

Did You Know?

***The Babel Story is Taught
Wrongly***

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(www.CanberraForerunners.org)

Quote:

Did You Know?

“Not all the holy mountains in the history of the world are natural, formed by the shifting of tectonic plates or the sudden, catastrophic opening of “the fountains of the great deep”. The Tower of Babel was one such artificial mountain. Babel was humanity’s attempt to force its way back into the divine council.

At Babel, mankind tried to storm the castle of God.

Did You Know?

For generations, well-meaning Bible teachers have presented the story of Babel as an object lesson on the dangers of pride. 'Those foolish people were so arrogant they thought they could build a tower high enough to reach heaven!'

With all due respect to those teachers, that's an insult to the intelligence of our ancestors, if you think about it. And it's a disservice to people in church who want to know why Yahweh was so offended by this project. Really? God is that insecure?

Did You Know?

Babel was not a matter of God taking down some people who'd gotten too big for their britches. The clue to the sin of Babel is in the name.

Remember, the Hebrew prophets loved to play with language. We often find words in the Bible that sound like the original but make a statement—for example, *Beelzebub* (“lord of the flies”) instead of *Beelzebub* (“Ba`al the prince”), or *Ish-bosheth* (“man of a shameful thing”) instead of *Ishbaal* (“man of Ba`al”).

Did You Know?

Likewise, the original Akkadian words *bāb ilu*, which means “gate of god” or “gate of the gods”, is replaced in the Bible with *Babel*, which is based on the Hebrew word meaning 'confusion'.

Now, there's a bit of misinformation that must be corrected about the Tower of Babel. Contrary to what you've heard, Babel was not in Babylon.

Did You Know?

It's an easy mistake to make. The names sound alike, and Babylon is easily the most famous city of the ancient world. It's also got a bad reputation, especially to Jews and Christians. Babylon, under the megalomaniacal king Nebuchadnezzar, sacked the Temple in Jerusalem and carried off the hardware for temple service. It makes sense to assume that a building project so offensive that God personally intervened must have been built at Babylon.

Did You Know?

But there's a problem with linking Babylon to the Tower of Babel: Babylon didn't exist when the tower was built. It didn't even become a city until about a thousand years after the tower incident, and even then it was an unimportant village for about another 500 years.

Traditions and sources outside the Bible identify the builder of the tower as the shadowy figure named Nimrod. Our best guess is he lived sometime between 3500 and 3100 BC, a period of history called the Uruk Expansion. This tracks with what little the Bible tells us about Nimrod.

Did You Know?

In Genesis 10:10, we read “the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar”.

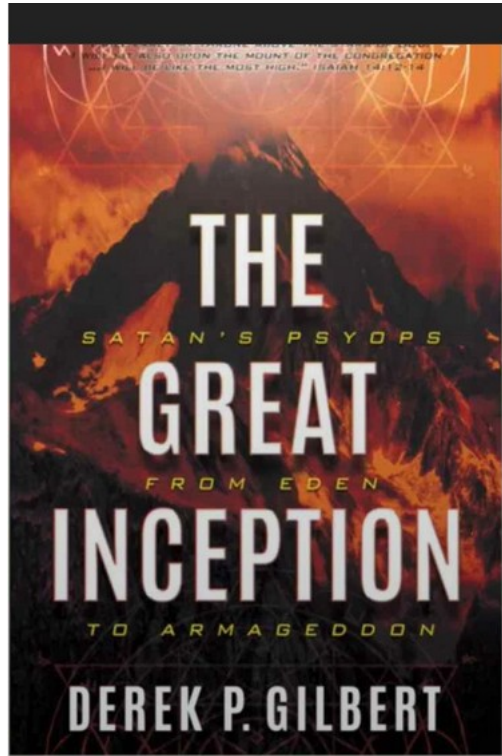
The land of Shinar is Sumer and Erech is Uruk. Uruk was so important to human history that Nimrod’s homeland is still called Uruk, five thousand years later! We just spell it differently—Iraq...

Did You Know?

In the view of this author, the evidence is compelling. It's time to correct the history we've been taught since Sunday School: Babel was not at Babylon, it was at Eridu. The tower was the temple of the god Enki, 'Lord of the Earth', the god of the abyss. Its purpose was to create an artificial mount of assembly, the abode of the gods, to which humans had access.

That was something that Yahweh could not allow.”

Did You Know?



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