The Tower of Babel

Why do we all speak different languages? What happens when people who don’t love or think about God begin working together? The story of the Tower of Babel speaks to these and many other questions.


1. What did the people think would happen if they built a tower?

2. Why was the Lord worried about what the people were doing?

3. What is the fault or sin of the people’s actions?

4. How did the Lord stop the building?

Discussion

Look at the picture on the following page. What do you see? What does this picture symbolize for you? What is your interpretation of this picture? Discuss your thoughts with a group of two or three students, and be prepared to share your ideas with the teacher.
Takako Horino, the artist of the picture on the previous page, is angry about the distorted values in modern society. She has concentrated on three stories in the Old Testament: Noah and the Flood, the Tower of Babel, and the Destruction of Sodom. Each of these stories is an expression of God’s anger against human rebellion and stupidity.

The picture of the Tower of Babel symbolizes the support that governments give to making the weapons of war while neglecting the needs of people. The huge tower holds missiles while houses, schools and hospitals lay broken below. In the end, everything is destroyed. A solitary skeleton in front of a control monitor is the final symbol of humanity’s destruction.

**Cultural Influence**

In English, the word “babble” means to speak in an excited and confused manner that nobody can understand. Read some actual examples and idioms from English writing that demonstrate the influence the Biblical story of the Tower of Babel on Western thought:

N

1 us away from ASCII-based text systems, but what we have now is a Tower of Babel out there," explained Patrick Conley, president of Abraxas. "What we

2 at its vastness, our young pilgrim stood upon the threshold of this great Babel. Everything looked new and strange. It had never entered Paul’s

3 ed by the priest Berosus, who wrote the famous account of the Deluge; as Babel he had a tower partly erected to his glory on the Plain of Shinar.

4 he had a tower partly erected to his glory on the Plain of Shinar. From Babel comes our English word "babble." Under whatever name worshiped, Ba

5 ightway they began to quarrel among themselves, filling the woods with a babel of voices. While I stood listening to these disputes with a boy’s a

6 f by magic, our dozing pilots got on their feet in a body. An incredible babel of bantering shouts burst out, a jocular, passionate, voluble chatte

7 forth like a shrieking saw. Then Broadway broke upon them, and with the babel of noise and the painted faces a sudden sickness rushed over Amory.

8 redulous hearers; Sir Wilfred’s statement carried instant conviction. A Babel-like chorus of startled exclamation arose, amid which the scientist
reatens civil war unless Government expands naval programme.” In the babel which ensued Belturbet lost sight of his young friend. For the best

ied, making him hear with difficulty, for I was unused to speak in such a babel, "since it is all fun." "True," said he; "and you must always bea
e cabman’s eating-house, brought tears to my eyes. The whole monotonous Babel had grown—or, I should rather say, swelled—with such a leap since

Sabbath streets alternately vacant and filled with silent people; of the babel of the bells, the long-drawn psalmody, the shrewd sting of the east

said, "and they are our school clothes." For a few moments there was a babel of laughing voices explaining to the delighted Margaret that school

nches gently and a rooster crowed. Then all the scene was shaken with a babel of bird notes in which you could hear a cardinal whistling, and a bl

emberlost and peeped at her. The robins awoke all their neighbours, and a babel of bird notes filled the air. The dew was dripping, while the first

every language might be heard spoken at the same time. It was a perfect Babel re-enacted. All the various classes of American society were mingled

establishment. Every one seemed eager to talk at once, and the result was babel. A small group supported Mrs. Hall, who was picked up in a state of

the door! Don’t let him loose! I got something! Here he is!” A perfect babel of noises they made. Everybody, it seemed, was being hit all at onc

of a stirring life in the world of adventure. On the lower deck in the babel of two hundred voices he would forget himself, and beforehand live i

, it did not matter with whom, and bubbling over in a general incoherent babel. But Thornton fell on his knees beside Buck. Head was against

Why is the P. C. like the Tower of Babel? It is full of unruly members.

er had heard once before and Tarzan many times. In answer to her cry a babel of voices broke from the surrounding chambers and corridors. "Com

amels, donkeys, and horses that filled the market place with a confusing babel of sounds, Abdul plucked at Tarzan’s sleeve. "Look, master, behind
oolish—thin chatter, like the boasts of the men who built the tower of **Babel**, or like Axel’s plan to breed ostriches in the chicken yard. From w

If everybody is now talking in the sea of babble, or the Tower of **Babel** how can our elected officials maintain aesthetic distance and make ju

us about the norms and models? What are its implications to the tower of **Babel**?; and, as professionals, what are our responsibilities? These questio

**Reflections**

In your Journal, please consider the following:

From the story of the Tower of Babel, what are the possible dangers of “globalization” (国際化)?

Do you think the Internet is a type of Tower of Babel? Why or why not?

How is God’s love revealed in the creation of different languages?

**Homework**

Rent the video of “The Bible – In the Beginning” (1966, Trimark Productions, John Huston, (Director), Starring George C. Scott, Eva Gardner, Peter ‘O Toole). Be prepared to share your impressions during the next class.