

# The Words Of Ashdod

## AND THE WORLD'S POLLUTED LANGUAGE

Ephesians 2:1-7 says, *"And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."*

As I preach in churches across the United States, I have noticed that some of these churches are changing. The changes start in the hearts of the church members. Eventually, the changes in the heart begin to come out of the mouth. *"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."* *"Out of the abundance of the heart proceedeth..."*

In my research, I found societies do not fall because of their music. First, the heart changed, and then the verbiage, or the conversation, changed. Finally, the music changed. The music is three steps down the line. I looked at what God has to say in the Bible about what we say, how we say it and why we say it. God has a pattern He has used ever since He created Adam and communicated with Adam. God wants to do it His way, but the Devil influences man to change it; which is when we begin to fall. That is what caused Satan to be cast out of Heaven and what caused Adam and Eve's trouble in the Garden of Eden.

Ephesians 2:1 says, *"...Wherein in time past (before you were saved) ye walked according to the course of this world."* Before you were saved, it was natural to follow the course of the world. You were led by the money, the prestige and the lust of the flesh.

In verse three, it says, *"Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."*

When I was saved, God changed me, so I should have a changed life. God commanded me to put off the old conversation, the old verbiage and the old language. Then He commanded me to obtain a brand-new language, His language.

The world was flooded, and Noah, his three sons, and their wives, were the only ones who were spared. (Genesis 7:7) Where, then, did all the different languages come from after the flood?

After the flood, Ham, Shem and Japheth were sitting outside the tent while Noah was inside. Noah was drunk. Ham walked into the tent and looked upon his father's nakedness. He came out to tell his brothers. After Ham talked about his father's nakedness, God cursed him. He migrated with his wife and children to the continent of Africa, where he fathered the Ethiopian lineage. There are more dialects on the African continent than on any other continent on earth. Somehow, the descendants of Noah were scattered all over the world with different languages. Their languages were so confusing they could not communicate with each other.

Ham was the grandfather of Nimrod, the mighty hunter. Nimrod was so influential that he won the hearts of the dads and the families. He used his fame to lead the entire world into a one-world language so they could all communicate with each other. God did not want a one-world language; He wanted many languages. Once the people could communicate with one language, Nimrod convinced them to form a strong, one-world government. Then he formed a one-world religion, inventing a new way of salvation. Nimrod urged the people to build a tower for their religion, a tower that would reach Heaven. Nimrod was a forerunner for the Anti-Christ, a false Christ. (Genesis 11:1-4)

The Tower of Babel was being built to reach Heaven, and the people felt that nothing could stop them. Then, in verses 5-10 we read, *"And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language: and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered*

*them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."*

Notice God called the place "Babel", which is similar to the word "babbling", a word that was symbolic of their language, which was nothing but "babble." It was not a pure language. Until that moment, Nimrod could ask someone for a hammer, and that person would give him a hammer. Afterwards, when Nimrod asked for a hammer, the person could not understand him. The people could not understand each other. Little by little, each person found a few other people who spoke the same language. They scattered across the world in their small groups.

God wanted to have a pure language. He gave us the Bible in the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. He did not want a polluted, universal, Babel language. "Babel" means a language of confusion. God is not the Author of confusion. The language of Babel was a language of slang—a little of this and a little of that. In order to understand it, you had to think like the world, so Nimrod taught them to think like the world.

Nehemiah 13 talks about Nehemiah rebuilding the wall. God became upset with the children of Israel because there was a breach of communication. His language was being changed again. Verse 23-26 says, *"In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Amman, and of Moab: And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people. And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves. Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin."*

Outlandish women were women who spoke slang, or street talk. They had a mixed, polluted language. God was upset because the Israelites' children were marrying the children of Ashdod; because of that, they were speaking half the language of Ashdod. They could not speak their own language, and God became angry.

1 Samuel 5:1-5 says, *"And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod. When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the Lord. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the Lord; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him. Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day."*

The threshold, or headquarters, of Dagon, a false god, was in the city of Ashdod. It was the meeting place, the powerhouse, where people gave their money and energy to Dagon. The people of Ashdod hated the God of creation and salvation. When the Philistines captured Samson, they marched him before Dagon and bragged of its power over him. The Philistines were able to bring Samson down because he went down and mixed with the women who spoke Ashdod's slang.

2 Peter 1:21 says, *"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."* The Holy Spirit moved on holy men of old to give us the Bible. God had those men pen His Words in the Hebrew language. If the Hebrew language had been polluted with the language of Ashdod, we would not have a pure Bible today. An impure language would have tainted it.

The Hebrew word for Ashdod means the language of robbers and ravagers. On the other hand, God used the Hebrew and Greek languages to give us the Bible. Then, He preserved these languages until His words could be directly translated into the English language. The English language reached its purest form in the late 1500's and early 1600's. God allowed His Words to be translated out of their original languages directly into the future world language, English.

Most of the world speaks English today. Speaking English is seen as proof of prosperity; it is money in the bank.

Once again, the definition of the language of Ashdod is the language of ravagers and robbers. The Funk and Wagnall's Dictionary, the 1979 edition, defines slang as the language of vagrants and thieves.

Language is very important. The Hebrew word for "Babel" is *baw-bel*. The definition is "confusion" and God is not the Author of confusion. It literally means to mix, to confound, to gradually change, or to mingle. Confusion occurs when you mix something that is original with several other things, so it ceases to be the original. It does not make something worthless, simply polluted. The same happens when you mix a little of the world's language with God's language. This confusion could be compared to mixing cattle feed with other things. If you put sweet corn with the feed, you will end up with bloated cattle.

The word "*confusion*" comes from two words, "*con*" and "*fuse*." "*Con*" means to vote, to decide to do something. This is what we do when we vote in November. The word "*fusion*" comes from the word "*fuse*." In Babel, they decided to fuse their language with the world's language. Confusion is caused when you decide to mix one thing with another thing so that you cannot tell what the mixture is. It is not what it was originally.

Slang is polluted language that has been perverted from its original intent. All slang is not immoral, but a perverted language leads to immorality. Turning a language into slang turns it into a sensual language. Slang is denned as language, words, and phrases of vigorous, colorful, fastidious, or taboo nature, invented for a specific occasion. It goes on to say that slang is derived from unconventional use of standard vocabulary, the special vocabulary of a certain class, group, or profession, such as college slang; formerly the argot or jargon of thieves and vagrants.

According to the *Webster's Desktop Dictionary*, 2003 edition, "slang" is defined as highly informal speech that is outside standard usage and consists both of coined words and phrases of new meaning given to established terms. Slang is language that has been taken from its original use and changed to mean something else. For example, the correct use of *hot* indicates the temperature is too high. It refers to a stovetop that is being used, an exhaust pipe, and an engine.

I was eating with a preacher who made the following statement, "I have been married to the same woman for several years, and I still think she is hot." If what he said is true, I have to conclude that she needs an air conditioner or a fan. However, that was not what he meant. He was using a slang form of *hot*.

On the other hand, the word "beautiful" is a Bible term. Once it refers to beautifying the meeting place, and another time it refers to beautifying the altar of the meeting place. Then it refers to a Christian who is growing in grace and adorning himself with grace and the things God gives him, including his vocabulary. "*Corrupt*" is altered or sprinkled with error; made morally bad or crooked. Ephesians 4:29 says, "*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*"

Two years ago, my van broke down at the 23-mile marker on 1-65 in Tennessee. Dr. Juaken Dumas had my vehicle towed to Murray Chevrolet. Dr. Dumas worked with some other churches to buy me a beautiful silver Tahoe with only ninety thousand miles on it. I pulled into a church and met a missionary I had not seen for a long time. He saw the Tahoe God had given me; then he stopped and said, "Hey, man, what a cool ride!" It was about 90 degrees out. I reached out and touched my SUV. Then I said, "No, actually it's pretty warm. Inside it is cool with the air conditioning, but outside it is warm."

Slang perverts, causes error and leads to immorality. The proper definition for "cool" is "moderately cold; tending to reduce the effects of heat." God used *cool* in the Bible, referring to a cool time of the day. The slang definition of "cool" is "very good." Why would I use the word "cool" in place of "good?" After all, the Bible uses "*good*" to mean "valuable to God," and "*cool*" to mean "not hot." In order to use slang, I must bring my mind down to the gutter of the world's language. I will then have polluted thinking because I have violated Philippians 4:8, and cannot communicate with the fundamental brethren the way God wants me to communicate.

I was talking to a college girl who could not get her bills paid. She could not understand why God would not answer her prayers. I told her about someone who prayed and then got counsel from the authority. God miraculously paid the bill. She said, "Cool!" I replied, "It's really pretty comfortable in here. If you think it is cool, maybe you should get a sweater." Bro. Hyles used to say, "When the cars, buses and vans come to Hyles-Anderson College at the beginning of the year, it seems the students have antennas to know how to migrate to the wrong crowd. They automatically find each other."

Let's suppose you get to college. You meet someone who says, "Hey, how are you? We are certainly glad to have you. If you have any prayer requests, we would be glad to help. We have some great

ministries here. Here is your dormitory supervisor. If you have any questions, ask him. If he cannot handle it, come to me." While this is going on, off in the distance you hear someone say, "Oh, man, she's hot! That's a cool car!" If you use slang, you will follow that crowd. People who use slang migrate to each other the way flies migrate to honey.

How did God divide the people, and how did they get back together? They were divided by language, and they were reunited because they understood each other. They had ears to hear what they wanted to hear.

In 1 Corinthians 15:33, God tells us to avoid "*evil communications*." The term "*evil communications*" comes from a word that means "damaging or confusing."

In Ephesians 4:29-30, God tells us to avoid "*corrupt communication*." "*Corrupt*" means "altered; to make morally bad or crooked." "*Corrupt communication*" is communication that has been polluted or mingled with error; it has been made crooked, corrupt or morally bad. Then God instructs us to use good language: "...*but that which is good*." Any communication from my mouth should be good communication.