Research and Notes: Tower of Babel

“The custom of worshipping on heights was almost universal in the early world. The Babylonians had their mounds and *ziggurats* or artificial elevations (the ruins of an immense *ziggurat* unearthed on the outskirts of Babylon is believed by archeologists to have been the legendary Tower of Babel)” (Shotwell 50).

Gen. 11:1, 4, 6-9 (to ;)

1And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

“We have here the ancient Hebrew explanation of the diversity of human language, and of the wide dispersion of the human race. . . The gift of Pentecost, as the Fathers saw, is the converse of the story of the Tower of Babel. The true unity of the race, made known in Christ is confirmed by the utterance of the Spirit which is heard by all alike” (Dummelow 18).

4And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven;

“A city and a tower. The principal building in every ancient city was its temple, and the chief feature of a Babylonian temple was its ziggurat or stage-tower” (Dummelow 19).

Babel. self-destroying error, a kingdom divided against itself, which cannot stand, material knowledge.

The higher false knowledge builds on the bases of evidence obtained from the five corporeal senses, the more confusion ensues, and the more certain is the downfall of its structure. 581:17

Building a tower:

1. human achievement of human power and pride and ambition

2. associated with idolatry

a. erection is here regarded as rebellion against Jehovah

3. God confounds the language of the builders

4. brings about their dispersion

5. God is supreme over all the world

6. Evil's attempts at gaining a foothold are stopped

1. and **let us make us a name**, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.
   1. Building a colossal temple-tower—or a multistoried ziggurat, to reach heaven symbolizes evil’s handiwork.
   2. Tries to gain legitimacy by misdirection
   3. Claims to create and move through work of so-called sinful, mortal men
   4. Causing them to rebel against God
   5. Brick by brick: add sin to sin, building with pride, selfishness, and dishonesty
   6. Brick: made from dust, mud, slime, represents the dust origin, Gen 2
   7. Building on sand
   8. Whole purpose is to ‘make a name for ourselves’
   9. an attempt to reach some pinnacle of importance, and sit on the top of their world
   10. look to fame, glory, power, personal aggrandizement
   11. to make a monument for themselves, human achievement, personal glory not based or founded on God

5And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

6And the Lord said, Behold, the people *is* one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

7Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.

1. Israelite tradition connected the differences in language with the building of Babylon or one of the great temple-towers or ziggurats, characteristic of Babylonian temples. The name “Babel” means ‘gate of god,’ but is connected in this story with a Hebrew word ‘bala’ which means to mix or confuse. (babble)
2. Misunderstandings, miscommunications and confusion show up when I allow myself to be fooled and used by evil
3. Babel-builders rely on material knowledge rather than spiritual sense—the language of Spirit
4. (most of this is from an article in CSS by Keith Wommack, Babel-Builder or Spirit-Moved Healer)
5. By confounding their language and disturbing their counsels, they could no longer keep in a united state; so that agreeing in nothing but the necessity of separating, they went off in different directions, and thus became scattered abroad upon the face of the earth

8So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

9Therefore is the name of it called Babel;

“BABEL. The Hebrew form of the name Babylon. In Gen. 11:1-9 it is told that mankind after the Flood came to the plain of Sinar. There, to set themselves a lasting monument and to have a common purpose to unite them and prevent their scattering all over the earth, they decided to build a city and a tower that would reach to heaven. God, however, mixed up their language so that they no long understood one another, and they had to disperse. The city and the tower were therefore—in a play on the Hebrew word *balal*, ‘to mix’ – called Bable” (*IDB* 1. 334).

Day of Pentecost:

1. converse of the story of the Tower of Babel

2. true unity of the race

3. utterance of the Spirit which is heard by all in their own language

Acts 2:1,2,4,6

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

a. spoke in language that their hearers could understand

b. one Spirit acts alone, instead of Babel’s many minds trying to work together

c. God’s presence or healing Spirit, the Christ, enters the human consciousness

d. the Holy Spirit effortlessly discloses heaven, revealing the reality, the unity of all spiritual ideas

1. whatever God inspires is built and based on Spirit and is secure and lasting
2. whatever isn’t based on Spirit ultimately collapses and gets dispersed like dust in the wind