

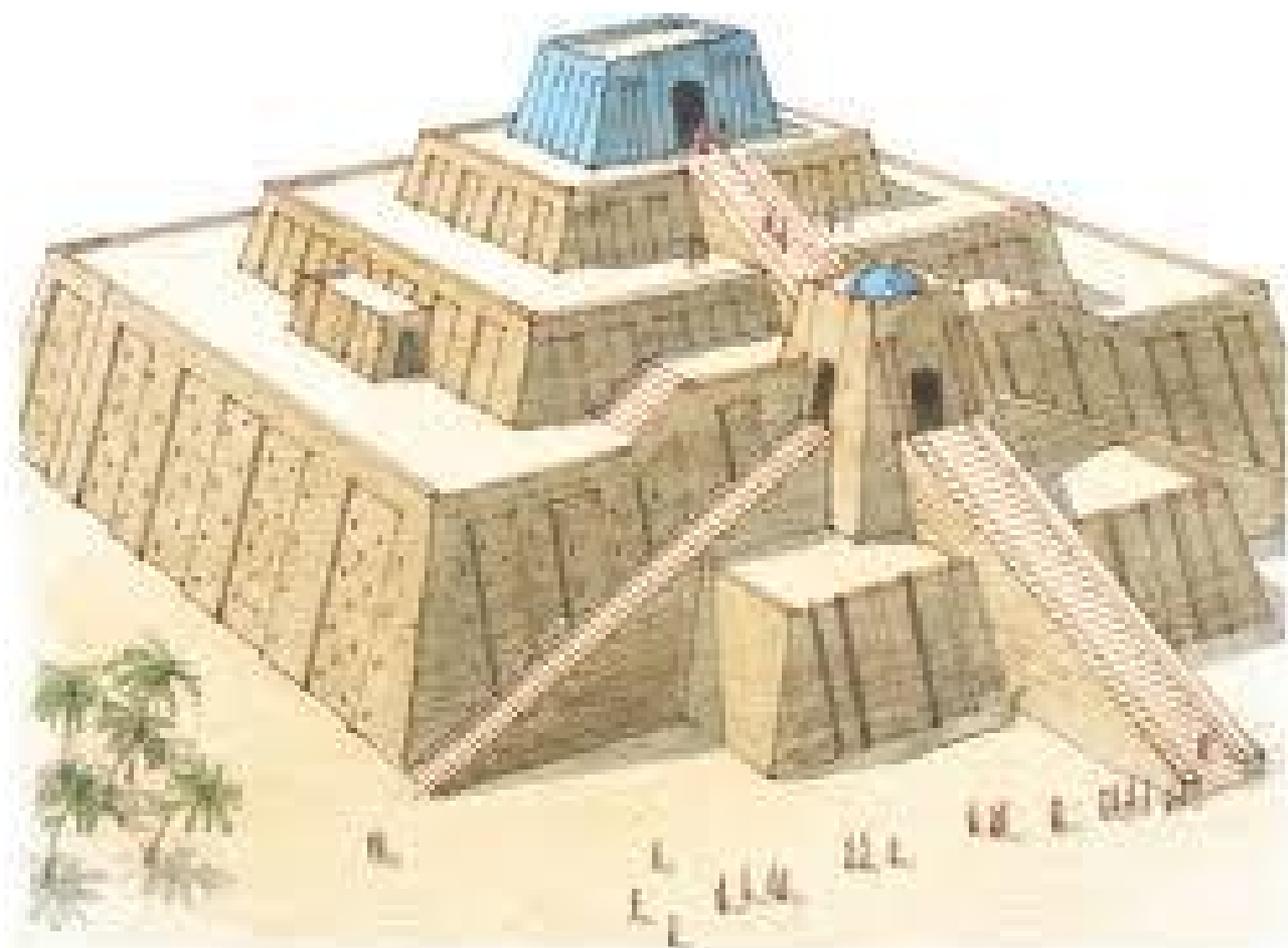
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So Long, Babylon

Part 2: The Tower of Babel

{1} Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. {2} It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar (Babylon) and settled there. {3} They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. {4} They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." {5} The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

{6} The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. {7} "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech." {8} So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. {9} 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 11:1-9 NASB]





Ziggurat

Ziggurats were a form of temple common to the Sumerians, Babylonians and Assyrians of ancient Mesopotamia. Sun-baked bricks made up the core of the ziggurat with facings of fired bricks on the outside.

The Mesopotamian ziggurats were not places for public worship or ceremonies. They were believed to be dwelling places for the gods. Through the ziggurat the gods could be close to mankind and each city had its own patron god. Only priests were permitted inside the ziggurat and it was their responsibility to care for the gods and attend to their needs. As a result the priests were very powerful members of Sumerian society.

Ziggurats

An example of an extensive and massive ziggurat is the Marduk ziggurat, or Etemenanki, of ancient Babylon. Etemenanki, the name for the structure, is Sumerian and means "The Foundation of Heaven and Earth." It has been suggested that the ziggurat was a symbolic representation of the primeval mound upon which the universe was thought to have been created. The ziggurat may have been built as a bridge between heaven and earth. The temples of the Sumerians were believed to be a cosmic axis, a vertical bond between heaven and earth, and the ear.

Ziggurats

Etemenanki, "The temple of the creation of heaven and earth", was the name of a ziggurat to Marduk in the city of Babylon of the 6th century BC Chaldean (Neo-Babylonian) dynasty.

Originally seven stories in height, little remains of it now save ruins. Etemenanki was later popularly identified with the Tower of Babel.

Lessons from the Tower of Babel

Let Us Reach the
Top of Heaven

Let Us Reach the Top of Heaven

- This was not a literal “Let’s build a temple to the moon” idea. This was an occultic practice of the few in power (priests, kings) who would access dark powers and spirits in order to power, language and direction in order to control those in their kingdom.
- This is the essence of witchcraft: control
- This is why the Bible is opposed to “high places”.

Let Us Reach the Top of Heaven

- *{12} For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. [Ephesians 6:12 ESV]*
- The Good News is that we don't have to ascend to heavenly places to try and find God. God descended from heaven and found us!

Ephesians 4:10 ESV

{10} He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.

Let Us Use Bricks for
Stone

Bricks for Stone

- Bricks are uniform, homogenous, unvarying.
- Stones are cut out of a larger rock and are different shapes and sizes. They must be placed strategically. That's why many buildings have a "cornerstone". Only the cornerstone can bear the weight of the entire building.
- Solomon's temple and the temple built afterwards was built out of stone.

Bricks for Stone

- Diversity helps create accountability.
- Uniformity stifles creativity.
- In the midst of diversity and creativity, we come into unity under Ephesians 4:4-7:
 - *{4} There is **one body** and **one Spirit**--just as you were called to the **one hope** that belongs to your call-- {5} **one Lord, one faith, one baptism, {6} one God and Father of all**, who is over all and through all and in all. {7} But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. [Ephesians 4:4-7 ESV]*

1 Peter 2:4-6

{4} As you come to him, a **living stone** rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, {5} you yourselves like **living stones** are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. {6} For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Let Us Make a Name
for Ourselves

Let Us Make a Name for Ourselves

- You can tell Babylon is in you when you want to make a name for yourself.
- {3} *Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!* [Psalm 34:3 ESV]
- {3} *Do nothing from **selfish ambition** or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.* [Philippians 2:3 ESV]
- {14} *But if you have bitter jealousy and **selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ... {16} For where jealousy and **selfish ambition** exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.* [James 3:14, 16 ESV]

Making Names/Attempts to Redefine

- Language matters. The Gospel isn't the "good sword" or the "good food" it is the "GOOD NEWS".
- God spoke the world into existence. In the same way, the devil tries to create new realities by changing definitions.
- Babylon attempts to "rename" things, thus changing the meaning of the language:
 - Marriage
 - Gender
 - Life/when it begins

Calling Good, Evil and Evil, Good

{20} Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! {21} Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight! [Isaiah 5:20-21 ESV]

Babel/Babylon
Means Confusion

Babel = Confusion

- God confused their language because He saw that what they were trying to do was dangerous. There would be no end to the exalting of themselves with their new technology and universal, globalistic language.
- One language would be used to exalt the flesh and dark powers.
- Heavenly tongues and the diversity of Biblical tongues is used for building up and strengthening the spirit of man in unison with the Spirit of God.

Spirit of Babylon = confusion

- The devil doesn't want you to know what you're fighting.
- God is not a God of confusion to those who are in Christ.
- Confusion is a sign of being out of right relationship with God (Deut. 28:20; Isa. 19:14; 22:5; 45:16).
- Sexual immorality brings confusion.

“The Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the men had built.” (Genesis 11:5)

God is Above It All!

{20} that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, {21} **far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.** {22} And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, {23} which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
[Ephesians 1:20-23 ESV]

How Do We
Respond?

How Do We Respond?

1. Become Bible literate
 - a. Submit your life to the scriptures and let God define what love and truth looks like.
 - b. *{15} Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. [2 Timothy 2:15 ESV]*
2. Spend time in worship/Pray in tongues
3. Become unselfish
4. Stand firm in the faith

