

City of Man,
City of God

City, Tower, and Name

Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.” So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

High Places in Israel

Deut. 12:2 You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.

1 Kings 3:2-3 The people were sacrificing at the high places, however, because no house had yet been built for the name of the Lord. Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father, only he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places.

1 Kings 14:23 For they also built for themselves high places and pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree

High Places in Israel

2 Kings 12:3 Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away; the people continued to sacrifice and make offerings on the high places.

2 Kings 14:4 But the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places.

2 Kings 15:4 Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away. The people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places.

2 Kings 17:9 And the people of Israel did secretly against the Lord their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city.

Heaven's Gate

Earliest city of Babylon was called “Babel” or “Babel-Ur” in Sumerian

Babel means “**confusion**” in Sumerian and Hebrew

The Akkadians later conquered the Sumerians and renamed the city “Babel-eem”, meaning “**heaven's gate**” in Akkadian
Reflects original intent and theology of the tower

Greeks transliterated Babel-eem to **Babylon**

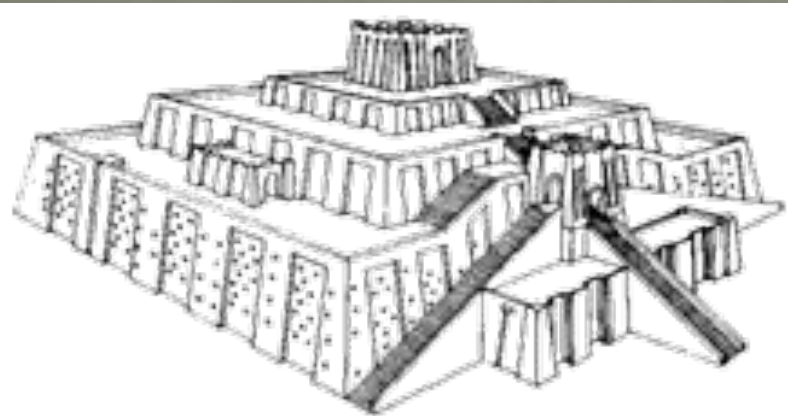
Other Mesopotamian ziggurats were named

Sippa: **Temple of the Stairway to Pure Heaven**

Larsa: **Temple that Links Heaven and Earth**

(Hodge, Tower of Babel, 40)

Babel-like Ziggurat



Reconstruction of the Ziggurat at Ur

www.bible-history.com



Ziggurat at Ur

Legacy of Babel



Step Pyramid of Zoser, Egypt



Chichen-Itza Ziggurat, Mexico

Legacy of Babel



Tikal Temple, Guatemala



Iron Pagoda, Kaifeng, China

Dispersion Myths

“The Mikir tribe in northeastern India tells of the descendants of Ram who were strong men and were growing dissatisfied with earth and aspired to conquer heaven. They began to build a tower.

‘Higher and higher rose the building, till at last the gods and demons feared lest these giants should become the masters of heaven, as they already were of earth. So they confounded their speech, and scattered them to the four corners of the world. Hence arose all the various tongues of mankind.’”

Pam Sheppard, “Tongue Twisting Tales”,
www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v3/n2/tongue-twisting-tales

Dispersion Myths

A legend of the Gaikho tribe of Burma (Myanmar) says,

“In the days of Pan-dan-man, the people determined to build a pagoda that should reach up to heaven. . . . When the pagoda was half way up to heaven, God came down and confounded the language of the people, so that they could not understand each other. Then the people scattered, and Than-mau-rai, the father of the Gaikho tribe, came west, with eight chiefs, and settled in the valley of the Sitang.”

Pam Sheppard, “Tongue Twisting Tales”,
www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v3/n2/tongue-twisting-tales

Dispersion Myths

Polynesians on the island of Hao said that Rata and his three sons survived a great flood. Then

“they made an attempt to erect a building by which they could reach the sky, and see the creator god Vatea [Atea]; but the god in anger chased the builders away, broke down the building, and changed their language, so that they spoke diverse tongues.”

Pam Sheppard, “Tongue Twisting Tales”,
www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v3/n2/tongue-twisting-tales

Counterfeit Covenant

A City, a Tower, and a Name

Gen. 11:4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves

City of Man, City of God

City of Man:

“Come, let us build ourselves a city...” Gen 11:4

Babel = Confusion

Babel-eem / Babylon = Heaven's Gate

City of God: Hebrews 11:8-10, 16

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God... Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city.

The City and the Woman

City of Man

And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns... And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. Rev. 17:3-6

City of God

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Revelation 21:2

Tower as the Temple

Tower / Temple of Man

“...and a tower with its top in the heavens...” Gen 11:4

Temple of the Stairway to Pure Heaven

Temple that Links Heaven and Earth

Tower / Temple of God

Jacob's Ladder

And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!

Gen 28:12

Jacob's Ladder?

Common images of Jacob's ladder dream



God's Tower / Temple

Jacob's Ladder = God's Tower / Temple (i.e. ziggurat)

The Lord is my rock and my fortress... my high tower. Ps. 18:2

Jesus Christ is the temple made without hands. Mark
I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. Mark 14:58

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. Rev. 21:22

Man's Name / God's Name

Man Makes A Name for Himself

“...and let us make a name for ourselves.” Gen 11:4

And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. Rev. 17:5

God Gives A Name

No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations...As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. Gen 17:5, 15

Man's Name / God's Name

God Gives A Name

Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.

Gen 17:19

Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel... Gen 32:28

Man's Name / God's Name

God Gives A Name

The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the Lord will name. Isaiah 62:2

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it. Rev 2:17

One Covenant of Grace

Galatians 3

6 Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” [Gen. 15:6] 7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham...

16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ...

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus....

29 And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.