The Ziggurat of Ur
Home of Abraham
WHAT DOES ZIGGURAT MEAN?

To exaggerate – “to heap up, enlarge beyond bounds or truth”
Stepped Pyramid of Djoser at Saqqara Egypt made of limestone (2700 BC).
The ZIGGURATS of Mesopotamia were men attempting to reach their gods which were all above them – the moon, sun, stars, rain, and wind.

The TOWER OF BABEL was man’s attempt to reach God – “a tower that reaches to the heavens” (Gen. 11:4).

JACOB’S LADDER (GEN. 28:12) was a stairway to heaven with angels ascending and descending connecting earth to heaven.

JESUS spoke of a stairway to heaven: "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man" (John 1:51).

JESUS IS OUR STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5).
Five existing ZIGGURATS in Iraq. Ur is the best preserved.
THE ZIGGURAT OF UR

• Temple dedicated to Nana the MOON god.
• The moon was chosen for they saw the reflection of the moon in the water which was everywhere.
• Animal sacrifices were offered in the temple on top.
ZIGGURAT CONSTRUCTION

- Arabic: *Tell Muqayyar* – “mount made of tar”
- Solid platform for temple
- 7,000,000 sun baked mud bricks on the interior
- 800,000 glazed, baked 10’ thick brick fascia
- Stamps of Ur Nammu & Shulgi
- Weeper holes for drains
- Reed & sand layers
Faith of the Sumerians

- Polytheists – multiple gods
- Numerous temples
- Primary god at Ur was Sin or Nana, “the illuminator” or MOON god
- Ziggurat built as a “stairway to heaven” to bring the moon god to earth & people to their god

CHAPLAIN RON MCKAY
THE ZIGGURAT IN 2100 BC
THE ZIGGURAT OF UR IN 1934
THE ZIGGURAT AS RECONSTRUCTED
BY SADAAM HUSSEIN SINCE 1980