**The Tower of Babel**

There are no words in the Hebrew for "may reach," which means there is nothing in the text to suggest that its height was to be as high as heaven. Rather, the top would be dedicated to the heavens, with signs of the Zodiac portrayed as visible objects of worship. Up to this time the whole race not only had one language, but one form of idolatrous worship. When God confounded their language, they began to disagree on religion and other matters, branching off into sects and parties.

A Babylonian description of the tower of Babel discovered in 1876 indicates there was a grand court 900' X 1,156', and a smaller one 450' X 1,056', inside of which was a platform with walls around it, having four gates on each side. In the center stood the tower with many small shrines at the base, dedicated to various gods. The tower itself was 300' high with decreased width in stages from the lowest to the highest point. Each stage was square. The first stage measured 300' square and 110' high; the second measured 260' square and 60' high; the third 200' square and 20' high; the fourth 170' square and 20' high; the fifth 140' square and 20' high; the sixth 110' square and 20' high; and the seventh 80' long, 60' wide, and 50' high. On the top platform measuring 60' X 80' was a sanctuary for the god Bel-Merodach.

The builders evidently finished the tower, because the work was stopped on the city only ([Gen. 11:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+11%3A4),[8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+11%3A8)). One ancient Babylonian tablet reads, "The building of this illustrious tower offended the gods. In a night they threw down what they had built. They scattered them abroad and made strange their speech. Their progress was impeded. They wept hot tears for Babylon."

The builders were supposed to have been giants who waged war with the gods. Nimrod himself is called "a mighty one" and the giants in [Gen. 6:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A4) are called "mighty men." These came from the fallen angels and daughters of men after the flood ([Gen. 6:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A4))