

Perspective

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Modern-Day Tower of Babel

After the Flood and from the time of Noah, the earth had one language and shared a common origin. Migrating eastward, they settled in the land of Shinar in southern Mesopotamia and began building a great city with a tower whose top was intended to reach the heavens. Their goal was to make a name for themselves and avoid being scattered across the earth. This was in direct defiance of God's earlier command to spread out and fill the earth. The people used brick for stone to build the tower, and bitumen for mortar, a long-lasting watertight building method commonly used in ancient Babylon. Their unity in language and purpose gave them the confidence to attempt something impossible — reaching heaven — and to resist God's plan for human dispersion. God observed the city and tower. He saw with one language nothing they set out to do would be impossible to accomplish. In both judgment and mercy, He decided to confuse their language so they could not understand one another. This halted the construction and scattered the people over the face of the earth. The place was called Babel, meaning "confusion." This action was the origin of the diversity of languages and the resulting different nations. It serves as a cautionary tale about human pride and ambition, showing ultimately that God is supreme and arrogance is fruitless. The dispersal also sets the stage for the important lineage from Shem to Abram, spotlighting God's intent to work through Abraham's seed despite all the chaos at Babel.

In search of universal connection

The similarity between the modern World Wide Web (www) and the Biblical Tower of Babel story is a rich metaphor. Both involve man's endeavor to create a universal system of communication and connection. Genesis 11:1 says the whole earth spoke one language; they settled in the land of Shinar in Mesopotamia between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in present day Iraq. Genesis 11:4 says, *"And they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.'"*

God confuses their language, causing a great diaspora to thwart their plan of universal connection: *"So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore, its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth."* (Genesis 11:8-9)

What God did set the world's advancement back to His time-table. Genesis 11:5-7 tells us, *"But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the LORD said, 'Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.'"*

What if nuclear weapons had been successfully tested a thousand years ago rather than July 16, 1945? The use of many talented minds collaborating to develop one big project is astounding. The famous Manhattan Project is an example of how *"nothing can be withheld from them."* The U.S. government's top-secret research and development program to produce the first nuclear weapons employed nearly 130,000 people at its peak. This included scientists, engineers, technicians, and support staff working across multiple sites in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

The Web and AI, modern Babel?

The World Wide Web certainly does have power to connect the earth. Like Babel, the World Wide Web allows for unified communication, centralized human ambition, and the greater possibility of technological achievement. It connects billions of people globally and reduces barriers of language and geography. WWW is a place which creates a shared information space. It enables collective construction of knowledge and culture. At the same time, it is a place of great confusion where people are deceived by the

glut of false ideas. With rise of an increasingly effective AI, it will be even more so a place of deceit. The Web almost tries to reverse and recreate a new Babel in which the confused language barrier is taken away.

No doubt the Beast system will utilize the worldwide Web to further the end-time efforts of Satan's cohorts, the Antichrist and the false prophet. Nearly everyone, even in third world countries, has a smart phone and they are connected to the WWW. It has revolutionized communication. Iran imposed an internet blackout January 8, 2026 to manipulate and restrict protests of their own people against the radical Muslim regime.

The Beast will speak to the whole world, and the Web will likely be a tool to control the masses. Revelation 13:5-6, *"And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven."*

The False Prophet also will speak to the whole world: *"And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived."* (Revelation 13:14).

The Beast and False Prophet will use available technology to bring the entire world into submission. Satan craves to be worshipped. His efforts will push the world to that end. He has blinded the minds of this entire world so they cannot see the truth of the gospel (II Corinthians 4:3-4). He has used the internet to spread His false ideas and all the garbage of life. Pornography accounts for roughly 30% of all internet traffic, making it a moral sewer to which people flock, distorting their sexuality.

In a Penn State psu.pb.unizin.org report, "Case Study: Terrorist Usage of Social Media," it said, "In a study by Gabriel Weimann from the University of Haifa, Weimann found that nearly 90% of organized terrorism on the internet takes place via social media. According to Weimann, terror groups use social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and internet forums to spread their messages, recruit members and gather intelligence."

The bad purged to do good

Imagine the good the Web could do for the entire world if it was purged of all the evil. No more lies, no more pornography, no more hatred and vitriol of one people against the other. No more of the false teachings of the religions of this world, but only the truth would be circulated through it. There would only be one church which is the Church of God of which Jesus is the Head.

In Isaiah 11:9 there is a prophecy of what the millenium will be like: *"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."*

God's truth will emanate from Jerusalem where the throne of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords will be. He will send forth His saints to the nations of the Earth with the law of God: *"Many nations shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."* (Micah 4:2)

We can only speculate whether there will be a worldwide Web, but it seems reasonable among physical mortal humans the world will not return to the stone age. We may very well see more advancements in technology far beyond what we know now. Of course, spirit beings will not need such physical accoutrements. Far superior abilities will no doubt be available to God's spiritual family.

The saints will certainly go out to deliver the truth personally, but it is very possible it will be available everywhere electronically on a type of Web throughout the world. In the millenium, *"No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."* (Jeremiah 31:34)

The Web has been an effective tool of the church to help promulgate the gospel of the kingdom of God to the world since the 1990s. It has been proven to have the capacity to do good things in the midst of an evil world.

Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24:14: *"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."*