

Genesis 10-11:9

Sunday | January 22nd, 2015 | Pastor Patrick Bowler



Genesis 10-11:9

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



[Bruce K. Waltke] "The structure of this terse short story can be analyzed as... Chiastic.⁷ ...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 denounce-

ment occurs in the scattering of the people"2

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

Genesis 11:1-9

A - All the earth shared a common language (11:1)

B - People settle together in Shinar (11:2)

C - They said to each other (11:3a)

D - "Come now, let us make bricks" (11:3b)

E - A city and a tower (11:4)

F - And the Lord came down (11:5a)

E - The city and the tower (11:5b)

D - "Come, let us... confuse" (11:7a)

C - The people did not understand each other (11:7b)

B - People are dispersed from Shinar (11:8)

A - Language of all the earth confused (11:9)

Chiasmus (or chiasm) diagram adapted from: Bruce K. Waltke, Genesis: A Commentary (Grand Rapids, Ml: Zondervan, 2001), p. 176.



1. Pastor Patrick opened by referring to Gen. 1-12 as a blue-print. What did he mean? 3

- 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:

- Origins 17 -

- Origins 18 -

¹(Footnote added by Pastor Patrick) Chiasmus or chiasm is Latin from the Greek, chiasma, which means "crossing," or chiazo, which means, "to shape like the letter X (22nd letter in the Greek alphabet, [Chi])."

²Bruce K. Waltke, Genesis: A Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001), p.176.

³A 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.