

WHAT HAPPENS IN

SHINAR

NOVEMBER 18-22 | DISCOVERTHEWORD.ORG

SUMMARY | Do you have a favorite detective show or movie? This genre of entertainment is intriguing because it's full of twists, turns, and seemingly unrelated events that keep us guessing. Suddenly, we receive a clue, and it all comes together.

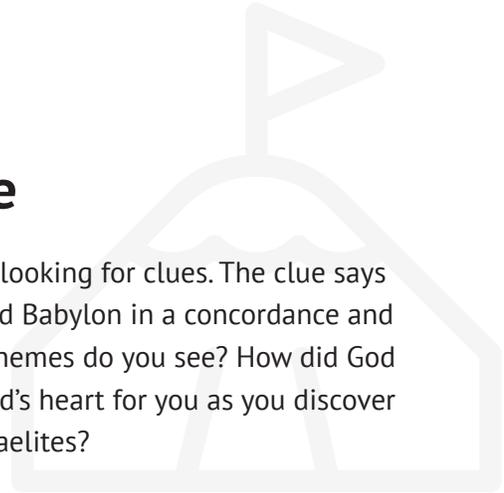
Shinar can seem like a mystery to most. The Bible uses this land metaphorically to describe wickedness and the moving away from God toward our own desires—away from God's best to cheap imitations of what we want. Follow along with this study to consider the passages that mention Shinar, and see how God enters into wickedness and rebellion to rescue His people.

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. What is the story of Babel in the land of Shinar about? How was God showing love to those at Babel by confusing their language (Genesis 11:1–9)?
2. Read Joshua 7:1, 20–21 and reflect on how Achan felt drawn to the mantle of Shinar. Why do you think that was? How are we drawn to beautiful things that distract us from what really matters?
3. What do you think it was like for the Israelites to watch the temple be destroyed and all of its treasures taken to Shinar? What strikes you about the fact that God is a God who goes into Shinar—into exile—with His people? (See Daniel 1:1–2.)
4. Read 1 Peter 5:13 (remembering that Shinar and Babylon are the same place). What does this passage say about God and His mission in the world that He would even plant a church in Shinar (Babylon)?

Challenge

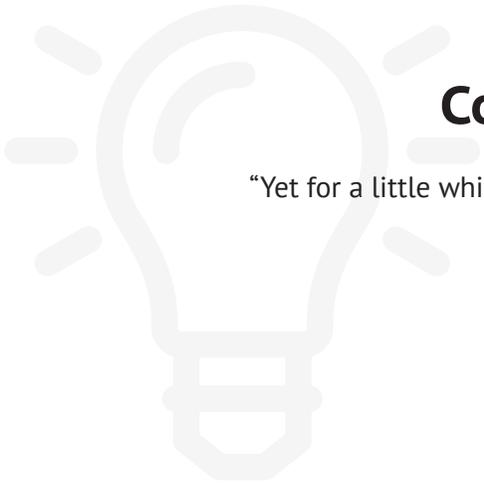
Imagine you're in the middle of a detective show looking for clues. The clue says "Shinar" or "Babylon." Look up the words Shinar and Babylon in a concordance and read the passages describing these places. What themes do you see? How did God work in these places? What do you learn about God's heart for you as you discover His plan to rescue the Israelites?



Commit To Memory

"Yet for a little while I have been a sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone."

Ezekiel 11:16



Prayer

You are a God who can redeem even the worst of people and places. Thank You for rescuing me from my own self-destructive behavior and decisions, and help me to be an example of Your mercy, grace, and love to others.

Amen.

