Gen. 11:7

“Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”

Dispersion follows:

Gen. 11:8

So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

Deuteronomy 28

God has a message for the people:

Deut. 28:1

If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.

The people refuse to listen to God:

Deut. 28:15

However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

God causes tongues to be heard as a sign of judgment:

Deut. 28:49

The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the ends of the earth, like an eagle swooping down, a nation whose language you will not understand,

Dispersion follows:

Deut. 28:64-65

Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods - gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart.

Jeremiah 5

God has a message for the people:

Jer. 4:1

“If you will return, O Israel, return to me,” declares the LORD. “If you put your detestable idols out of my sight and no longer go astray,”

The people refuse to listen to God:

Jer. 5:3

O LORD, do not your eyes look for truth? You struck them, but they felt no pain; you crushed them, but they refused correction. They made their faces harder than stone and refused to repent.

God causes tongues to be heard as a sign of judgment:

Jer. 5:15

“O house of Israel,” declares the LORD, “I am bringing a distant nation against you - an ancient and enduring nation, a people whose language you do not know, whose speech you do not understand.”

Dispersion follows:

Jer. 5:19

And when the people ask, ‘Why has the LORD our God done all this to us?’ you will tell them, ‘As you have forsaken me and served foreign gods in your own land, so now you will serve foreigners in a land not your own.’

Isaiah 28

God has a message for the people:

Isaiah 28:12a

to whom he said, “This is the resting place, let the weary rest”;

The people refuse to listen to God:

Isaiah 28:12b

“This is the place of repose” but they would not listen.

God causes tongues to be heard as a sign of judgment:

Isaiah 28:11

Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people,

Dispersion follows:

Isaiah 28:13

So then, the word of the LORD to them will become: Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there - so that they will go and fall backward, be injured and snared and captured.

Pattern repeated in New Testament:

God has a message for the people:

Matt. 11:28

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

The people refuse to listen to God:

Matt. 23:37

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.

God causes tongues to be heard as a sign of judgment:

Acts 2

¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, **a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.** ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹⁰(both Jews and converts to Judaism Cretans and Arabs - we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹¹Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

Acts 10

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out **even on the Gentiles.** ⁴⁶**For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.**

Acts 19

¹While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ²and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. ⁴Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷There were about twelve men in all.

Dispersion follows:

Matt. 23:38, 24:2

Look, your house is left to you desolate.

"Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

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