

# Genesis 6-9

"THE FLOOD" NARRATIVE

Journey Through Genesis

# Points to cover (Part 1)

**Christian Interpretation and Meaning**

**Compare and Contrast**

- Numbers, dates and ages O MY!
- Priestly vs Yahwest account

**Comparative Myth**

- Ante-diluvian world
- Nephilim
- Sumerian Flood Narrative
- Epic of Gilgamesh

# Points to cover (Part 2)

House Keeping

Chiasm: God Remembers Noah

Comparative Myth

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Chapter 9

- Noah's Drunk and Curse of Canaan
- Renewed CovenantCovenant

# Chiastic Structure in Genesis Flood Narrative

## Meta-Narrative

A: Noah and his sons (Gen 6:10)  
B: All life on earth (6:13:a)  
C: Curse on earth (6:13:b)  
D: Flood announced (6:7)  
E: Ark (6:14-16)  
F: All living creatures (6:17-20 )  
G: Food (6:21)  
H: Animals in man's hands (7:2-3)  
I: Entering the Ark (7:13-16)  
J: Waters increase (7:17-20)  
X: God remembers Noah (8:1)  
J': Waters decrease (8:13-14)  
I': Exiting the Ark (8:15-19)  
H': Animals (9:2,3)  
G': Food (9:3,4)  
F': All living creatures (9:10a)  
E': Ark (9:10b)  
D': No flood in future (9:11)  
C': Blessing on earth (9:12-17)  
B': All life on earth (9:16)  
A': Noah and his sons (9:18,19a)

"God  
remembers  
Noah"

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# Ante-diluvian World

Pre-flood

Ancient "Great" Society

- Cain's sons invent music, civilization and technology
- Atlantis and other "lost cultures"

Sumerian King List (long ages)

- Apkallu or Ummanu
- Wise, powerful kings
- Same technology as Cain's sons...

**A Pre-Flood  
World**

# Sumerian King List



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# Nepilium

## Sons of God and Daughters of Men

- "Desire" and "Good"
- "Come into" vs "Know"

## Giants or Fallen (Upon) Ones

- Heroes of old
- Examples throughout Scripture
  - In the Promise Land
  - Other "tribes"
  - Certain kings like Og
- Gilgamesh...Heracles

**Sons of God  
-  
Daughters of  
Men**

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# Comparative Myth

## Sumerian Flood Narratives

- Sumerian Epic of Ziusudra
- The Epic of Atrahasis
- The Epic of Gilgamešh

## Characters or Heros

- Ziusudra
- Atrahasis
- Utnapishtim



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  - Na'ish



# Comparative Myth

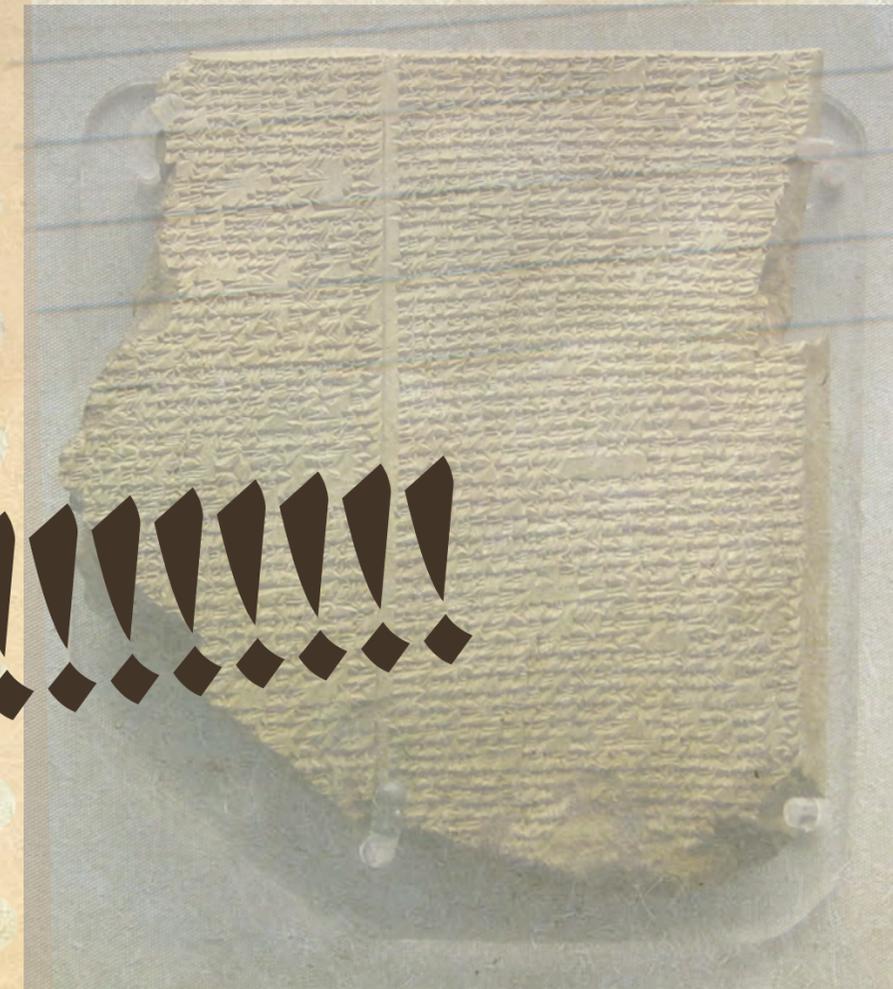
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- Atrahasis
- Utnapishtim
  - Utna'ishtim
  - Na'ish
  - Noah

**THE SAME STORIES!!!!!!!**



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- Atrahasis
- Utnapishtim
  - Utna'ishtim
  - Na'ish
  - **Noah**



<b>INTRO</b>	<b>Eridu Genesis</b>	<b>Atrahasis</b>	<b>Gilgameš</b>	<b>Bible</b>	<b>Berosus</b>	<b>Greece</b>	<b>Quran</b>
Date	3d millennium BCE	c.1640 BCE	c.1100 BCE	c.1000-500 BCE	278 BCE	c.700 BCE?	c.600 CE
Revolt	?	lesser gods	?	giants?	monsters?	giants	-
Hero	Ziusudra	Atrahasis	Ut-napištim	Noah	Xisuthrus	Deucalion	Nuh
Country	Šuruppuk	Šuruppak	Šuruppak	-	Sippar	Thessaly	-
Destroyer	Enlil	Enlil	Enlil	YHWH	Enlil	Zeus	Allah
Warning	Vision	Dream	Indirect order	Direct order	Dream	?	Direct order
Reason	Noise?	Noise	?	Sin, giants	?	Sin, giants	Sin
Cause	Stormflood	Rain	Stormflood	Rain, fountains	-	Rain, waves	"from the valley"
Savior	Enki	Enki	Enki	YHWH	Enki	Prometheus	Allah
Period	7 days	7 days	7 days	150/40 days	"quickly"	9 days	?
Birds	?	?	raven, dove, swallow	doves/raven	"several"	none	-
Destination	?	-	Nimuš	Ararat	Gordyene	Parnassus	Al-Gudi
Fate	Eternal life	Eternal life	Eternal life	3 sons	Eternal life	3 grandsons	-

Intro Eridu Genesis Atrahasis Gilgamesh Bible Berossus Greece Quran

Date 3d millennium BCE c.1640 BCE c.1100 BCE c.1000-500 BCE 278 BCE 1000 BCE c.600 CE

Revolt Sumerian Flood Narratives lesser gods ? giants ministers ?

Hero Ziusudra Atrahasis Utnapishtim Noah Xisuthrus Deucalion Nuh

Country Suruppak Uruk Suruppak Suruppak Shippar Thessaly

Destroyer Enlil Enlil Enlil YHWH Enlil Zeus Allah

Order Vision In reverse order Direct order Dream ? Direct order

Reason Noise? ? Sin, giants ? Sin, giants Sin

Cause Stormflood Rain Stormflood Rain, fountains - Rain, waves "from the valley"

Savior Enki Enki Enki YHWH Enki Prometheus Allah

Period 7 days 7 days 7 days 150/40 days "quickly" 9 days ?

Birds Utna'ishtim ? raven, dove, doves/raven "several" none

Destination Noah ? Nimuš Ararat Gordyene Parnassus Al-Gudi

Fate Eternal life Eternal life Eternal life 3 sons Eternal life 3 grandsons

Comparative Myth  
www.livius.org/articles/misc/great-flood/

Comparative Myth

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Revolt	2	lesser gods	?	giants	ministers	giants	-
Hero	Ziusudra	Atrahasis	Utnapishtim	Noah	Xisuthrus	Deucalion	Nuh
Country	Suruppak	Suruppak	Suruppak	Uppur	Uppur	Thessaly	-
Destroyer	Enlil	Enlil	Enlil	YHWH	Enlil	Zeus	Allah
Order	Vision	Inverted order	Inverted order	Direct order	Dream	?	Direct order
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Period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Destination	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fate	Eternal life	Eternal life	Eternal life	3 sons	Eternal life	3 grandsons	-

<https://www.livius.org/articles/misc/great-flood/>

1. INTRODUCTION	1a. Genesis 6	1b. Genesis 7	1c. Genesis 8	1d. Genesis 9
<b>1e. Reconstruction</b>	1f. Quran, Sura 71	1g. Quran, Sura 11	2. SUMER	2a. The Eridu Genesis
3. BABYLONIA	3a. Atrahasis	3b. Gilgameš	3c. Berosus	4. GREECE AND ROME
4a. Apollodorus	4b. Ovid	4c. Hyginus	5. ARCHAEOLOGY?	6. COMPARISON

# Comparative Myth

## Gilgameš

## Bible

Wall, wall! (21)

Make the seed of all living beings go up into the boat. (27)

to keep their seed alive (7.3)

Roof it over like the Apsu. (31)

Make a roof for the ark (6.16)

the Great Gods moved to inflict the Flood (14)

I have determined to make an end of all flesh (6.13)

And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth (7.10)

build a boat! (23)

Make yourself an ark (6.14)

I answer the city, the populace, and the Elders (35)

Tear down the house ... spurn possessions and keep alive living beings! (23)

I cannot reside in your city (40)

# Comparative Myth

broke it into pieces like a pot (107)

And the flood came, overwhelming the people like an attack (109)

No one could see his fellow, they could not recognize each other in the torrent. (111)

Six days and seven nights came the wind and flood (127)

all the human beings had turned to clay (134)

And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. (7.12)

And all flesh died that moved upon the earth (7.21)

I opened a vent (136)

On Mount Nimuš the boat lodged firm (141)

When a seventh day arrived (146)

I sent forth a dove and released it. The dove went off, but came back to me (147)

Noah opened the window of the ark (8.6)

the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat (8.4)

He waited another seven days (8.10a)

he sent forth the dove out of the ark, and the dove came back to him (8.10b)

# Comparative Myth

a profusion of fowl, myriad fishes (44)

The carpenter carried his hatchet, the reedworker carried his stone, the child carried the pitch, the weak brought whatever else was needed. (50)

units of pitch [to cover] it (66)

I had all my kin go up into the boat (85)

cover it inside and out with pitch (6.14)

Go into the ark, you and all your household (7.1)

all the beasts and animals of the field (86)

I went into the boat and sealed the entry. (93)

Erragal pulled out the mooring poles (101)

He shattered the land like a raging bull, (107)

Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground (7.8)

And they that entered ... and YHWH shut him in (7.16)

# Comparative Myth

I sent forth a raven (153)

He sent forth a raven  
(8.7)

I sacrificed ... I burned  
incense (156)

Then Noah built an  
altar to YHWH, ... and  
offered burnt  
offerings on the altar.  
(8.20)

The gods smelled the savor  
(160)

YHWH smelled the  
pleasing odor. (8.21)

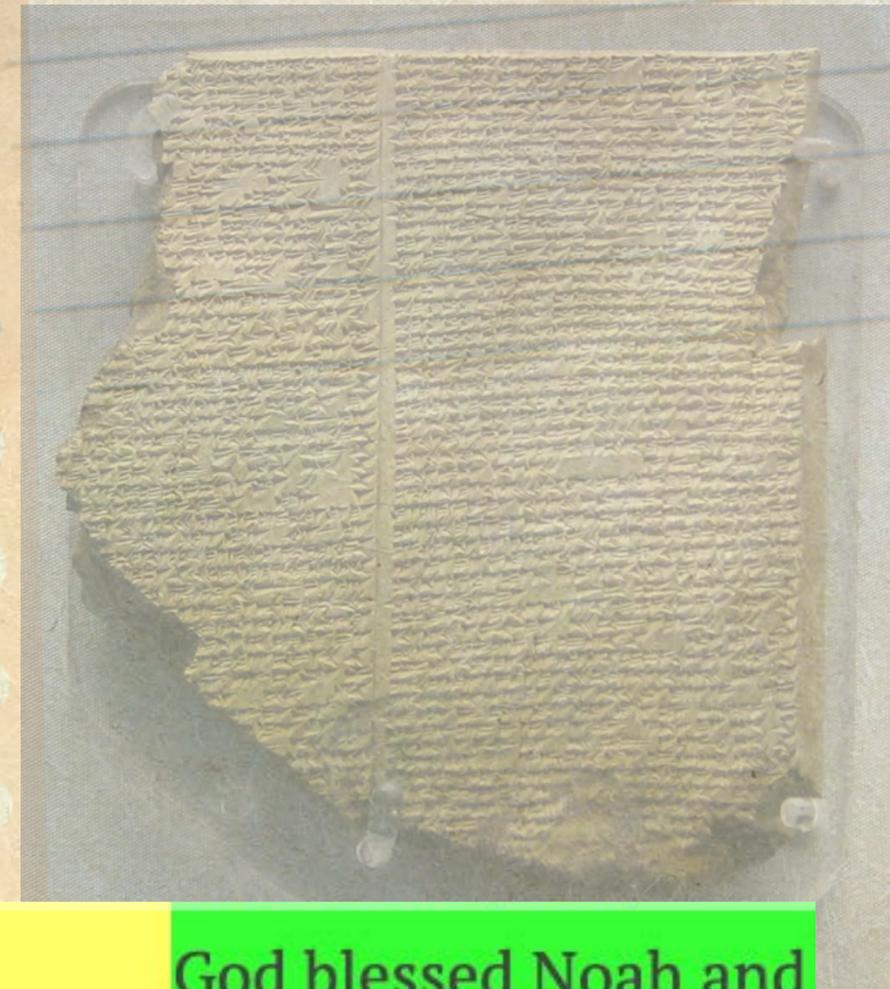
may I be mindful of these  
days, and never forget them  
(165)

I will remember my  
covenant ... I will  
remember (9.15)

He blessed us (201)

God blessed Noah and  
his sons (9.1)

let Ut-napištim and his wife  
become like us, the gods  
(203)



# Comparative Myth

Why was there a flood?

Who sent the flood?

Who warned Noah?

Divine life lost or gained?

What else stands out?

**Genesis and  
Sumeria**

# Chapter 9: Renewed Covenant

- God-human-(ALL) creation
  - Hierarchy and all things (not just animals)
- Retributive Justice (limiting)
  - shofekh [spills]
    - dam [blood]
      - ha'adam [of the human],
      - ba'adam [by the human]
    - damo [his blood]
  - yishafekh [will be spilled]  
(= A B C C' B' A').
- 3 "covenants" "Look. I now confirm my covenant with you"
  - "And I, I **am about to** establish My covenant with you
  - And I **will** establish My covenant with you,
  - "**This is the sign of the covenant...**"
  - This is the first repetition of God making a promise (Gideon)

# Chapter 9: Noah's Drunk and Curse of Canaan

- Noah's sons

- Shem
- Japeth
- Ham - father of Canaan.

OR

- Noah's sons

- Shem
- Ham - father of Canaan.
- Japeth

- "Uncovered" and "look upon"

- Was Ham disrespectful or more?
- You "can't" see a patriarch's nakedness...
- Ham tells the brothers

# Chapter 9: Noah's Drunk and Curse of Canaan

Some, as early as the classical Midrash, have glimpsed here a Zeus-Chronos story in which the son castrates the father or, alternately, penetrates him sexually. The latter possibility is reinforced by the fact that “to see the nakedness of” frequently means “to copulate with,” it is noteworthy that the Hebrews associated the Canaanites with lasciviousness (see, for example, the rape of Dinah, Genesis 34).

Genesis: Translation and Commentary . W. W. Norton & Company.

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- Why does Noah curse Canaan not Ham?

- Written later...
- Noah "prophecies" of Canaan's wickedness

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- This story **WAS** written as a justification for the enslavement of Canaan by the Israelites.
- It is "racist" propaganda just like Lot's daughters with Moad and Esau with Edom.
- **This story has been abused to enslave millions of people of color and was often quoted by slave owners.**

# Looking Ahead Chapter 10-11

Remember this is uncreation

God Remembers Noah

Covenant Restored

Zooming in

Tables of Nations!!!!

Getting ready for Abraham