

Leaning Tower of Pisa



In 1174, the Italian architect Bonnano Pisano began work on what would become his most famous project: a separately standing bell tower for the cathedral of the city of Pisa.

There was just one “little” problem. Builders quickly discovered that the soil was much softer than they had anticipated, and the foundation was far too shallow to adequately hold the structure.

Sure enough, before long the whole structure began to tilt, and it continued to tilt, until finally the architect and the builders realized that nothing could be done to make the “leaning tower” straight again.

The height of the tower is 183.27 feet from the ground on the low side and 186.02 feet on the high side. The width of the walls at the base is 13.42 and at the top 8.14 feet. Its weight is estimated at 16,000 short tons. Prior to restoration work performed between 1990 and 2001, the tower leaned at an angle of 5.5 degrees, but the tower now leans about 3.99 degrees.

Dr. David Jeremiah, author, evangelist and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, refers to the Leaning Tower of Pisa to ask the question in his book *Turning Points*: “If only the tower had been built on the right foundation. What is the foundation of your life? If it isn’t God, chances are you are tilting one way or another. Make God the rock and foundation that your life is built upon.”

He will be your sure foundation, providing a rich store of salvation, wisdom and knowledge. The fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure (Isaiah 33:6).

– Beecher Hunter