

**Study Questions for the March 20, 2022 Sermon:
“What Did He Say?”
Genesis 11:1-9**

1. Nearly all Christians believe that God is omnipresent and omniscient. However, the Bible includes verses that imply God travels around (not omnipresent) and discovers things (not omniscient). For example:
 - *But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. (Genesis 11:5)*
 - *But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. (Genesis 8:1)*
 - *And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, (Genesis 8:20)*
 - *The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth ... And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, (Genesis 6:5-6)*

How do we reconcile these verses with the doctrines of omnipresence and omniscience?

2. Psalm 2:1-6, portrays the rulers of the earth as being very foolish in believing they can rebel against God. How does the message in this Psalm relate to the opening verses of Genesis 11?
3. How does Genesis 11 help us to understand Genesis 10?
4. Verse 3 states that the builders of the tower of Babel used *bitumen for mortar*. This is the same material that Noah used to waterproof the ark. What might this imply about whether the builders trusted in God's promise to never again use water for judgment?
5. Verse 4 reveals one motivation for the tower: *Let us make a name for ourselves*. Share some goal you pursued, or object you acquired, that you now realize was done to win the respect or approval of men.

6. Verse 4 reveals a second motivation for the tower: *lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth*. Yet God had commanded mankind, in Genesis 9:1 and 9:7. to disperse over the earth. Share other Biblical stories that express the futility of resisting God's commandments.
7. Like many other cultures, the Babylonians believed they were descended from Gods. Why might they find the creation story and the flood story offensive?
8. One of the consequences of craving respect and approval is that we are sensitive to insults and criticism. Share a time that you were not distraught by insults or disrespect because you were confident that you were glorifying God.