



10

**“NATIONS”**

Genesis 10-11:9

Sunday | January 22nd, 2015 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

**CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES**

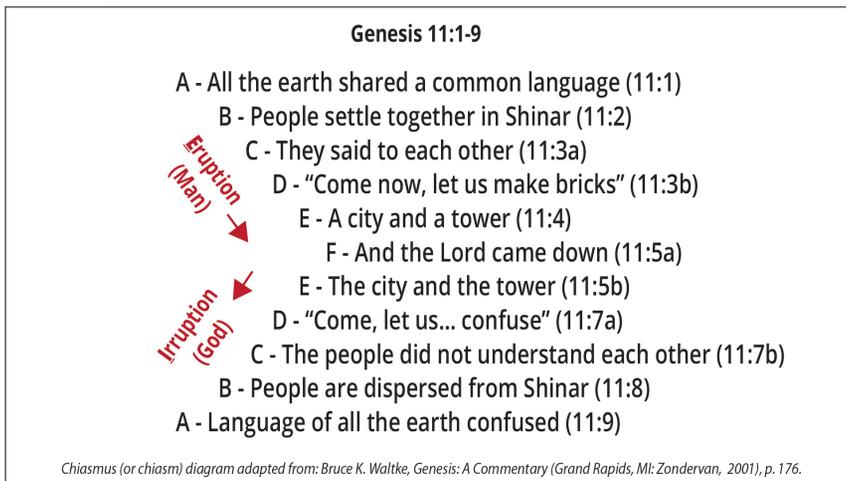
**Genesis 10-11:9**

(See also Acts 2:1-6, 4:12, Php. 2:9-11)

**CONSULT THE SCHOLARS**

[Bruce K. Waltke] “The structure of this terse short story can be analyzed as... Chiastic.<sup>1</sup> ...This structure exposes the tension of the act: The struggle of human endeavor against God, matched by God’s punitive response. The plot pits the word of humanity against the word of God. It peaks when God confuses humanity’s speech. Its denouncement occurs in the scattering of the people<sup>2</sup>”

[Note: Adapted by Pastor Patrick from Waltke’s diagram]



<sup>1</sup>(Footnote added by Pastor Patrick) Chiasmus or chiasm is Latin from the Greek, *chiasma*, which means “crossing,” or *chiazō*, which means, “to shape like the letter X (22nd letter in the Greek alphabet, [Chi]).”

<sup>2</sup>Bruce K. Waltke, *Genesis: A Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001), p. 176.

**DISCUSS**

1. Pastor Patrick opened by referring to Gen. 1-12 as a blueprint. What did he mean?<sup>3</sup>

2. Read Gen. 11:1-9 with the above chiasmus in mind and discuss.

3. Draw cultural similarities between the story of the tower of Babel with our own culture today. Then draw similarities with your own life personally.

4. What is the significance of the Lord “coming down?”

5. Pastor Patrick said that when reading Gen. 11:1-9 he is reminded of the story of Pentecost in Acts 2. Read Acts 2:1-6 and compare.

6. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

Notes:

<sup>3</sup>A complete footprint of the gospel can be found in Gen. 1-12. By comparing it to a set of blueprints, Pastor Patrick was insinuating that Gen. 1-12 can help us make sense of the chaos in the world around us. By consulting the plans, we can answer many, if not all of the most difficult questions.