



Towers and Temples

Power in Ephesus

- Top-down decisions
- Power grabs
- Systems of taxation, labor and injustice
- Tribute to the gods

Ephesians 1:16-18 (NIV) ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened...

2 Kings 6:15-17 (ESV) ¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" ¹⁶ He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. What is most visible, may not be the most powerful.

Ephesians 1:19-23 (ESV) that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Genesis 11:3-9 (NIV) ³ They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." ⁵ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶ The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." ⁸ So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Building a Tower (Genesis 11) Building a Temple (Ephesians 1-2)

Self-promotion Humility

Bringing earth up Bringing heaven down

Oppression resulting in division Unity resulting in freedom

Scattering Gathering

Human effort & striving God's grace & power

1 Cor 15:22, 25-26 (ESV) For as in Adam (humanity) all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive...after destroying every rule and every authority and power. [Jesus] must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Ephesians 1:19-20 working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead

Ephesians 1:22 "not only in this age but also in the one to come." "God, open the eyes of my heart to see what's really going on here. Help me to respond with the compassionate, loving and victorious power of Christ."