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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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Series: History of the Shemites

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Gen.11:1-9
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THE ORIGIN OF LANGUAGES

Etiological is the study of causes. Myths have existed throughout history regarding the Origin of Languages. It is an attempt by the world to explain the diversity of languages without reference to the Bible.

Etiologists have discovered references to a great deluge as a punishment by God or gods associated with the diversity of languages in the world. Many conclude that the reason for this type of etiological myth is Christian missionary teaching.

Most agree that the diversity of languages arose suddenly, but disagree on how they suddenly arose. Because of rejection of the Bible as a reliable source, they have come up with alternative ideas.

Here are five of those ideas:

- Speech evolved to replace territorial spray of animals.
- Speech evolved by the mimicking sounds of the world around them like the boom of thunder.
- Speech evolved by imitating the sounds of animals (oink).
- Speech evolved from sights of pleasures and experiences of pain.
- Speech evolved from oral sounds and gestures of the body.

In 1866, the Linguistic Society of Paris banned discussion of the origin of languages, deeming it to be an unanswerable problem. Most etiologists pre-date human language with a language spoken by God or gods.

Scientists have discovered a gene, FOXP2, believed to be involved with the development of languages.

This lesson will study four aspects of the Origin of Languages of the Postdiluvian civilization.

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text for the Origin of Languages in the world by the following five homiletical points.

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|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------|
| • Speech | (Gen.11:1) | One language |
| • Settlers at Shinar | (Gen.11:2) | One world |
| • Structural wonder of world | (Gen.11:3-4) | One city-tower |
| • Schemers against God | (Gen.11:5-6) | One mind |
| • Segregation by languages | (Gen.11:7-9) | One way to worship
(Jn.4:23-24; 14:6) |

2. The Antediluvian world had one language extending from the Garden of Eden to the Tower of Babel (Gen.11:1; 2:19-20). It was the language of God (Theology; Gen.1:3).

Adam and Eve spoke this language of God as custodians of the gospel and lineage of Christ (Gen.2:16-17; 3:8, 15; Luke 3:23-38). The language of God was spoken and taught by the **Sethites** to the Antediluvian civilization (Gen.4-9) [The Flood] and by **Shemites** to the Postdiluvian civilization until the Tower of Babel (Gen.9-11).

3. Believers of every biblical dispensation have spoken the language of the word of God (theology). It was carried by the Sethites to the Shemites to the Jews to the Christians.

In the 21st Century BC, the Shemite Bible was translated into Hebrew with Abraham (similar alphabets).

In the 3rd century BC, the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek (Septuagint). This prepared the way for the koine Greek of the New Testament.

Gentile Christianity has translated the Bible into 531 different national languages of the world because of missionary evangelism. (Matt.28:18-20)

(Matt.5:18) “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall away from the Law, until all is accomplished.” (Hebrew alphabet).

(Matt.24:35) “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.”

(2 Tim.3:16-17) “All Scripture is God breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

4. The diversity of languages was the result of God’s judgment upon the Peleg generation of Shemites (Gen.10:25; 11:10-26).

This resulted in God’s judgment upon the Tower of Babel (Gen.11:1-9). The divine purpose for confusion of languages was so that the people could not understand one another’s speech (Gen.11:7).

The people had become universally united in their rebellion against God and His Plan of nationalism. (Gen.10:5, 20, 32) The postdiluvian civilization is preserved with nationalism. The great danger to the postdiluvian civilization is internationalism and globalization.

“Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.” (Gen.11:9)

Christians of the Postdiluvian civilization still embrace the original Eternal Word of God.

(1 Pet.1:23; 2:2) “For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is through the living and abiding **word of God**

(Rom.10:16-17 “However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our report?’ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the **word of Christ.**” (Isa.53:1; John 12:38)

(Heb.4:12) “For the **word of God** is living active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”