

## THEME 3: Babel ... or Pentecost?

### *Scripture*

*Genesis 11:1-9*

### *Babel*

*Narrator* A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The whole world spoke the same language,  
using the same words.

While men were migrating in the east,  
they came upon a valley in the land of Shinar  
and settled there.

They said to one another,

*Mankind* “Come, let us mold bricks and harden them with fire.”

*Narrator* They used bricks for stone, and bitumen for mortar.  
Then they said,

*Mankind* “Come, let us build ourselves a city  
and a tower with its top in the sky,  
and so make a name for ourselves;  
otherwise we shall be scattered all over the earth.”

*Narrator* The LORD came down to see the city  
and the tower that the men had built.  
Then the LORD said:

*God*            “If now, while they are one people,  
all speaking the same language,  
they have started to do this,  
nothing will later stop them  
from doing whatever they presume to do.  
Let us then go down and there confuse their language,  
so that one will not understand what another says.”

*Narrator*    Thus the LORD scattered them from there  
all over the earth,  
and they stopped building the city.  
That is why it was called Babel,  
because there the LORD confused the speech  
of all the world.  
It was from that place that he scattered them  
all over the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

*All*            **Thanks be to God.**