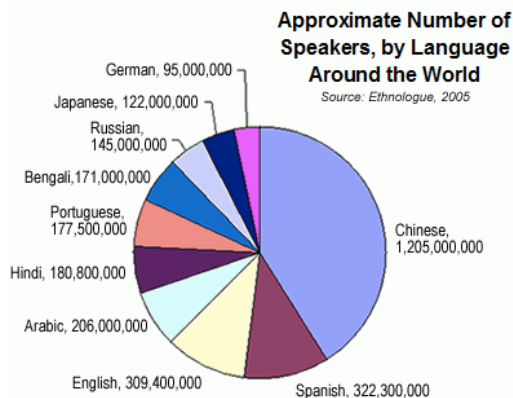


## Confusing the Languages

By David DeWitt

“Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.” So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. Therefore, its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth (Genesis 11:7-9).



The judgment was to *confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another’s speech*. The greatest divider of the people of this world is not race, culture, skin color or religion. The greatest divider of people is language. This is the third catastrophic curse on mankind.

**First** was the Fall (the sentence of death).

**Second** was the Flood (the removal of longevity).

**Third** was the confusion of languages (the division of the people of the earth).

God divided the world with language. The Mediterranean world was united with the Greek language after the campaign of Alexander the Great, and the world is being united today by English

because of the British Empire and influence of the USA. We will see if that continues, **but a common language, or a way to make language common, is essential for a global community**. Social and cultural “progress” spreads when there is a common language. It seems that the antichrist global domination requires a common language, or a way to make language common (such as an app that translates for you), and English is doing that in the western world. It also seems the reason God introduced different languages was to prevent people from forming one global community.

John Noble Wilford reported in the “New York Times” (September 18, 2007):

Of the estimated 7,000 languages spoken in the world today, linguists say, nearly half are in danger of extinction and are likely to disappear in this century. In fact, they are now falling out of use at a rate of about one every two weeks. Some endangered languages vanish in an instant, at the death of the sole surviving speaker. Others are lost gradually in bilingual cultures, as indigenous tongues are overwhelmed by the dominant language at school, in the marketplace and on television.

So it looks like we are headed in a different direction than we have all through history. God created different languages. Man multiplied them into even more languages, and today we are moving in the opposite direction toward a few major languages with English dominating all of them. And the reason is globalization made possible by technology.

Parent languages (72 descendants of Noah?) => 7000 languages => soon 4500 languages => most of the world speaks 1 of 10 languages. There are roughly between 6,500 and 7000 spoken languages in the world today. But there are only about 4,500 major languages (2,000 languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers). **And with the impact of globalization, the number of spoken languages today is decreasing.**

Not all 6,500 languages were created in Genesis 11. From what we know about how languages develop, we can assume that **when God confused the languages at the Tower of Babel, He established parent languages**. All the other languages developed from them. People within the main family groups could understand each other because chapter 10 tells us, *the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families* (10:5, 32). But suddenly they could not understand people from other family clans. So the building stopped and they began to migrate according to the family clans listed in chapter 10.

The separation and isolation enhanced what we know as racial distinctions. The world only began getting back together in a significant way a couple hundred years ago. A true mingling of global races is even more recent.