**‘Plotting the Tower of Babel’**

**1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. 3 Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. 4 And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”** Genesis 11:1-4

There are three events which frame much of the narrative in the Bible:

* 1. The first event is the sin Adam and Eve committed in Genesis 3. There God declared to the serpent that the woman’s Seed would bruise the head of the seed of the serpent, even though the seed of the serpent would bruise the heel of the woman’s Seed.
  2. The second is the sin of the angels who cohabited with human women in Genesis 6. Their sin led to the birth of hybrid offspring, the ***gibborim***, who were men of renown and exceedingly wicked. The wickedness on the earth became so great that God destroyed the earth with a flood. God would start over with Noah and his family and the animals He brought to Noah.
  3. The third event is the sin we have in Genesis 11:1-9. One of the best explanations of the Tower of Babel is an article written by Michael S. Heiser, which I will reference at times.[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/" \l "_ftn1)

A critical detail seems to be missing in verses 1-4. There doesn’t appear to be a specific instigator of the project to build the city with its tower. Traditionally, Nimrod is said to be the mastermind. We read in Genesis 10:8-10:

***8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.” 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.***

It is entirely possible that Genesis 11 predates much of Genesis 10. It is also possible that Nimrod did not rise to power to establish his kingdom until **immediately after** God confused the languages. We do know there is NO **direct** connection in the Bible to tie Nimrod to Babel.

What is attested to in verses 1-4 is this:

1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as **they** journeyed from the east, that **they** found a plain in the land of Shinar, and **they** dwelt there. 3 Then **they** said to one another, “Come, let **us** make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly.” **They** had brick for stone, and **they** had asphalt for mortar. 4 And **they** said, “Come, let **us** build **ourselves** a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let **us** make a name for **ourselves**, lest **we** be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

The city and tower appear to have been a unanimous decision made by a people who shared one language and one speech. Their plan was in direct defiance against the LORD. When blessing Noah and his sons, He charged them to “Be fruitful and multiply, and **FILL** the earth” Genesis 9:1 *(emphasis mine)*.

These four brief verses let us know:

* 1. These people did NOT want to be “scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”
  2. They wanted to build a city with materials of their own making, rather than what God provided them from the earth.[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/" \l "_ftn2)
  3. They wanted to make a name for themselves. This was clearly defiance, since God intended the entire creation to bring honor to His Name.
  4. They wanted to build a tower in the city ***“whose top is in the heavens.”***

These four items point out how defiant the hearts of these people had become after the flood. Item four is what moved God to come down and act against these people and their project. Michael S. Heiser writes:

***“It might seem that God’s response at the tower of Babel incident was overly severe. But consider the context. The point is not that Yahweh was a glorified building inspector. 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.”***[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/" \l "_ftn3)

Could it have been the plan of these people to intentionally make a gateway, a portal, for a new incursion of the angelic into the earth realm, and so repeat the transgression which brought about the flood of Noah? Is it possible that these people were looking for a way to breach heaven’s defenses and make a direct assault upon God in His own abode? Both of these are possibilities and both would bring about a response from God. He could NOT let their plans continue.

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[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/" \l "_ftnref1) <https://blog.logos.com/2017/11/really-happened-tower-babel/>

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/" \l "_ftnref2) Whatever they would then make, would naturally point back to them and glorify them for what they had done.

[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/03/" \l "_ftnref3) IBID, p. 4.