

# The Architecture of Self-Promotion *[Genesis 1-11]*

Genesis 11:1-9 (preached on June 28, 2009)

*Note to Discussion Leaders: Please remember to start by reading the Bible passage as a group. While this is a “sermon discussion” guide, it’s vital that our reflections and applications are grounded in scripture. In a similar vein, do your best to help group members to link their discussion points to the scripture text. Don’t skip over all the questions that invite the group to observe and interpret specific verses in the passage.*

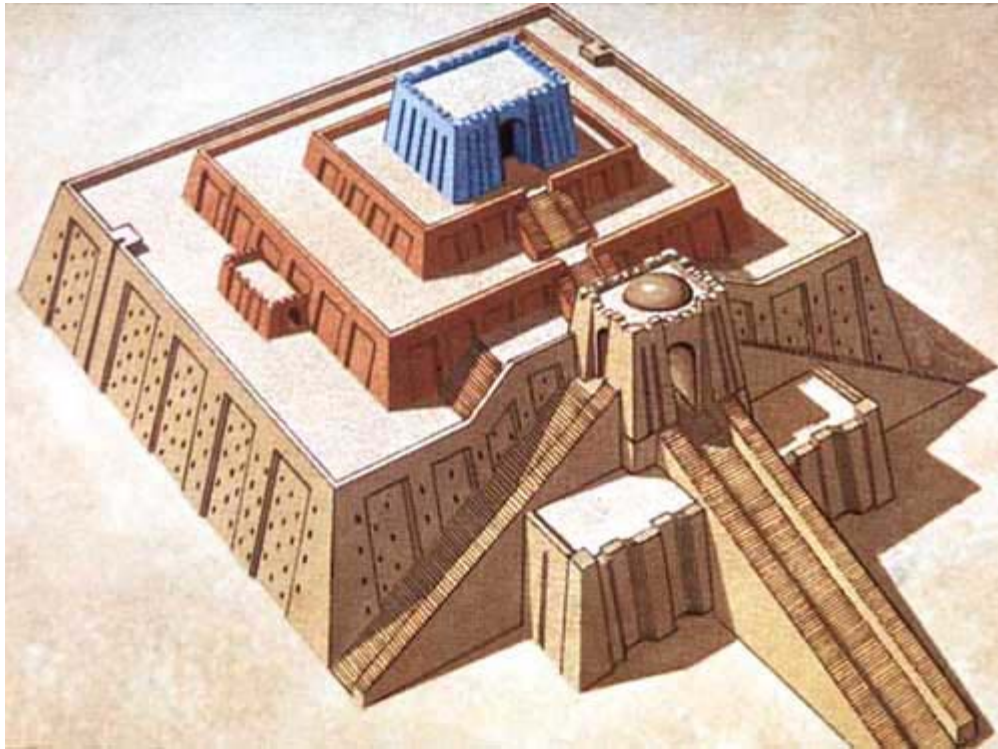
**READ** Genesis 11:1-9 (NT reading: Philippians 2:1-11)

## REFLECT

1. In your own words, what was wrong with the building of the city and tower of Babel (v. 4)? Include in your explanation the nature of the “tower” and the people’s aim to “make a name for ourselves.” For further discussion: How is the problem at Babel of the same nature as Adam and Eve’s fall (Gen. 3:5-6; cf. Isa. 14:13-14)?
  
2. Think about your daily life. What are some ways you are seeking to make for yourself a “name” that rivals the name of God? (Consider our longing for a (1) reputation, (2) authority, and (3) legacy.) What are ways you seeking a “name” in a way that weans you off your grasp of how much you need God?
  
3. Though the city’s culture itself isn’t to blame, what are some aspects of Washington, DC that nurtures this spirit of self-promotion? Discuss some helpful ways to respond to them.
  
4. Can you detect any ways you are trying to be your own God and Savior through your “towering” achievements? Specific ways you are presently saying to God: “I don’t need you, I’ll be my own god now, thanks you!”



**Additional Notes**



The Ziggurat of Nanna at Ur, constructed during the reign of Ur-Nammu (c. 2113-2095 B.C.). Its area covered 150 x 200 feet and its height was 80 feet. It is commonly believed that this type of structure was being built in the Tower of Babel episode.

