



# GENESIS

The Book of Beginnings

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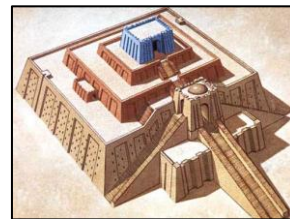
<https://www.taylornotes.info/monday>



## LESSON 6: THE TOWER OF BABEL

### A. CENTRAL QUESTION

What was so wrong with people wanting to build a great tower and staying together so they wouldn't be scattered all over the world?



### B. THE TEXT: GENESIS 11:1-9 (NIV)

"Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. <sup>2</sup> As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup> They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. <sup>4</sup> Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." <sup>5</sup> But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. <sup>6</sup> The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup> Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." <sup>8</sup> So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> That is why it was called Babel-- because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

### C. BACKGROUND

1. "Babel" means confusion or "Gate of God." Which in Babylonian was called Bab-ilu ("Gate of God"). The Hebrew is form Babel, or Bavel. The similarity in pronunciation of Babel and balal ("to confuse") led to the play on words in Genesis 11:9: "Therefore, its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth .

2. The Tower of Babel was most likely a ziggurat. The word "ziggurat" comes from the Akkadian word "ziquurratu," which means "to build on a raised area." In Sumerian, the term "zi" means "to build," and "gur" means "mountain" or "to raise."
3. Its dimensions: The base of a ziggurat could range from around 65 feet to over 295 feet on each side. The height of ziggurats also varied widely, but they could range from approximately 65 feet to over 295 feet tall.
4. Ziggurats often had a temple at the top. In the temple there was usually a table, a bed, and food since worshippers often viewed gods simply as superhumans who got hungry and tired. This temple was the focal point of religious worship and ceremonies.

#### **D. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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1. What was so wrong with people wanting to build a great tower and stay together so they wouldn't be scattered all over the world?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What was wrong with the goal of "making a name for ourselves"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. List and describe at least three of the most harmful consequences of defying God.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Why is obedience to God so important to believers? (see 1 John 2:3-6; 5:2-3; 1 Peter 2:12; John 13:17)

5. Where in our society today have we seen a kind of “mob mentality,” like the Tower of Babel narrative, that had harmful consequences?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. When sharing the gospel of Jesus with unsaved people how can we inadvertently confuse people by what we are saying?

**E. APPLICATION**

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Whenever you are about to do something big ask yourself these questions:

1. Am I doing this because \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Will this bring \_\_\_\_\_?
3. Is it consistent with \_\_\_\_\_?

**F. DIGGING DEEPER**

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For more about this subject go to:

“What Happened at the Tower of Babel?” <<https://www.gotquestions.org/Tower-of-Babel.html>>

