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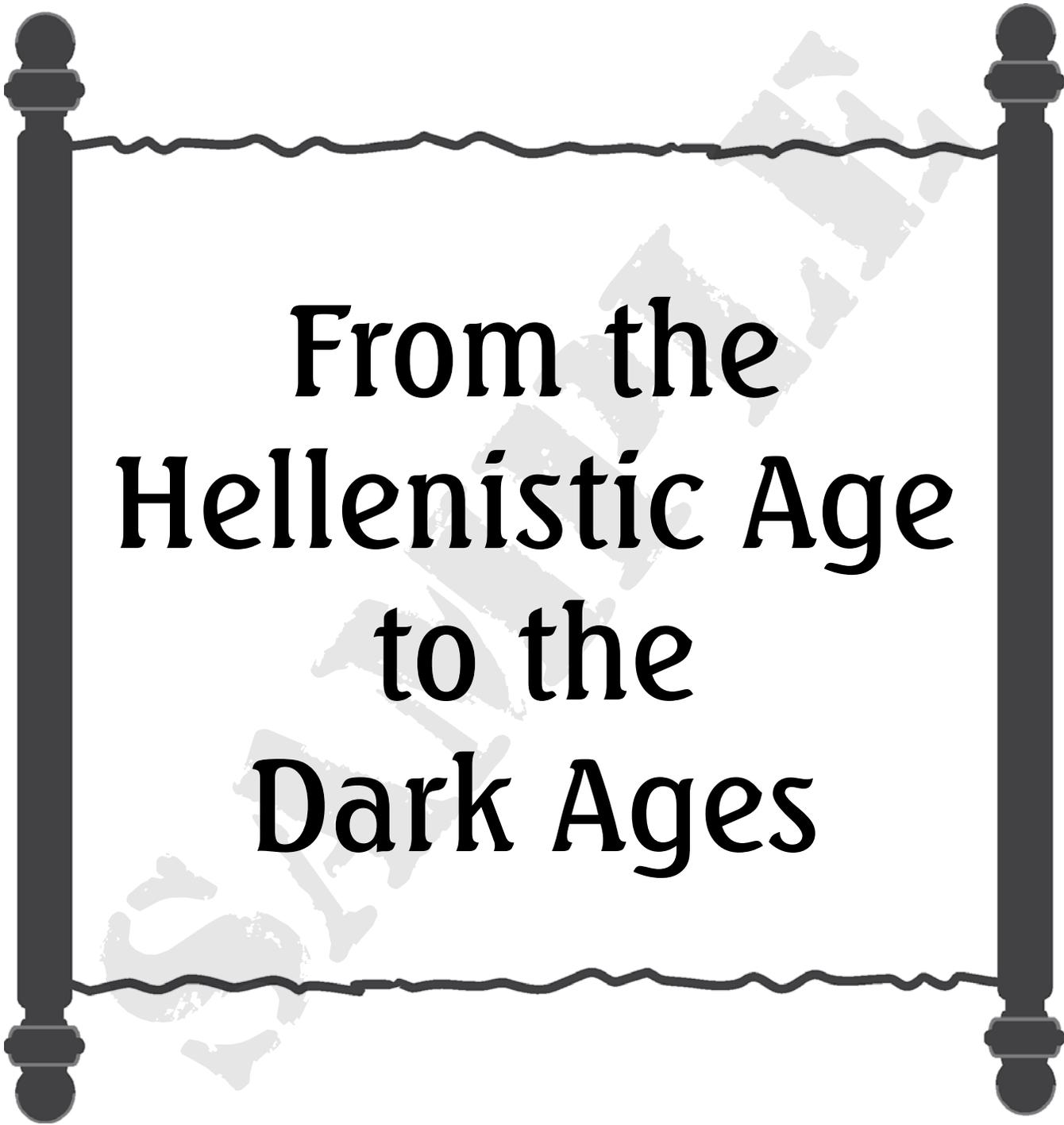
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**From the
Hellenistic Age
to the
Dark Ages**

Week 16 ~ Lesson 1

Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, Part 1

1ST-2ND



GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA

The list. The ancient writers created a list of Seven Wonders that outshone all the other structures of the known world. The Seven

Wonders of the Ancient World are: the Pyramid of Giza, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Temple of Artemis, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes, and the Lighthouse at Alexandria.

The Great Pyramid at Giza. The pyramid stood nearly 500 feet tall, when it was first built, but after thousands of years it has shrunk about twenty feet. Each side is about 750 feet long. Originally, its sides were flat and covered with a limestone finish that gleamed in the hot Egyptian sun. The top most point was either made of gold or silver or covered with precious metal. It is the oldest and only surviving wonder of the ancient world.

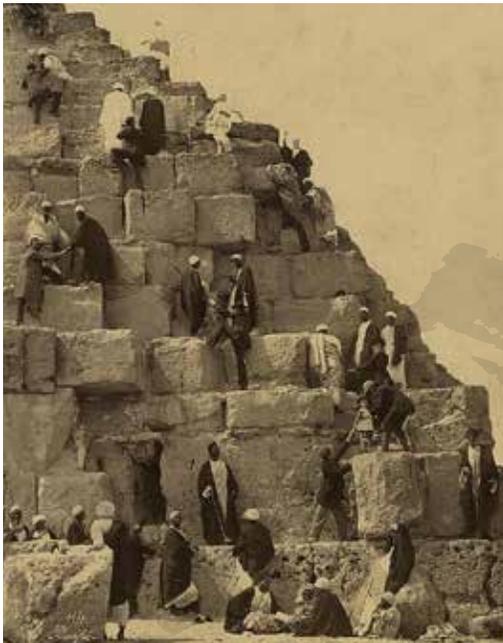
The Hanging Gardens. The city of Babylon was at the height of its power under Nebuchadnezzar in the 600s B.C. Nebuchadnezzar married a princess from Media, and the new queen missed the mountains and plants of her old home. The city of Babylon was dry, hot, and barren. Nebuchadnezzar loved Queen Amytis and ordered a garden to be built for her. The term Hanging Gardens is a little misleading. The garden was probably more of a garden on the side of a square building.

The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus. In about 560 B.C. Croesus, the king of Lydia, conquered the city of Ephesus. He commissioned the building of a magnificent temple. This temple was 377 feet long and 180 feet wide with 127 marble columns that were each 60 feet tall. The area between the columns and roof were decorated with elaborate carvings. The Temple of Artemis (or Diana as she was sometimes called) stood for about two hundred years. In 356 B.C. a madman destroyed the temple. The temple was rebuilt in 334 B.C.

The Statue of Zeus at Olympia. In 456 B.C., the Greeks created a statue to honor their chief god. The talented sculpture Phidias was asked to design the statue. The statue of Zeus was built of wood overlaid with sheets of gold and ivory. The finished statue looked like solid marble. Zeus was sitting on a throne. The statue was forty feet high and nearly reached the ceiling. In his left hand, he held the god Nike and in his right, he held a staff.

The list. The ancient writers created a list of Seven Wonders that outshone all the other structures of the known world. In this list, they mentioned the most impressive buildings of their time. The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World are: the Pyramid of Giza, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Temple of Artemis, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes, and the Lighthouse at Alexandria.

The Great Pyramid at Giza. Few structures excite more wonder than the great pyramid of Egypt. For thousands of years, it has stood as a monument to ancient man's genius and architectural ability. Of all the ancient wonders, it alone remains and yet, the actual knowledge of



PEOPLE CLIMBING ON THE PYRAMID

its construction is uncertain. How did they move the massive stone blocks into place? Some of these blocks weigh seventy tons. This mystery has never been solved. Several other pyramids were constructed before the Great Pyramid of Giza, but they were inferior in construction and position.

The ancient Jewish historian, Josephus, says that it was Abraham who brought the technology of arithmetic to Egypt. Some modern historians discredit this account, but it is clear that Khufu gained new insight into pyramid building, and he ordered the construction of a huge pyramid as his tomb.

The pyramid stood nearly 500 feet tall when it was first built, but after thousands of years of erosion and the removal of the outer limestone, it has shrunk about twenty feet. Each side is about 750 feet long. Originally, its

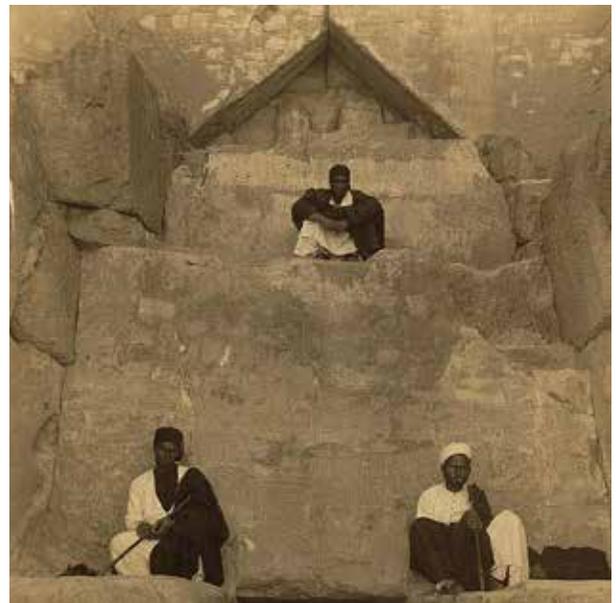


GREAT PYRAMID AT GIZA

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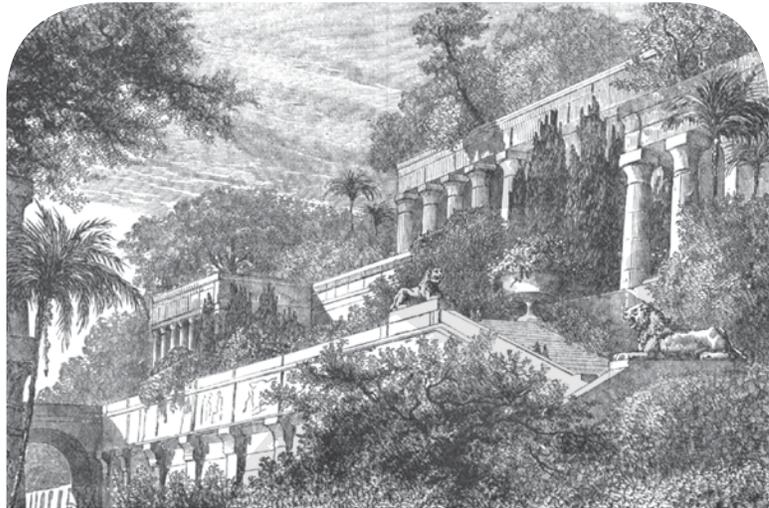
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HUGE STONES WERE USED

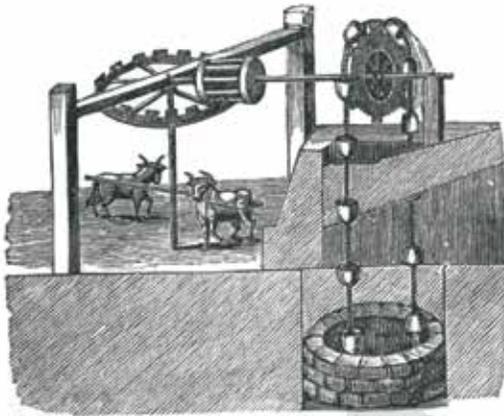
sides were flat and covered with a limestone finish that gleamed in the hot Egyptian sun. The top most point was either made of gold or silver or covered with precious metal. The Great Pyramid has been a tourist attraction since antiquity. Even today people from all over the world flock to see the last wonder of the ancient world.

The Hanging Gardens. The Bible tells us that one of the first kingdoms to emerge after the Flood was created by Nimrod at Babylon (Genesis 10:8–10). The city of



THE HANGING GARDENS

Babylon was at the height of its power under Nebuchadnezzar in the 600s B.C. Nebuchadnezzar married a princess from Media. The new queen missed the mountains and plants of her old home. The city of Babylon was dry, hot, and barren. Nebuchadnezzar loved Queen Amytis and ordered a garden to be built for her.



POSSIBLE WATERING SYSTEM OF THE GARDENS

The term Hanging Gardens is a little misleading. The garden was probably more of a terrace garden on the side of a ziggurat type structure. The ancient writer, Strabo, in his *Geography* says, “the shape of the garden is a square, and each side of it measures four plethra [400 feet]. It consists of

vaulted terraces, raised one above another, and resting upon cube-shaped pillars. These are hollow and filled with earth to allow trees of the largest size to be planted. The pillars, the vaults, and the terraces are constructed of baked brick and asphalt. The ascent to the highest story is by stairs, and at their side are water engines, by means of which persons, appointed expressly for the purpose, are continually employed in raising water from the Euphrates into the garden.”

Many modern historians think the gardens were not real, because the Babylonian records never mention



THE HANGING GARDENS

them. An archaeologist named Robert Koldewey excavated Babylon in the early 1900s and claimed to have discovered the underground chamber from which the gardens were watered. Whether or not the gardens actually existed may never be known, but many ancient writers mentioned them. Perhaps someday



TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS

Temple of Artemis (or Diana as she was sometimes called) was a popular tourist spot for many years. After standing for about two hundred years, the temple was destroyed in 356 B.C. by a madman named Herostratus, because he wished to become famous. The temple was rebuilt in 334 B.C.

In Acts 19:23–41, Paul visited Ephesus. When the craftsmen of the city learned of his arrival, they thought their business would decline if people stopped worshiping Artemis. The craftsmen instigated a riot and gathered at the theater. For two hours they shouted, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians.” Eventually, the people dispersed, and peace was restored. The temple was destroyed the second time in 262 A.D. by the Goths. The remains of the temple were buried in a swampy marsh until archaeologists uncovered them in the 1860s.

The Statue of Zeus at Olympia. In 456 B.C., the Greeks created a statue to honor their chief god, Zeus. The talented sculptor, Phidias, was asked to design the statue. He later designed the statue of Athena that stood in the Parthenon in Athens, but the statue of Zeus was to be his best work. There had been numerous temples built at Olympia (the home of the Olympics), and each grew in magnificence. The statue of Zeus was built of wood overlaid with



TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS

archaeologists will find evidence to support the ancient writers.

The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus.

In about 560 B.C. Croesus, the king of Lydia, conquered the city of Ephesus. Croesus was said to be the wealthiest man on earth. He commissioned the building of a magnificent temple in Ephesus.

This temple was 377 feet long and 180 feet wide with 127 marble columns that were each 60 feet tall. The area between the columns and roof were decorated with elaborate carvings. The

sheets of gold and ivory. The finished statue looked like solid marble.

Zeus was sitting on a throne that rested on a platform three feet high and twenty feet wide. The statue was forty feet high and nearly reached the ceiling. The ancient writer, Strabo, remarked, "Its height was so great, that although the temple is very large, the artist seems to have mistaken its proportions, and although he made the figure sitting, the head nearly touches the roof, and presents the appearance that, if it should rise, and stand upright, it would unroof the temple."

In his left hand, he held the god, Nike, and in his right hand, he grasped a staff. His clothes were decorated with images of carved animals and flowers inlaid with jewels and precious stones. In 462 A.D. the statue was destroyed by fire.



STATUE OF ZEUS



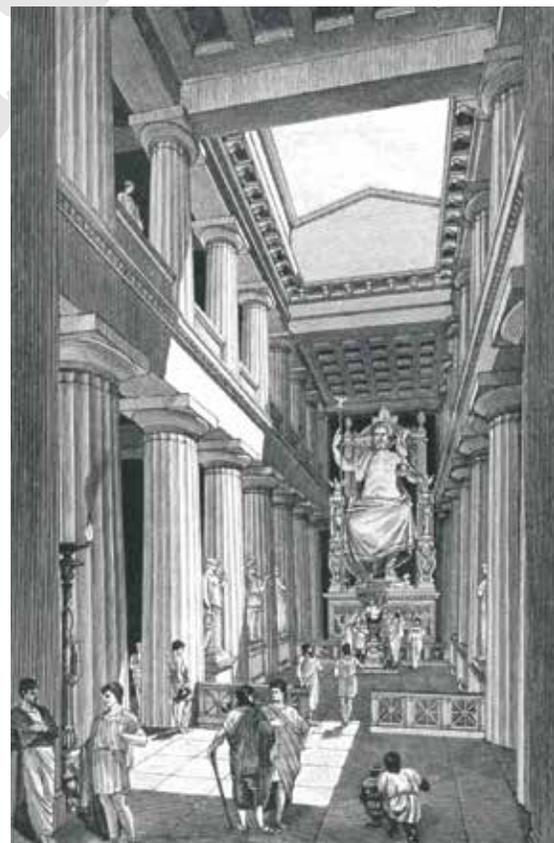
RUINS AT OLYMPIA

Questions

1. Which is the oldest Wonder?
2. Which of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World has survived until now?
3. Which is the second oldest Wonder?
4. Who ordered the first Temple of Artemis to be built?
5. What famous statue was in the Temple at Olympia?

Geography

Use the map in this lesson to find the Great Pyramid, Babylon, Ephesus, and Olympia.



STATUE OF ZEUS

Writing Topic

Pretend you are a Greek writer in 300 B.C. You are sent to Egypt and Babylon to learn more about the Ancient Wonders. Write a paper about your findings.

Timelines

From the *Additional Materials CD*, print the timelines and follow the instructions.

Create a Pyramid with Play Dough

Make some play dough (recipe is on page 25) and create a pyramid out of play dough. You might also try creating the other Seven Wonders using play dough.

Memory Verse

Amos 4:13. Write this verse on a 3" x 5" card and memorize it during the week. Be prepared to recite it during lesson 5.

