

Genesis 11:1-4
Webb Harvell – March 5, 2025
Bible Text: [Genesis 1:1-4](#) ...

<https://livingwatersternacle.com/sermons/03-05-25-genesis-111-4/>

Well saints, I hope you have spiritual track shoes, because we're going to do a little running around tonight. If you want to follow along, let's start in Genesis, the eleventh chapter; start in verse one. And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 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. 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. 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. Imagine that.

01:17

Imagine that this whole world with one language, with one speech, think of all the confusion that's going on tonight how much easier it would be to just get along with somebody, communicate with someone. It would be so much easier if you all spoke the same language But, they decided to build a tower, so what happened behind them? Well, let's see, God knows man's heart, and no matter what plans going on, or what we plan on doing with anything there is a certain thing He knows about us. And this is really any man who has not had Christ born into his heart. In Genesis 8:21 you find this. And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in His heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; and this is a part, for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every living thing, as I have done.

02:43

So, take a look at that, man's heart, doesn't matter if it's man or woman, without Christ it's evil; this is their heart, this is my heart, this is your heart, apart from God our hearts are evil. And because it's evil, we're apt to do anything for God knows our heart. So, I'm going to turn to Psalms 139:5 We've had a great study in Psalms 139 thus far. If you haven't heard it, you're missing it. It says, Thou hast beset me behind and before and laid thine hand upon me. Now why did I turn there? Except for God we would all be as Adam was, or in this case with men that wanted to build a tower, but He has mercy on us. He knows our past, our present, and our future. And He said He's laid His hand upon us; He protects us all the time. Now looking at that verse I read earlier, it says they went to Shinar.

04:28

Verse two (Genesis 11:2). 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. That word, a town, a plain, Shinar means "watch of him who sleeps." So, how does that apply to us? Why does that bring that up? You're familiar with it. In First Thessalonians, the fifth chapter, verse eight I believe says, but let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of

faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. Let me back that up; verse six (1 Thessalonians 5:6). Therefore, let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 05:47

So, before they started to build us a monument in Shinar, we had fallen asleep, and that's one thing that God warns us about, to not fall asleep. So, as we read that story again, we find out that they had everything. Remember they had just come out of a Noamic, Noahmic, whatever covenant, so they had a new start. It was brand new kind of like Adam and Eve situation. They had a new world setting; brand new, but they decided to do something else with it instead of worshipping God. What did God want them to do? He wanted them to multiply and bear fruit. We find that in Genesis 9:7. What did they want to do? Verse four again (Genesis 11:4) let us make us a name. In other words, they wanted to be famous. They had everything they wanted, everything that they needed. God had created a new world. And they had everything, but they wanted to make them a name; they wanted to become famous. 07:12

That part got me because I'm thinking, famous to who? They all spoke the same language, so famous to who? And I realized, it doesn't really matter. If you want to make yourself somebody big. You really want it to be toward everyone; you just want to do it, and that's this world these days. They just want to show out, they want to be somebody, and that's all these people wanted to do. They had everything but fame, and that was Genesis 3:4 all over again. Of course, you're not talking about Adam and Eve. What did they do? In Genesis 3:4 it says, and the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not die. In other words, he was egging them on to disobey God. Remember, God has said, you can't eat of that tree because the day you do that you shall surely die. And he said, don't believe that, go ahead and do it anyway, and he persuaded her, and she persuaded him to do it anyway. 08:48

You know what sin is? People can think of all kinds of things that are sinful, but the most direct way of describing sin is this; it's disobeying God, that's what sin is. So here they were getting ready to do; not Adam and Eve, but the people were building that monument that I read about in the eleventh chapter doing the same thing again, they were going to build a monument in the fifth, but instead of multiplying and bearing fruit which is what God told them to do, they decided to do something different; build a tower. So they break fellowship again by disobeying God. They had the idea just like Adam and Eve. Adam's sin was rejecting God's will, in favor of their own. The only way for them to know evil, Adam and Eve, was to experience it. That's why God told them not to partake of that fruit; He didn't want them to do that. He didn't want them to have to experience sin. He knew they would, and that's how we got here today, or tonight, but He didn't want them to do it. They decided to do it on their own. 10:22

Man had their speech confounded to punish their unbelief, and disobedience, but people value their own construction; this is in the eleventh chapter, the people value their own construction more than the ideal world given to them of God. That was pride and

self-sufficiency, they had a new world; they wanted to make it better, they wanted to make perfection better. Think about that. How can you even do that, how can you make perfection better, but that's what they wanted to do; that's man's will for you, I want it my way, I can do it better. none of us have ever said that, right. I don't necessarily want to want to do it God's way, I want to do it my way, I can do it better. Well, you know how that turns out.

11:30

Romans, the first chapter has a comment about that starting in verse twenty-one. It says, because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. That is always the case, that is never a time when that is not the case; I know we have all experienced that when we are going to work it out. We have a better way; I got a little bit of wisdom. Failure, failure.

12:50

So, speaking of perfection just look at the early church. I want to go to the book of Acts, the fourth chapter starting with the thirty-second verse. This is the early church. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. That's one of the things I have to appreciate about this meeting. You ever notice how long it gets everybody out of here at the end of the service? You have to probably, seemingly drive everybody out with a stick. Everyone wants to hang around and visit with one another. Why do you suppose that is? That's one of the greatest features that we in fact we look at one another with that same love.

14:18

You know what that is? We realize that 1 Corinthians 6:17 is true. We know we're joined to one another. We look at one another as family because we are family. We're members of the body of Christ. Each of our is a member of a particular. Each one of us has a place in Christ. Some worry and wonder about what their gift is. I don't know, but you have one because you're part of the body of Christ; that's guaranteed, that's nothing for you to worry about. How do I experience it, how do I learn my gift, just be yourself; just be yourself. You'd haven't got to try to do anything or be anything, you already are. You're handmade perfectly by the bible, by the word of God.

15:17

Why does it take so long to empty out the building? I just mentioned that. It because we remember we're members of one another; we care for one another; we know one another's birthright. Long ago there was a man named Esau. He was a good man; he was a hardworking man. Somebody might say he was a man's man. And one day he was out working pretty hard, his appetite got the best of him; he must have been hungry, this brother must have been starving. So, he had another brother named Jacob, and Jacob could cook. He could make some pottage; I'll just call it venison. He came in from the field one-day starving, and Jacob had cooked a little venison. Esau said, give me that venison,

I'm starving. Jacob being the shrewd businessman that he was said I'll give you venison, but you have to give me your birthright. Hum? He doesn't even seem to think about it, he gives it to him. Wow, he must have really been hungry. His mouth probably watered at the thought of Jacob's venison...

16:54

So, Esau's appetite was more important to him than the birthright. We call that push coming to shove. You see, God doesn't need attention, God's got attention. You get a thought of something you knew you shouldn't do, and the devil just pushes you; pushes you. Kind of reminds you of a Matthew, the fourth chapter. If you're the son of God, I know you're hungry, you've been on this mountain, why don't you turn these stones into bread? Hmm. Now, you know Jesus could have done that, but He didn't. He had a lesson to teach us, He says you're sons of God; are we? Well, if you're the sons of God, you'll do such and such, or such and such. Well, if it's contrary to the word of God, why would you do it? You know it's going to end badly for you. So, the question becomes what are you hungry for? What has push comes to shove with you? Just get a better view of us. Colossians 3:3 says, without Jesus you're dead. Galatians 2:20 says, with Jesus, not only are you alive, but the life which you now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me. And that faith is the only thing that can please God.

18:57

So, we all know where we get faith, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. You read that in Romans 10:17. So, anyway, what were we talking about? Oh Yeah, Esau despised his birthright. You know, you have a birthright? It means you have the privileges of the eldest son. Who does that sound like? Jesus; compares with Jesus. You read about that in Romans 8:17. But what would you do, what would you give up for that privilege being an heir with Jesus? Can push comes to shove that much for you? What could I desire to make me give up my birthright? Is there anything? So, if all that's true, what are we doing down here? Let's find out.

20:18

In the book of John starting with the fifteenth chapter; fifteen-one says I am the vine, I am the true vine, and My Father is the Husbandman. Every branch in Me that bears not fruit, He taketh away, and every branch that bears fruit He purges it that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of its own, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: without me ye can do nothing. In other words what are we doing down here? We're being pruned. We're being prepared. Remember Solomon's children? They built it out of stone; stone by stone.

21:56

Interesting about that, let's read 1 Kings, the sixth chapter. And I know you've heard all this before, but I like to go back through the word of God as encouragement. First Kings, the sixth chapter, and the seventh verse speaking of the temple; building Solomon's temple. And the house, the temple, when it was building was built of stone

made ready before, before it was brought thither, so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building. In other words, the stones that they were fitting into the temple were built, carved, shaped outside of the temple, and they were put into the temple perfectly fit. That's like our lives, isn't it? We go through our trials, and changes. We're shaped, cut, formed. Well, one of these days we're going to be fit into the body of Christ, the temple of God. Now, speaking of the stones, I trust that you know Peter, First Peter 2:5. If you didn't know that let's read it. Remember I just read in First Kings 6:7. 23:43

In First Peter 2:5 it says, Ye also, as lively stones, or living stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. In other words, you are that new living stone that we were just reading about in First Kings. You're being shaped right now, cut right now, formed right now. You want to know why you're going through the trials you're going through? He's getting you ready; He's getting you ready to fit into that holy temple. But, so push comes to shove, what could I desire more than being made ready for the bride of Christ. So, if all that's true what are we doing down here? As I just said, we're being pruned. We're being prepared, so let's look at the finished product. I just read where we're living stones, let's look at the finished product. That's in Revelation, the twenty-first chapter, second verse. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. That's what's going on with you right now. You're being prepared, you're being pruned, you're being shaped, you're being cut. As much as you say ouch, it's not going to change it. He knows the finished product, and that's what He's looking at. 26:00

So, we may not like it sometimes, but He knows how it turns out, and we should know too. We talk a lot around here about the path, or the racecourse. Interesting enough only one verse is mentioned about Rebekah's ride to Isaac; that's Genesis 24:61. That's where she says I will go (Genesis 24:58). That's all it says. Now you know she had arrived on a stinky smelly camel, and it to be bumpy, it had to be some rough going sometimes, but that's all it says. Don't you want to know more about what happened? Do you think it could have been, it could have had something to do with Romans 8:37? It's a verse that we all know, but I'll read it anyway. It says, nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. Not, it couldn't have been impossible, but it was a long time, a lot of words to mention every trial that she went through just in this room right now. If you went around the room, and we said everyone speak of the trial that you're in right now; just right now we'd be here till past midnight. 27:51

Now I don't know what Rebekah went through, but she had said I will go, and that's the important part. But what is it that you said, did you say I will go? So, why are you in trial? Because you're on a ride, you're on a camel ride. You got a destination, and what you're going through is not the big deal because everyone is going to go through trials; it's been given unto you to not only believe, but to suffer for His name's sake, That tells you everybody's going to go through suffering. But you know, He says something else, I

just read it. We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us; how is that possible? I don't have the strength, I don't have the wisdom, I don't have the wherewithal to get through anything. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. I'm beginning to learn it's not your strength; it's not your faithfulness; it's not your discipline; it's Him. Each step, each bump along the way it is God Who will get you through this. He said that He would finish the good work which He began. You didn't start this out, He started it out and He said each step of the way I'll take you on. 29:30

There's nothing you can't overcome in your life. No matter what it looks like, no matter how hard it may be for you if not for Him, and yet He gives us credit. You say, but we're more than conquerors thru Him that loved us. Working together with God, He did it, we didn't do it. I call that true perfection. But you know, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 says something I think is pretty important because I think at some point, we all go through this. He says, now as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. And because of that we want everybody to go. We go after our family, our friends, enemies; we go after everybody because we want everybody to come with us. 31:16

But you know there is an experience that I read about in Matthew, the twelfth chapter speaking of everybody going. Instantly you hear what I think, this is one time where Jesus was talking to the people; the twelfth chapter, the forty-sixth verse, it says; Let's start in forty-five. I actually had gone to the wrong verse, let me back up. Verse forty-six of Matthew twelve when He's talking to the people. (Matthew 12:46-49). When he had talked to the people, behold, his mother and His brethren stood without, desiring to speak with Him. Then one said unto Him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But He answered and said unto him that told Him, Who is My mother? and who is My brethren? And He stretched forth His hand toward His disciples, and said, Behold My mother and My brethren! So, no matter how much we may want everyone to come with us, how much we love them, and we do, this is an individual walk. 33:35

You can't force anybody; you can't convince anybody. The walk with the Lord, this racecourse, this path it's one on one. All you can do is go on with God, and you pray they see your testimony, and they say why hasn't that person changed? He or she is not like they use to be, they don't want to do the same things that we used to do. Let the Lord take care of that, you can't take anybody with you. You have to go with the Lord by themselves. And to be honest with you, that takes a huge burden off of you; you can give them to the Lord because He did it for you, why can't He do it for them? God is faithful. His most open vital secret in the world to date, it is how to walk this path; I find that in Acts Twentieth Chapter. Men are always looking for some gold, or this richness, that thing or the other thing, and here is the most vital secret in the world; verse forty-two. Twenty thirty-two in Acts. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His

grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. 35:40

That's the most important information that you're going to hear down here; the grace of God. His grace is able for you in every situation, every moment of your life, every single day. You want to get rich? Trust God's grace for yourself. That's how you do that. Sister Bodie had something to say about grace and law. She said many thousands there are today who are zealous for the law, but cannot grasp the intensity, the immensity of salvation to which they are heirs. I mean the majority of the world who are saved are stuck on the law, and yet they can't keep it, and if you're honest, and if they're honest they know they can't; they fail every moment. And there it is for them if they'll just take it; grace. It's not law, it's grace. The immensity of the law you cannot begin to keep it, it's too hard, you're too weak. I'm not saying it's you right now, but that explains the majority of this world; it's too much, they can't do it. And there it is right in front of them if they'll just take it, that's grace. It's right there in front of them. 37:33

So, speaking of the birthright. The birthright, and plus your inheritance equals the crown. Everything has been given to you to obtain your inheritance. Why do you think Israel was walking through, and fighting so many different cities? They represent the battles that you and I are going through, but God truly wanted you to battle; that's what's going on as we fight these battles. God is showing you He's more than able. It doesn't matter that you're doing it in your flesh, or in your mind, or in your body. It's the same battle as far as I was concerned. So, how you spend your time, hmmm, doing what? How do you spend your time? 38:52

There was this king a long time ago, his name was Nebuchadnezzar. He spent his time; he wanted to build a monument to himself. This monument was ninety feet high, and nine feet wide, and he wanted everybody to bow down to it; that's how he spent his time. There was another man who wanted to build bigger barns, how do you spend your time? What's the most important thing to you? What is the monument that you're building? What is the bigger barn that you want to build? It comes back to the same thing's saints. You know, the word of God left us a comment about that. You find that in 1 John, second chapter. We always use, or we don't always use, but there is a word that you hear a lot in this building, that word is all. In 1 John, second chapter, verse sixteen, it says, for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. Do you know what God is getting ready to do to this world? Is that a secret? I know He talked about this for how long? But that's all that's in this world? So, what do you want in this world? Whatever you would want it's getting ready to go, but we're getting ready to go too. 41:01

Hebrews, the thirteenth chapter. The thirteenth chapter of Hebrews, the fifth verse says, let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave you, leave thee or forsake you. Man is always searching for something when the answer is right in front of him. The problem is they rely

on their wisdom. What does He say about man's wisdom? I read it already, but I'm going to read it again. This is man's wisdom is big plans. Romans, the first chapter twenty-second verse. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. First Corinthians, the third chapter, verse nineteen. For the wisdom of this world, this world, is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. 43:08

Have you ever seen God hide a man's glasses from his own face? I mean, it's right there on his face, and he's looking around, where are my glasses? That just cracks me up. You tell me God? Like Brother Hill once said, he said, you don't think God has a sense of humor, look at the people He's made. He does not need our help. Our wisdom to Him is foolishness; He does not need our help. Some never get around the learning of the secret found in 1 Timothy 6:6 which is godliness with contentment is great gain. Contentment. If you look up that word in Strong's concordance in the Greek side it's number 841; it means self-satisfaction, competence. You want some self-satisfaction; you want to seem confident? Godliness with contentment is great gain. That's why God says, in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. It's right there. Saints, for all of us, it's right there. 45:08

This is no secret; I'm not expounded to use some new news. I'm sure you've heard all of this before. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. So, here's another secret. It's found in Rebekah's marriage ride to Isaac. You find it in Genesis 24:53. After she says I will go, the servants start rejecting her with earrings, bracelets, etc. Different gifts. The secret I say is not for her, but for us. Another way of saying that is Ephesians 1:3. I bet everybody in this building can quote that. I'm not going to bother you, because I know you don't need it. All I'm trying to do is remind you that you already have the name; it's your birthright. You received that at Calvary. 46:18

Now, by God's grace let's go on to our inheritance. Here's a question. Why was Rebekah riding that smelly camel; why are you? Why do you keep coming back, huh? You must want something I resolve for you. Whatever you want you're going to get it. What a man thinks in his heart, so is he. So, I'll close with three verses. The first two are found in Ecclesiastes, the ninth chapter starting in verse ten. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest. I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither by bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. 48:05

One more verse we find in First Corinthians, the ninth chapter, verse twenty-four. it says, know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. That's the why and how of this life saints, and I hope I've done you some good. Brother Alex, would you dismiss us? 49:49