

One question raised by my daughter puzzles me also: why did God confuse the language of men at the Tower of Babel when they tried to build a tower to reach heaven? (54)

To understand the reason why God confused the language of the people at this tower goes back to a command of God in Genesis chapter 9. After the flood of Noah's time God desired for men to multiply and fill the entire earth.

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and **fill the earth**. (Genesis 9:1 NIV)

The men who built this city and tower had terrible motives that were in opposition to God.

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** and **not be scattered** over the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:4 NIV)

They were full of pride, hoping to make a great name for themselves. They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God (John 12:43). Their ambition was to spread their fame and use this tower as a point of unity and a rallying point of unity and strength. They put their trust in their own wisdom instead of obeying God's will to "fill the earth".

They built a city and a tower (Gen 11:4). We are not absolutely sure the exact location of this city described in the Bible, but the whole area of Babylon has many examples of foundation ruins of such towers. The temple-tower (called a ziggurat) was an architectural feature characteristic of Babylonian cities and was the center of their worship and was home to the priests of the religion. The typical ziggurat is described as "having a base of 100 to 200 meters square and about 30-60 meters high. On top of the base were five levels of 10-20 feet each but each level was smaller in size than the one below it. The whole tower was crowned by a temple where the "god" was thought to meet with the priests. Access to the top was by ramps or stairways." (New Bible Dictionary, Wiseman, p 116).