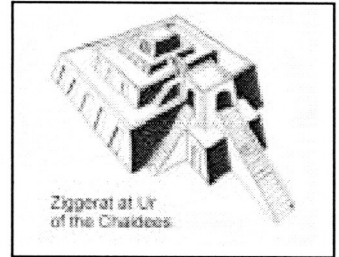


# בְּבֵל

## *The Tower of Babel*

In the 11th chapter of *Bereshit (Genesis)*, we read the amazing story of the Tower of Babel. The heart of mankind had not changed after the flood. He still thought that he could be greater than God, his Creator, just like Adam and Chavah had been tricked into thinking by Satan. The people thought that God lived in the clouds, so they decided to build a high tower which would reach into the clouds so that they could become like God and maybe even replace Him! Can you imagine puny little men thinking that they could be greater than the Almighty! Well, that's exactly what they thought!



So they began to build a tower out of bricks. These kinds of towers were called “ziggurats,” and they were really pretty small when compared with the heaven and earth that God made! In fact, in the story as Moses gives it in *Bereshit*, God has to “come down” in order to see the “little tower” that mankind had built!

But the story of the tower of Babel tells us just how full of pride mankind really was. It tells us that mankind's heart—his basic nature, had not changed after the flood. He was still very selfish, and thought more of himself than he did of God. He actually thought that he could be in charge, rather than bowing to his Creator and giving Him the worship He deserved. God knew that if He allowed mankind to continue growing in his sinful ways, he would eventually become so evil that he would be entirely ruined. So God decided to separate mankind, and not allow him to be one group. The way that God separated mankind is very interesting! He confused his language so that mankind could not communicate with each other.

One of the things that makes mankind different than the animals is language. Have you ever thought about your ability to talk to someone else? When we talk to each other, we are able to tell each other what's on our minds. We can communicate to each other. That's because we speak the same language. Have you ever heard someone speaking a language you can't understand? It's impossible to understand what they're saying! Well, that's exactly what God did. He created different languages for different groups of people. While they were busy working to build their “tall tower,” they suddenly realized that they couldn't talk with each other. When one person would tell another person what to do next, they were speaking different languages—they couldn't understand what the other person was saying!

As a result, they no longer could continue to build their tower. Each group that spoke the same language divided from the other groups. Mankind, instead of being one family, was broken into many different families, and each went their own way. That's the reason we have so many languages in the world today.

Have you ever wondered what it will be like in the world to come, when people from every nation and language are all together? How will we talk with each other? Do you think that in the world to come we'll all have the same language?

# LOOK for LANGUAGES

Search the box below for the names of some of the many languages people speak.



Did you find all of these?

ARABIC	FRENCH	HINDI	KOREAN	SPANISH
BENGALI	GERMAN	ITALIAN	LAP	SWAHILI
CANTONESE	GREEK	JAPANESE	PANJABI	THAI
ENGLISH	HEBREW	JAVANESE	RUSSIAN	

# The Tower of Babel

O Z V P A U B F M B W O S N E V A E H O T C I D D  
Z K N T N U D A O W E H F H E B R E W Y P D W O A  
Y S W Y G R E E K B M Q I U J A C S O L C P K I L  
B L D W D S M Z N O Y L A G G G G V K Z O A X A D  
T Q D B S M U G G G K N U C A O B N V K T D N A P  
Y L C M S T T H Q X L S A N E S U F N O C G B L G  
R Q A H L L Z W M M C I N M O M I R V K U S L I W  
D Y A Z E V P I J H D A S E E O P S L A Z C Y D N  
C R O H N T N Q G I D G L H N R X X G S Y W P E R  
F B M F G D O R P G T Q M Z R T E E U Z N G G E A  
E Y A P T H S N Z U U Y U U M A N D M U F R Z D N  
R S F B O V E N G M B R D F T R I Y M E I D W M I  
P A C T E C H F V U W N A E J C J B R I C K S U H  
C F Z O Z L U H K I E Q U T W V H Y X V I J D M S  
N H B W T H U K Y Q S R I Q X R Q F J K R Z R O K  
I C I E R A R A M A I C N F C C Z R I Q I Y H V U  
X A K R U S O G H W Q Z D E R E T T A C S R F V V

Shinar

language

confuse

scattered

bricks

mortar

ziggurat

heaven

name

tongue

Hebrew

Aramaic

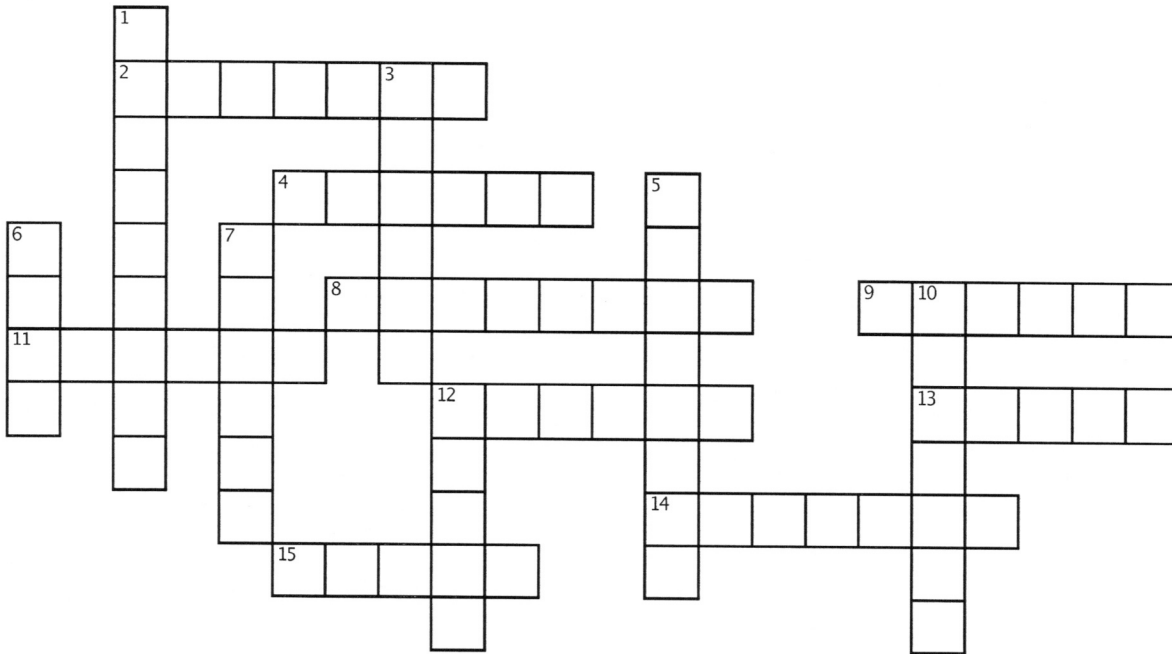
Greek

tower

English

Babel

# The Tower of Babel



## Across

2. what God did to the language of mankind
4. what they used to build the tower of Babel
8. how human beings communicate in speech
9. the language of the Tanach
11. used to hold bricks together
12. another name for "language"
13. the language of the Apostolic Scriptures
14. a "sister language" of Hebrew
15. "Therefore, its name was called \_\_\_\_\_ because there the Lord confused the language"

## Down

1. what happened to mankind after his language was confused
3. the land where they built the tower of Babel
5. what towers were called in the ancient world
6. mankind wanted to make himself a great \_\_\_\_\_
7. they thought they could build a tower that reached to \_\_\_\_\_
10. the official language of the United States
12. "come, let us build for ourselves . . . a \_\_\_\_\_"

