



The Tower of Babel


Genesis 11:1–9

Let us build us a city and a tower.

- 1. Some did not believe God existed and accounted for the flood by natural means.

The greatest minds, if not guided by the word of God in their research, become bewildered in their attempts to trace the relations of science and revelation. Because the Creator and his works are so far beyond their comprehension that they are unable to explain them **by natural laws**, they regard Bible history as unreliable. Those who doubt the reliability of the records of the Old and New Testaments, will be led to go a step farther, and doubt the existence of God; and then, having lost their anchor, they are left to beat about upon the rocks of infidelity. (*CE* 193.2)

These persons have lost the simplicity of faith. There should be a settled belief in the divine authority of God's holy word. The Bible is not to be tested by men's ideas of science. Human knowledge is an unreliable guide. Skeptics who read the Bible for the sake of caviling, may, through an imperfect comprehension of either science or revelation, claim to find contradictions between them; but rightly understood, they are in perfect harmony. Moses wrote under the guidance of the Spirit of God; and a correct theory of geology will never claim discoveries that cannot be reconciled with his statements. All truth, whether in nature or in revelation, is consistent with itself in all its manifestations. (*CE* 193.3)

A scenic landscape photograph of snow-capped mountains reflected in a lake at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun, casting a warm glow on the clouds and the peaks of the mountains. The water in the foreground is calm, creating a clear reflection of the mountains and the sky. The overall mood is peaceful and majestic.

Genesis 7:20 – Fifteen cubits upward did the
waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.
About 26 feet

- 1. Some did not believe God existed and accounted for the flood by natural means.
- 2. Others believed God existed but rebelled against him for destroying the people of the earth and for cursing the earth a third time by a flood.
- 3. These people separated from those who loved, obeyed, and exalted God.
- 4. They settled in a plain of Shinar and built a city first, then started to build a tower.
- 5. They desired honor, to be as gods, and to rule over the people.

Before the work of building was accomplished, people dwelt in the tower. Rooms were splendidly furnished, decorated and devoted to their idols. Those who did not believe in God, imagined if their tower could reach unto the clouds, they would be able to discover **reasons** for the flood.

(ISP 91.2)

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- 2. Others believed God existed but rebelled against him for destroying the people of the earth and for cursing the earth a third time by a flood.
- 3. These people separated from those who loved, obeyed, and exalted God.
- 4. They settled in a plain of Shinar and built a city first, then started a tower.
- 5. They desired honor, to be as gods, and to rule over the people.
- 6. They also were intellectually curious and wanted to discover the reasons for the flood.

They exalted themselves against God. But he would not permit them to complete their work. They had built their tower to a lofty height, when the Lord sent two angels to confound them in their work. Men had been appointed for the purpose of receiving word from the workmen at the top of the tower, calling for material for their work, which the first would communicate to the second, and he to the third, until the word reached those upon the ground. As the word was passing from one to another in its descent, the angels confounded their language, and when the word reached the workmen upon the ground, material was called for which had not been required.

And after the laborious process of getting the material to the workmen at the top of the tower, it was not that which they wished for. Disappointed and enraged, they reproached those whom they supposed were at fault. After this, there was no harmony in their work. Angry with one another, and unable to account for the misunderstanding, and strange words among them, they left the work and separated from each other, and scattered abroad in the earth. Up to this time, men had spoken but one language. Lightning from heaven, as a token of God's wrath, broke off the top of their tower, casting it to the ground. Thus God would show to rebellious man that he is supreme. (*ISP 92.1*)

- Understanding the origin of the term **Babel** is a little confusing in itself.
- 1. It has been linked with the Hebrew verb *balal*, “to confuse.”
- 2. It is possible that the Babylonian verb *babalu* originally meant “to scatter,” or “to disappear.”
- 3. But ancient Babylonian texts interpret *Bab–ilu* or *Bab–ilanu* as meaning “port of god” or “gateway of the gods.”

- The passion of Mesopotamian peoples for building lofty towers did not cease with the first unsuccessful attempt to erect one that would “reach unto heaven.” Throughout antiquity they continued building temple towers, or ziggurats. Several such ruins are still standing. The best preserved one is at Ur, Abraham’s early home. The exact location of the original tower is unknown.



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