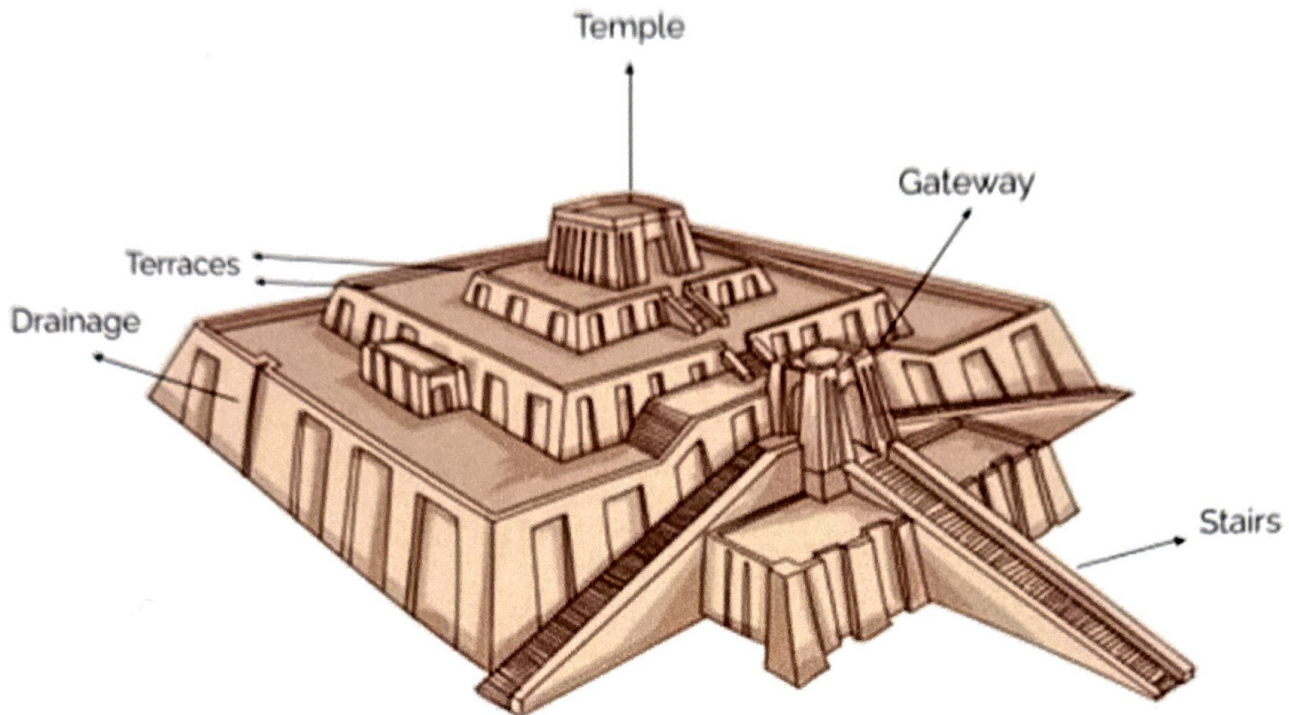


Mesopotamian Ziggurats

(The Tower of Babel-Genesis 11)



- Ziggurat means "house of the gods," and they were considered a place for deities to have a residence on earth, since they "reached the heavens".
- They were the tallest buildings in the center of each major city in Mesopotamia, and were designed to represent a mountain.
- Only priests and high officials were allowed to enter them, especially the higher levels near the temple.
- They were built with special basements to keep those inside safe from floods—an unpredictable but somewhat frequent occurrence in that part of the world. In light of the Flood in Genesis 6-9, it's no wonder that prideful humans in Genesis 11 distrusted God's covenant to Noah and instead acted in fear to protect themselves, building the Tower of Babel.

Application questions:

-It can be discouraging to look around at our godless culture, a sort of current day Babel. God's not surprised, nor is He confused. Where do you see the thread of God's plan of redemption in our culture today? How can you live boldly for Jesus, knowing that He is working His plan in our culture?

-The dispersement was to preserve the Promise and also for the people's good. What hard thing in your life is happening for your good? Examine your heart posture in trial.

-Spend time praising God for His Story, His Plan to save us sinners.