

Appendix 4: The Table of Nations and the Tower of Babel.

The Table of Nations.

The descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth were supposed to spread out over the earth, according to the renewed dominion mandate given to Noah after the flood (Genesis 9:1, 7). These descendants became the fathers of many nations (Genesis 10:2-32).

Another interesting addition to the story is found in Deuteronomy 32. It seems that a number of angelic beings were given some kind of dominion over various nations and territories.

^{ESV} **Deuteronomy 32:8** When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples **according to the number of the sons of God.**

This is also borne out by the prophecy of Daniel where one reads of certain principalities in the heavenly realms. Daniel mentions the 'prince of Persia' (Daniel 10:13), the 'prince of Greece' (Daniel 10:20) and 'Michael the prince of your people' (Daniel 10:21; 12:1). From Daniel's prophecy, it seems that some of these principalities became hostile to YAHWEH and his plans, most probably under the influence of Satan.

This is also borne out in the NT by passages such as Ephesians 3:10, 6:12 and Colossians 2:15. These passages speak of rulers, powers, authorities and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms etc.

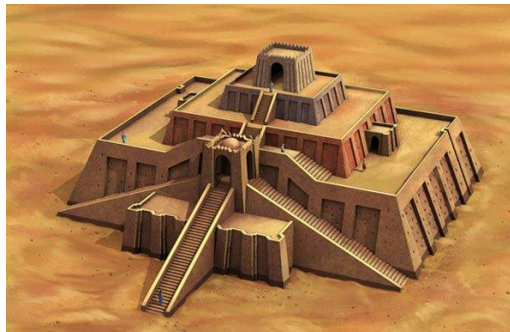
Therefore, one can safely conclude that the rebellion at Babel was not simply about nations unwilling to move. The same enemy of YAHWEH that was at work in the garden of Eden, as well as in the minds of the rebellious angelic beings before the flood, was once again at work at the tower of Babel.

The Tower of Babel.

Instead of dispersing over the earth, as the LORD had commanded, the peoples decided to assemble at the site of the Biblical city of Babylon. They started building themselves a tower to heaven, until God scattered them by confusing their language.

Similar structures to the one built at Babylon may still be observed all over Mesopotamia in the vicinity of the original Tower of Babel. These structures are called **ziggurats**. They are shaped like a square with a flat top, and then smaller squares on top.

At the sides of this kind of structure, a stairway or steps leading up to the smallest square on top, was constructed. At the bottom of such a **ziggurat** would be a temple.



The idea was that sacrifices were offered out on top of the **ziggurat**, closest to the sky or the gods. The gods would then come down to meet the worshippers in their temple. All kinds of terrible things would happen in these temples

You also find similar structures in the jungles of South America and in Mexico, where the Aztecs, Incas and Mayas worshipped their gods in the same kind of way.



This strengthens the idea gives that the origin or source of inspiration for these religious practices are the same. Therefore, humans have always tried to reach the gods by their own ways. Through sacrifice, ecstatic worship and many vile practices according to their own imagination.