

Comparison of Biblical and Babylonian Creation Accounts

GENESIS ACCOUNT	ENUMA ELISH
God is seen as ultimate source of power; transcends creation.	Magic incantations are ultimate source of power; the gods are subject to nature. III. 101; IV. 1-26, 91*
Organized coverage of creation; systematically includes general realms of nature.	Does not include creation of vegetation, animals or light—the existence of these is assumed. Moon and stars created, but not sun. V. 2-22
Purpose: Praise to God as Lord of creation; acknowledging Him as such. A tribute to God's ultimacy and authority.	Purpose: Hymn of praise to Marduk as champion and mightiest of the gods. Creation is incidental. VI. 100ff.
Begins before things as we know them existed (Gen. 1:1); as God created, He gave names. Gen. 1:5, 8, 10	Begins before heaven and earth were <i>named</i> ; cannot imagine situation before they existed. I. 1-2
Starts with primeval deep. Hebrew: <i>tehom</i> Gen. 1:2	Starts with the deep—fresh water (Apsu) and salt water (Tiamat—cognate of <i>tehom</i>). I. 3-4
Creation given time sequence; set in blocks by "days." Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, etc.	No chronological structure of "days."
Creation by speech. Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 20	Creation from formerly existing matter. IV. 137-140; VI. 33
Waters separated above and below by firmament. Gen. 1:6-8	Corpse of Tiamat divided in two and set up as waters above and below. IV. 137-140
Man created to rule creation. Gen. 1:28	Man created to do the service of the gods so the gods wouldn't have to work so hard. VI, 8, 34
Man created from the soil. Gen. 2:7	Man created from blood of slain hero (Kingu). VI. 33

Comparison of Biblical and Babylonian Flood Accounts

ITEM	GENESIS ACCOUNT	GILGAMESH EPIC
Flood divinely planned	Planned by God	Planned at council of gods Anu, Enlil, Ninurta, Ennugi, Ea, Ishtar
Divine revelation of plan to hero	God wanted to spare Noah because of his righteousness	Ea warned hero, Utnapishtim, in a dream
Reason for flood	Sin of man	Noise of man disturbed the gods' rest
Punishment	Highly ethical and just	Ethically ambiguous and later regretted
Salvation of hero	Included in God's plan	Done secretly
Life saved	8 persons (family), representatives of each animal	Representatives of all living things, beasts, several families, craftsmen, and technicians
Building of boat	Flat-bottomed, rectangular, 300 x 50 x 30 cubits, 3 levels, door, window, pitch coating	Ziggurat-shaped, 120 x 120 x 120 cubits, 7 levels, 9 sections, door, window, pitch coating
Physical causes of flood	More comprehensive: land upheavals, subterranean waters, heavy rains	Rains, winds, breaking of dikes
Duration of flood	40 days, 40 nights	6 days and nights
Landing of boat	Mountains of Ararat	Mount Nisir
Sending of birds	Raven, dove (3 times)	Dove, swallow, raven
Acts of worship	Sacrifice of worship	Sacrifice for appeasement
Blessing of hero	Earthly covenant	Divinity, immortality

GENESIS TERMINOLOGY AND RELATED MATTERS

TNK/TNCH > **TANACH** (TORAH + NEVI'IM + KET(H)UVIM) = 22/24 SCROLLS

TORAH (HEBREW) = INSTRUCTION, TEACHING, **LAW** (< nomos in LXX > lex
in Latin > law in Engl.)

& second usage = GENESIS—DEUTERONOMY (first 5 books)

PENTATEUCH (from GREEK pentateuchos) = 5 books/scrolls in one volume

GENESIS—DEUTERONOMY in LXX and English

GENESIS (CREATION TO DESCENT OF HEBREWS INTO EGYPT)

GEOGRAPHY & LANGUAGE & PEOPLES

ASSYRIOLOGY

AKKAD/ACCAD

AKKADIAN/ACCADIAN

SUMER/SUMERIA

SUMERIAN

ASHSHUR > ASSHUR > ASHUR (AKKADIAN) > ASSUR (GREEK)
> ASSYRIA

BAB-EL > BABYLON > BABYLONIA

NAHARAIM (HEBREW)/ MESOPOTAMIA (GREEK)

ARAM/SYRIA

ARAM-NAHARAIM

MITZRAIM = EGYPT (UPPER & LOWER)

NIMROD

ERECH/URUK

NINEVEH (KUYUNJIK & NEBI-YUNUS)

CALAH/KALHU (NIMRUD)

UR

EBLA

UGARIT

NUZU/NUZI

MARI

HATTI-LAND/HETH/HITTITES (HATTUSA—BOGHAZ-KOY)

TIGRIS

EUPHRATES

NILE

HIEROGLYPH(IC)S

HEBREW

ARAMAIC

UGARITIC

SHEM (HEBREW) > SEM (GREEK) > SEMITIC

LITERATURE & ART

ENUMA ELISH
MARDUK (MERODACH)
TIAMAT & KINGU (> “ABORIGINES”)
HYMN TO PTAH (DIVINE PATRON OF MEMPHIS)
HYMN TO RA/RE
ATRAHASIS EPIC
GILGAMESH EPIC
SUMERIAN KING LIST
ADAPA
NUZI ARCHIVES
MARI ARCHIVES
CODE OF HAMMURABI (-PI)
ANUBIS & BATA
BENI HASAN TOMB PAINTING

GENERAL

PRIMEVAL (pri-ME-v’l) HISTORY Belonging to the first or earliest age(s); original
B.C. = B.C.E.
A.D. = C.E.
ZIGGURAT (TEMPLE TOWER)
SOURCE CRITICISM (DOCUMENTARY HYPOTHESIS)
ORAL TRADITION
FORM CRITICISM
TEXTUAL CRITICISM
POLEMIC
POLYTHEISM
MONOTHEISM
DEMYTHOLOGY (-OGIZING)
MASORETES/MASORETIC TEXT (MT)
AUTOGRAPH
MANUSCRIPT(S)/MS/MSS
SCROLLS
PAPYRUS (-RI)
PARCHMENT
CODEX (CODICES)