

The Tower of Babel

Yet, the whole earth had the same language and the same words. As they set out from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled down there. They spoke to one another: “Come now, we want to form bricks and fire them!” The brick served them as stone, and the tar served them as plaster. Then they said: “Come now, let us build a city and a tower, whose peak reaches to the sky! We want to make a name for ourselves so that we don’t scatter across the whole earth!”

There, Jahwe descended to behold the city and the tower that the humans had built. And Jahwe spoke: “See, they are a people and all speak one language. That is just the beginning of their doing. Henceforth nothing more will be impossible for them, whatever they conceive of doing. Come now, we want to descend and there confuse their language so that nobody can understand the language of the others anymore!” There, Jahwe scattered them from there across the whole earth, and they had to stop building the city. Therefore it is called Babel. Because there, Jahwe confused the language of the whole earth, and from there Jahwe scattered them across the whole earth.