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## Lesson 67 - The Confusion of Tongues

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# Deseret Sunday School Union Leaflets.

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## LESSON 67.—THE CONFUSION OF TONGUES.

TEXTS.—Genesis 11, 1-9. Book of Mormon—Ether 1:1, 33.

1. And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

2. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

3. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

4. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city, and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

5. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

6. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

7. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

8. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

9. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

\* \* \* \* \*  
1. And now I, Moroni, proceed to give an account of those ancient inhabitants who were destroyed by the hand of the Lord upon the face of this north country.

33. Jared came forth with his brother and their families, with some others and their families, from the great Tower, at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people, and swear in his wrath that they should be scattered upon all the face of the earth; and according to the word of the Lord the people were scattered.

### LESSON STATEMENT.

After the flood the whole earth was of one language. As the people journeyed from the east they came into a valley

which was called Shinar. In this valley they burned brick, and undertook to build a tower which would reach up to heaven. But the Lord came down and saw that the people were united and all spake one language, and He said, "Let us confound their language that they may not understand one another's speech." The Lord thereupon scattered them abroad upon the face of the earth and caused them to speak different languages. Because of this confusion of tongues the place was called Babel. At the time these people were scattered upon the face of the earth there lived among them two great men, Jared and his brother. The account of these men and those that left the valley of Shinar with them is given in the Book of Mormon, in the Book of Ether by Moroni. From the account of Moroni, God scattered the people from the tower of Babel in His anger. The descendants of Jared and his brother and those who followed them to this continent were all ultimately destroyed.

### NOTES.

Now the sons of Noah were three—Shem, Japhet, and Ham, born one hundred years before the deluge. These first of all descended from the mountains into the plains and fixed their habitations there; and persuaded others who were greatly afraid of the lower grounds on account of the flood, and so were very loath to come down from the higher places, to venture to follow their example. God commanded them to send colonies

abroad, for the thorough peopling of the earth. \* \*

\* But they were so ill instructed that they did not obey God; for which reason they fell into calamities, and were made sensible by experience, of what sin they had been guilty. \* \* \*

Now it was Nimrod that excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. \* \* \*

He persuaded them not to ascribe it to God, as if it was through his means they were happy, but to believe it was their own courage which procured that happiness. He also gradually turned the government into tyranny. \* \*

\* He also said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for he would build a tower too high for the waters to be able to reach; and that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers. Now the multitude were very ready to follow the determination of Nimrod; \* \* \* and they built a tower; \* \* \* and by reason of the multitude of hands employed in it, it grew very high, sooner than anyone could expect. \* \*

\* When God saw that they acted so madly, he did not resolve to destroy them utterly, since they were not grown wiser by the destruction of former sinners; but he caused a tumult among them, by producing in them divers languages. \* \* \* the place

where they built the tower is now called Babylon; \* \*

\* \* \* for the Hebrews mean by the word Babel, confusion. Josephus, Antiq. Bk. I, chap, iv:1.

#### WHAT WE MAY LEARN FROM THIS LESSON.

1. That after the flood the people settled in the valley of Shinar. 2. That they were united and spake one language. 3. That they undertook to build a tower that would reach up to the heavens. 4. That the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the people were building. 5. That He confused their language so that they could not understand one another. 6. That they were scattered abroad upon the face of the earth. 7. That a

number of them came from that land in Asia to America, under the leadership of Jared and his brother. 8. That the tower ever after that was called Babel and the city was called Babylon. 9. We learn from Josephus and the Book of Mormon that the Lord was angry with the people because they undertook to build such a tower. 10. Josephus tells us it was the will of the Lord that they should scatter in the beginning and thus colonize the earth.

#### QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. Where did the people gather after the flood? 2. Where was the valley of Shinar located? 3. What great work did they undertake in this valley? 4. What prevented the people from carrying on the work they undertook? 5. What was the will of the Lord respecting the part of the earth they should dwell upon? 6. How did he scatter them upon the different parts of the earth? 7. Who among them came from the land of Shinar to America? 8. Where do we find an account of those that came to this land? 9. What became of those who came to this continent? 10. Why was the Lord angry with the people for undertaking to build the tower of Babel? 11. What circumstance can you recall in our day when the Lord required the people to scatter and colonize?