

المرحلة الرابعة

النص 2

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TEMPLES IN MESOPOTAMIA

As the temple organization became enlarged, the apartments for the priests correspondingly increased. Supplementary edifices became necessary to accommodate the stores required for the priests and the cult. The temple grew into a temple-area, which, in the large religious centers, in time assumed the dimensions of an entire sacred quarter.

Mesopotamian Temple Layout:

Mesopotamian temple usually contained a central shrine with a statue of the deity placed on a pedestal before

an altar. The temples were watched over by priests and priestesses that lived in apartments in the temple. On the temple grounds were other quarters for officials, accountants, musicians and custodians as well as structures that held treasures, weapons and grain.

Sumerian pilgrims visited temples honoring Anu in Uruk and Enlil in Nippur. The largest temple in Mesopotamia was a temple honoring Marduk in Babylon. Inside was golden statue of Marduk that weighed perhaps 5,000 pounds and 55 shrines devoted to lower echelon gods. The 200 feet long, 70 feet high ziggurat built in Ur had three platforms, each a different color, and a silver shrine at the top.

Mesopotamia temples often had off center entrances so that common people could catch a glimpse of the inner sanctuary when they looked inside. Temples in Uruk, Ashur and Babylon all have this feature.

ملاحظة:

إن كلمة (altar)، كما ذكر اعلاه، تعني (المذبح) وهو عبارة عن منصة يستخدمها الكهنة للقيام بالمراسيم الدينية.