

Did You Know?

***The Tower of Babel was a
Ziggurat***

And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name...

Genesis 11:4 King (KJV)

Sunday school Bible stories told us that the early settlers after the great flood tried to build a tower of bricks that reached all the way up to Heaven.

Did You Know?

We
imagine
something
like this.

A tower
that would
reach as
high as
Heaven.



Did You Know?



WRONG!

A tower made of bricks cemented together with tar would not have reached very high before crumbling under its own weight

However, that's not the point of contention.

The point is, they weren't trying to reach Heaven.

Literally:

And they said, `Give help, let us build for ourselves a city and tower, and its head in the heavens, and make for ourselves a name...

Genesis 11:4 (YLT)

Even Young's literal translation of the verse is inaccurate:

- In the Hebrew "Heaven" is **singular**, not plural

The inference of 'Heaven' is the abode of God, not 'the heavens' – i.e. the sky

All the translations which state “its top in”, “may reach unto”, “that will reach to”, “that reaches” etc., are all the translator’s interpretation.

They are irrelevant

What were the people of Babel actually trying to do?

“Surely the gods lived in a place where water was abundant, where life-sustaining vegetation and fruit grew everywhere, where an abundance of animals were nourished to fatness. The gods lived in places where there was no conceivable lack. Paradise. →

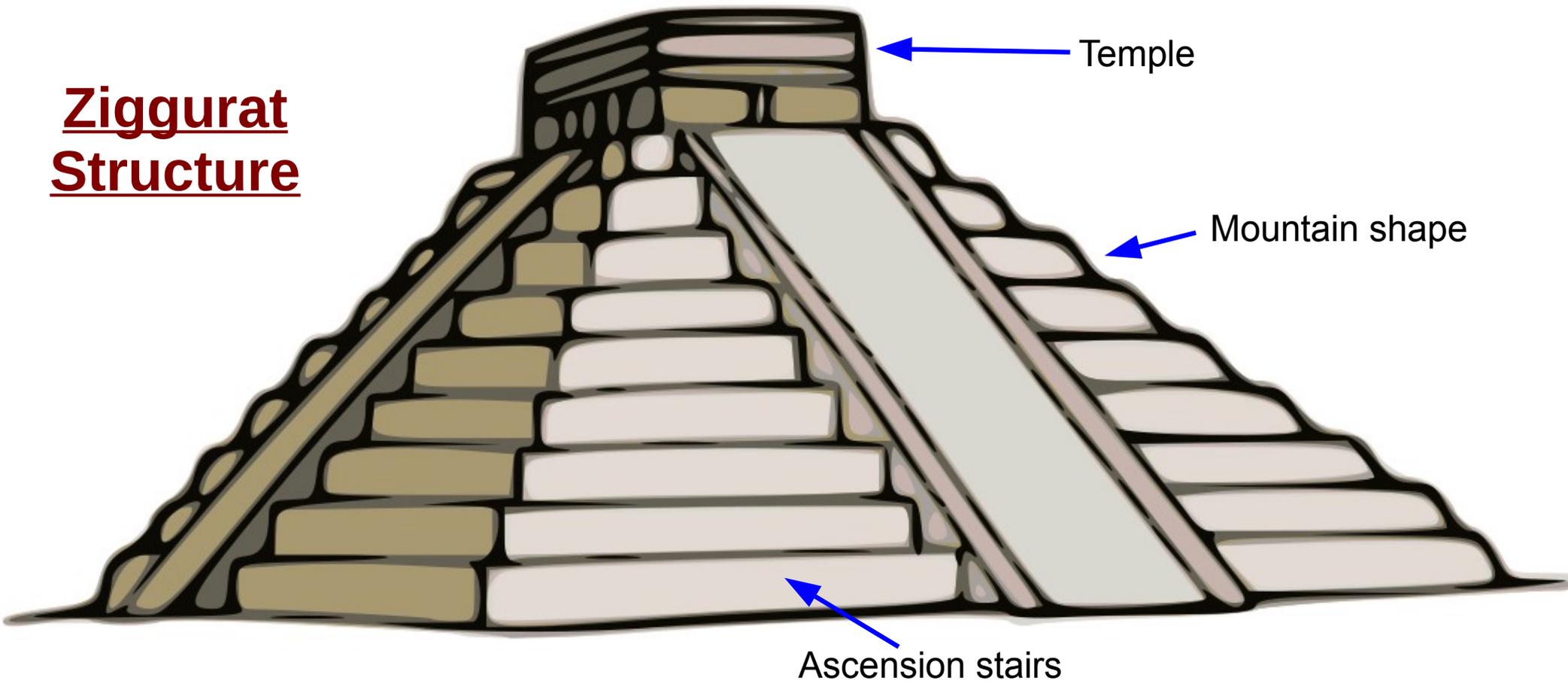
→ Mountain peaks were the domain of gods because no humans lived there. Ancient times were not like modern times. People didn't recreationally climb mountains. They had no equipment with which to get very far if they tried. Mountains were remote and forbidding—the perfect places for gods to get away from pesky humans. Mountain peaks touched the heavens, which was obviously →

→ *the domain of the gods. This sort of thinking in part explains why Egypt's temples are carved and painted with the imagery of luscious gardens, or why pyramids and ziggurats were built. These structures were mountains made by human hands which served as gateways to the spiritual world, the realm of the gods, in life or in death. They were metaphors in stone."*

“As we noted in an earlier chapter, gods were perceived to live on mountains. The tower of Babel is regarded by all scholars as one of Mesopotamia’s famous man-made sacred mountains – a ziggurat. →

→ *Ziggurats were divine abodes, places where Mesopotamians believed heaven and earth intersected. The nature of this structure makes evident the purpose in building it – to bring the divine down to earth.”*

Ziggurat
Structure



The remnants
of a ziggurat



The ziggurat called Etemenanki, located 90 kilometres south of Baghdad, is the ziggurat most archaeologists identify as the Tower of Babel referred to in the Bible

Ziggurats functioned as temples and divine abodes. The 'presence of God' was meant to reside in the temple on the top.

Where did this ancient concept come from?

The Mountain of God is where the throne
room is in Heaven

e.g. Psalm 24:3; Isaiah 8:18; 57:15; Ezekiel 28:13-16; Joel 3:17

The Mountain of God was in Eden. That's where the river of God flowed from.

The idea of the mountain of God in Eden was a memory (folk lore) in the minds of the post-flood people.

This is why they built the Babel ziggurat – it was the first false religion which mimicked the reality of the Kingdom of God as it was.

How so?

“In the beginning everyone knew Noah and believed in the one true God.

The scriptures call Babylon the mother of all false religions, because under Nimrod the original false religious system was successfully implemented. We learn from the church fathers that the root of this madness started with the sons of Ham.”

In the literary work 'Recognitions of Clement 4.26-29', attributed to Clement of Rome, the author writes:

“Fallen angels taught men the use of magical incantations that would force demons to obey man. After the flood Ham the son of Noah unhappily discovered this and taught it to his sons. This became ingrained into the →

→ *Egyptians, Persians, and Babylonians. Ham died shortly after the fall of the Tower of Babel. Nimrod, called Ninus by the Greeks, was handed this knowledge and by it caused men to go away from the worship of God and go into diverse and erratic superstitions and they began to be governed by the signs in the stars and motions of the planets.”*

According to the Book of Jasher (Jasher 9:8-10)
Johnson writes:

“Nimrod turned the government into a tyranny and set up twelve idols of wood named after the twelve months of the year, each representing a sign of the Zodiac. He commanded everyone to worship each idol in its proper month.”

So, there you have it

Nimrod built a ziggurat in Babel and began the first form of pagan worship which became the Babylonian religion that spread to subsequent empires and other people groups



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