

The Tower of Babel

At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia and settled there.

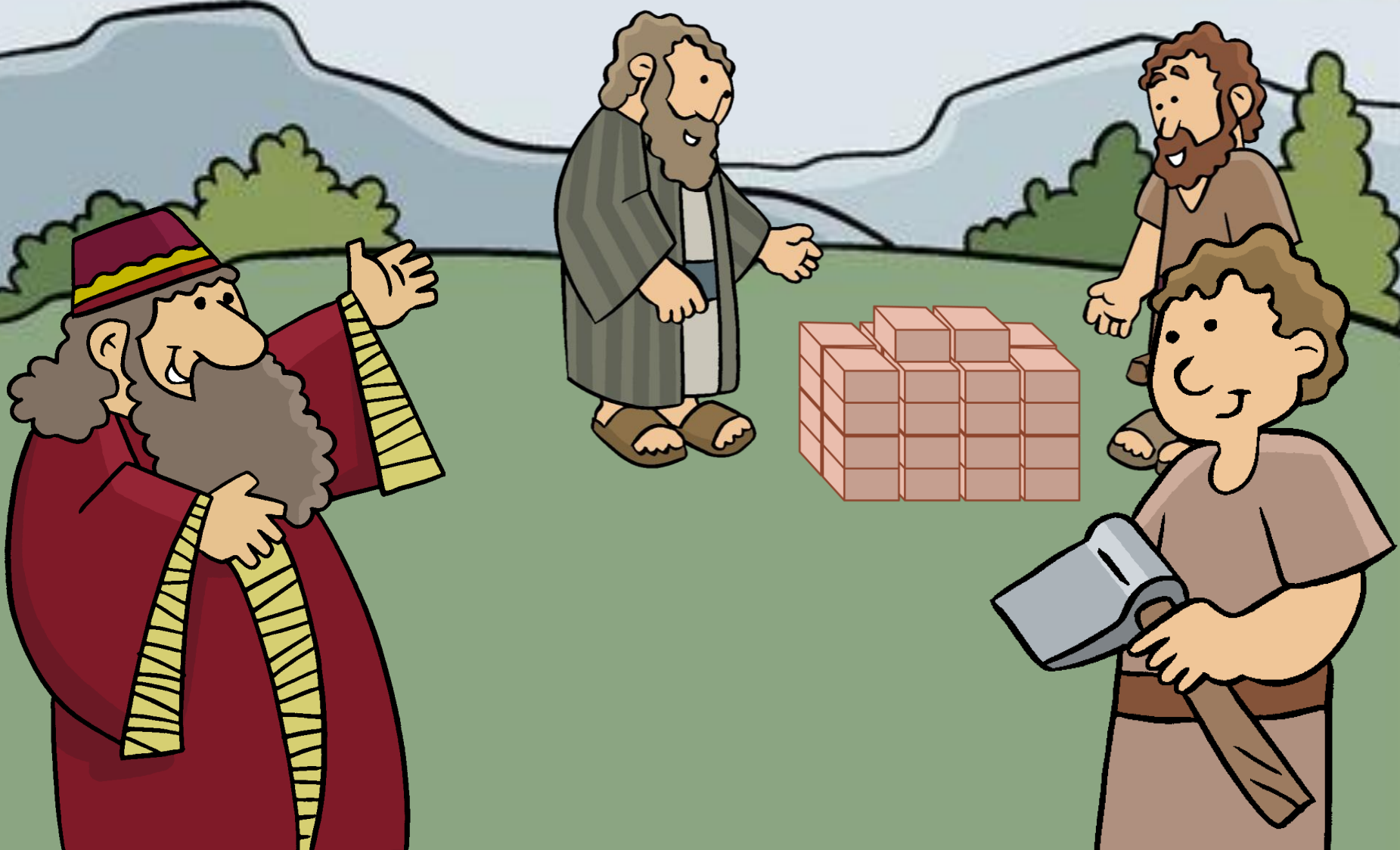
برج بابل

وَكَانَ أَهْلُ الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا
يَتَكَلَّمُونَ أَوْلًا بِلِسَانٍ وَاحِدٍ وَلُغَةٍ
وَاحِدَةٍ. وَإِذْ ارْتَحَلُوا شَرْقًا وَجَدُوا
سَهْلًا فِي أَرْضِ شِنْعَارَ فَاسْتَوطنُوا
هُنَاكَ.



They began saying to each other, "Let's make bricks and harden them with fire." (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.)

فَقَالَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ: «لِنَصْنَعْ طُوبًا مَشْوِيًّا أَحْسَنَ شَيْءٍ». فَاسْتَخْدَمُوا الطُّوبَ بَدِيلًا لِلْحِجَارَةِ بِالطُّوبِ، وَالْحُمْرَ بَدِيلًا لِلطِّينِ.





Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world."

ثُمَّ قَالُوا: «لِنَشْئِدَ لِأَنْفُسِنَا مَدِينَةً وَبُرْجًا يَبْلُغُ رَأْسَهُ السَّمَاءَ، فَتَخْلَدَ لَنَا اسْمًا لِيَلَّا نَتَشَتَّتَ عَلَى وَجْهِ الْأَرْضِ كُلِّهَا».

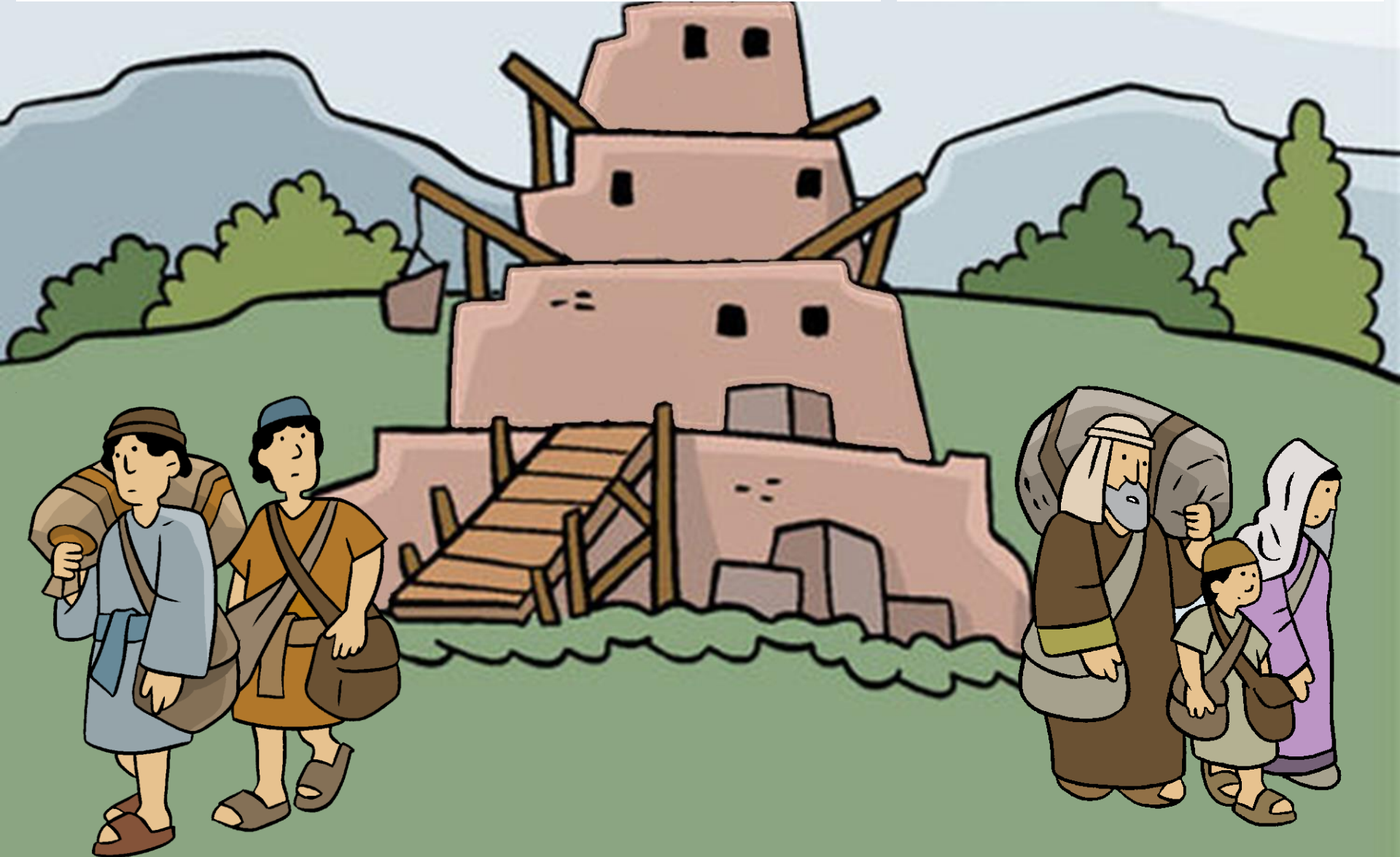


But the Lord came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."

وَنَزَلَ الرَّبُّ لِيَشْهَدَ الْمَدِينَةَ وَالْبُرْجَ اللَّذَيْنِ شَرَعَ بَنُو
الْبَشَرِ فِي بِنَائِهِمَا. فَقَالَ الرَّبُّ: «إِنْ كَانُوا، كَشَعْبٍ
وَاحِدٍ يَنْطَفُونَ بِلُغَةٍ وَاحِدَةٍ، قَدْ عَمَلُوا هَذَا مِنْذُ أَوَّلِ
الْأَمْرِ، فَلَنْ يَمْتَنِعَ إِذَا عَلَيْهِمْ أَيُّ شَيْءٍ عَزَمُوا عَلَى
فِعْلِهِ. هَيَّا نَنْزِلْ إِلَيْهِمْ وَنُبَلِّبْ لِسَانَهُمْ، حَتَّى لَا يَفْهَمَ
بَعْضُهُمْ كَلَامَ بَعْضٍ.»

In that way, the Lord scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. That's why the city was called Babel [confusion], because that is where the Lord confused the people with different languages.

وَهَكَذَا شَتَّتَهُمُ الرَّبُّ مِنْ هُنَاكَ عَلَى سَطْحِ الْأَرْضِ
كُلِّهَا، فَكَفُّوا عَنِ بِنَاءِ الْمَدِينَةِ، لِذَلِكَ سُمِّيَتْ
الْمَدِينَةُ «بَابِلَ» لِأَنَّ الرَّبَّ بَلَبَلَ لِسَانَ أَهْلِ كُلِّ
الْأَرْضِ.



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Text from the Bible, Genesis 11