

Although Noah was righteous, the Bible does not describe his wife, his sons, or his daughters-in-law as righteous. Even though they might have been righteous, by the time we get to Genesis 10 and Nimrod we see that few have retained their understanding of God and righteousness.

God had commanded that extended family to spread out, to be pioneers, to go where no man has gone before (after all, it was a new world now).

Genesis 9:1 God blessed Noah and his sons, and He said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the land."
Genesis 9:7 "But as for you, be fruitful and multiply! Flourish in the land and multiply in it."

It was not limited to "go west, old man" but "go away from this ark in all directions" to fill the land. Most chose to stay relatively close together, especially after Nimrod built some major cities,

Genesis 10:10-12 The beginning of his kingdom included Babel, Erech, Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went out to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rechovot-ir, Calah and Resen, between Nineveh and Calah - it is the great city.

The people who followed the lead of Nimrod took an attitude of rebellion against God's command to disperse.

Genesis 11:1-4 Now the entire earth had the same language with the same vocabulary. When they traveled eastward, they found a valley-plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to one another, "Come! Let's make bricks and bake them until they're hard." So they used bricks for stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come! Let's build ourselves a city, with a tower whose top reaches into heaven. So let's make a name for ourselves, or else we will be scattered over the face of the whole land."

Does this sound familiar? Go back to the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:4-5 The serpent said to the woman, "You most assuredly won't die! For God knows that when you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

The temptation to be like God (or like gods - the Hebrew is plural here) still draws us away from obedience.

And then, the explanation that sin (rebellion) is totally under our control (free will), and we can turn away from it.

Genesis 4:6-7 Then YHVH said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, it will lift. But if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the doorway. Its desire is for you, but **you** must master it."

The deliberate rebellion against dispersion meant nobody was leaving Shinar, so they were all concentrated in one city, and all working on the goal of building a monument to their independence from God, using man-made construction materials (not stone).

The tower itself was not the problem - it was the intent, the reason for building it, which was rebellion.

Genesis 11:5-7 Then YHVH came down to see the city and the tower that the sons of man had built. YHVH said, "Look, the people are one and all of them have the same language. So this is what they have begun to do. Now, nothing they plan to do will be impossible. Come! Let Us go down and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand each other's language."

It is very difficult to manage a major construction project when the workers cannot communicate properly! God effectively stopped the construction immediately. The old common language had to disappear - they would all remember it if it stayed around; whatever the Creation language was, it was now eliminated. People started grouping together with others who were speaking their same language, so (probably) this was family groups. How many languages? There are about 500 language families - distinct and unintelligible to each other. Altogether there are at least 7,000 distinct languages (not counting numerous dialects of each language). Linguists are puzzled that the multiple unrelated parent languages did not evolve from a single primal language. This is a serious problem for evolutionists, because as time progresses even more languages devolve from the existing ones. However, God worked around this problem at Pentecost by miraculously giving language fluency to the disciples at that Shavu'ot, as they translated Peter's message to all those at the Temple listening.

Misunderstandings probably immediately followed the new languages as each group had difficulty understanding the other groups. To avoid conflicts, they all dispersed to other places - they were forced to obey God's command!

Genesis 11:8-9 So YHVH scattered them from there over the face of the entire land, and they stopped building the city. This is why it is named Babel, because YHVH confused the languages of the entire world there, and from there YHVH scattered them over the face of the entire world.

It is wise to obey God, and avoid confusion!

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Now that all has been heard, here is the final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.