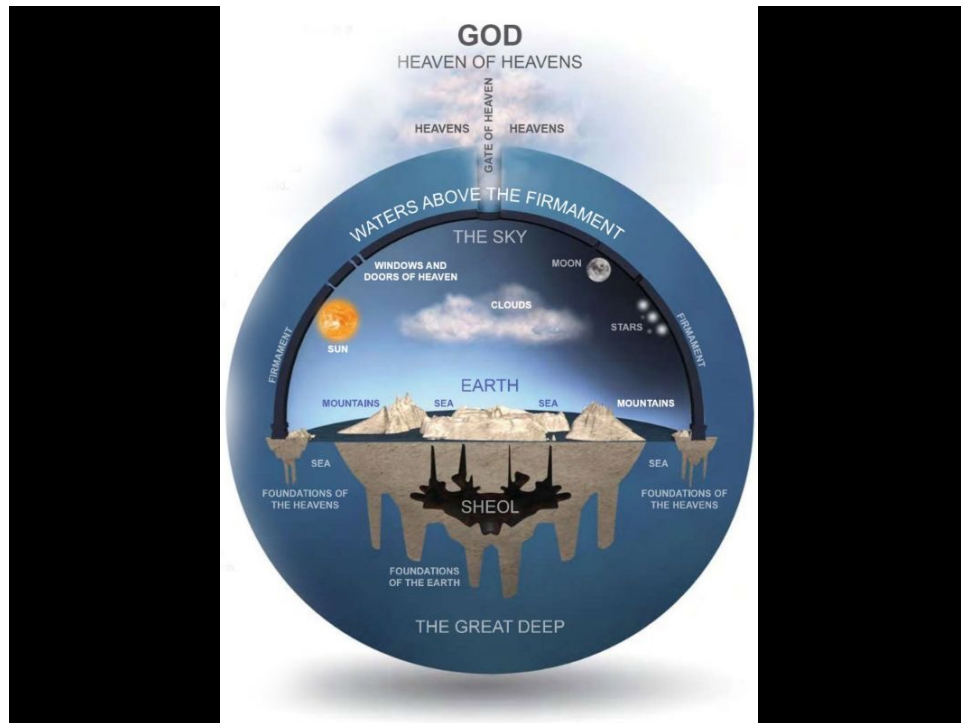


Ancient Near East Worldview

- Three cultures influenced the culture and the worldview of the Israelites more than any other culture.
 - **Egyptians**
 - **Babylonians**
 - **Canaanites**



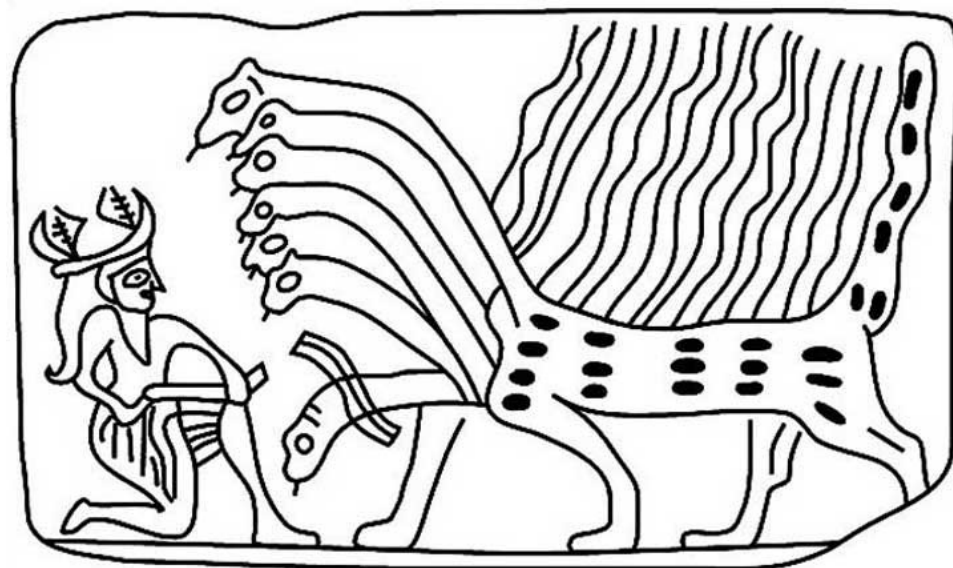


Ancient Near East Worldview

Chaos is the empty un-ordered state of the cosmos before the created order.

Symbols of chaos

- Sea/storm
- Serpent/dragon/leviathan
- Darkness



Ancient Near East Worldview

- The people of the ancient Near East were mostly valued..
 - **Fertility of crops and livestock**
 - **Fertility of children**
 - **Security of borders**
- They observed that all life came from **sex** and the **soil**.
- And all life was sustained by:
 - **Seeds (of humans and plants)**
 - **Blood**
 - **Water**
 - **Air**

The Pagan Creation Myths

- All ancient creation myths begin with a **primordial chaotic waters** that is seen as the void.
- Out of the primordial waters come the **gods** and a **cosmic mountain of land**.
- There is usually a battle with the chaotic sea monster before they create.

The Pagan Creation Myths

The most high gods of the ancient Near East.



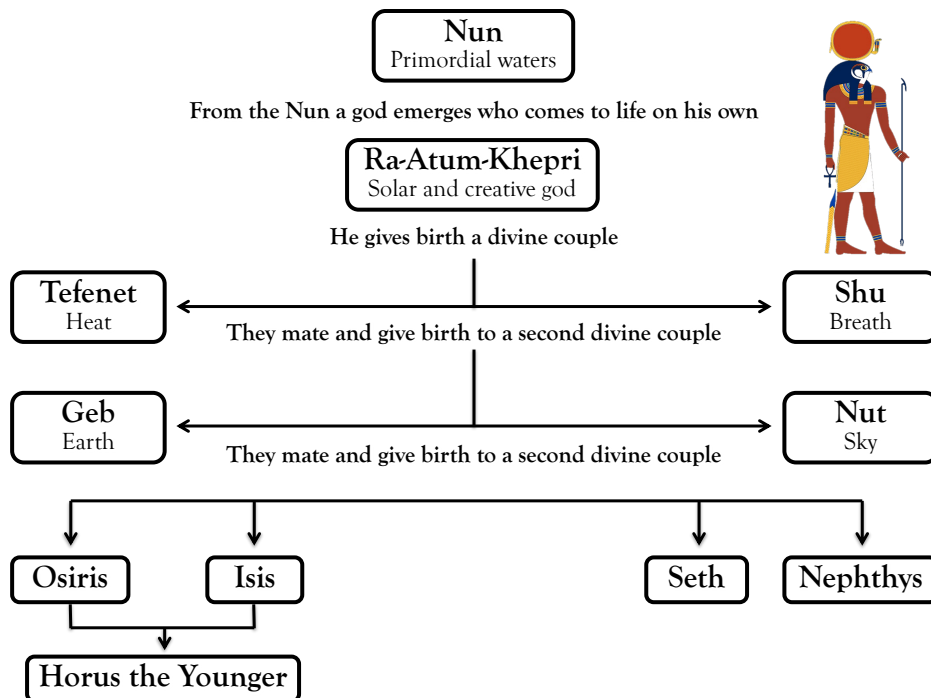
Ra (Egyptian sun god)

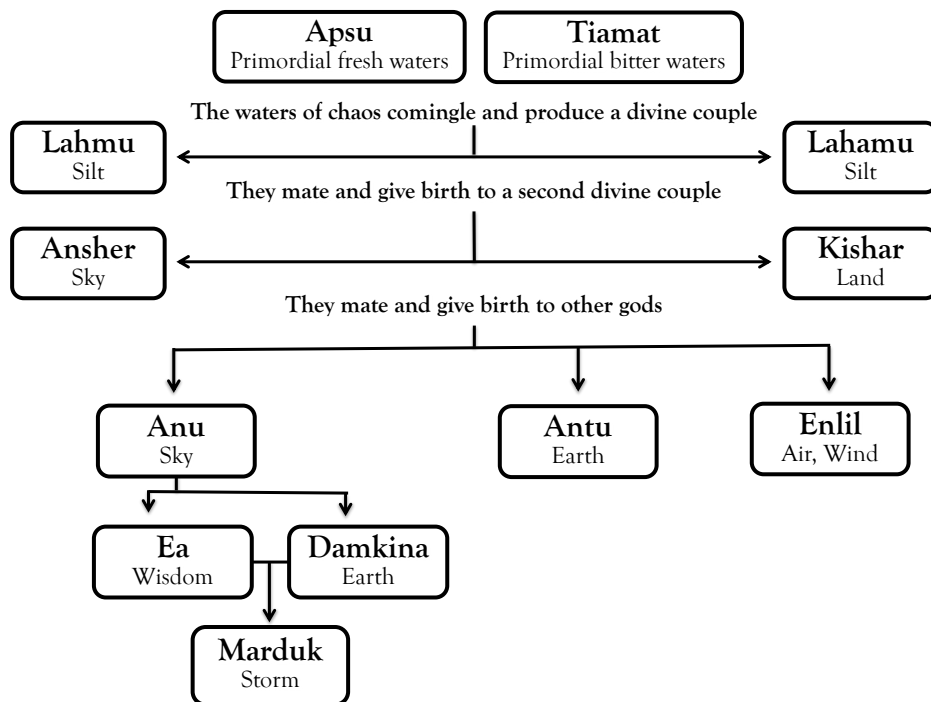


Marduk (Babylonian storm god)



Baal (Canaanite storm god)







Marduk



The Pagan Creation Myths

The nature of the gods

- The gods have an origin.
- The gods come from the chaos and are immoral.
- The gods need humans in order to eat.

How the gods created the world

- The gods battled the chaos monster in order to rule.
- The gods created from chaos.
- Different gods created different things.
- Humans were created as an afterthought as slaves.

Introduction to the Bible

The Bible is a theological book, primarily interested in explaining who God is and how humanity can know Him and have a relationship with Him.

The **main idea** of the Bible is that the covenantal Yahweh prepared a believing people from whom the messiah would come. This messiah would redeem humanity from their sin and rebellion so they could receive His blessings.

Introduction to the Bible

The Metanarratives of the Bible

- Yahweh is the sovereign and loving Creator and King of heaven and earth.
- Humans were created to be the image of God rooted in the land of blessing.
- Humans live in exile as sinners in rebellion against Yahweh.
- Israel is the chosen people whose purpose is to be a blessing to the nations.
- Yahweh is redeeming humanity and creation from their exile back into the garden.

Introduction to the Bible

The **purpose** of the book of Genesis is to reveal the character of Yahweh to the family of Abraham, so that He could bless them and the world through them.

The First Creation Account (Gen. 1)

1:1 In the beginning God created the sky and land.

1:2a Now the earth was formless and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep,

1:2b and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

The First Creation Account (Gen. 1)

- 1:1** Creation of sky and land, (water)
- 1:2a** Formless and empty = wasteland
Darkness = no life
Watery deep = chaos
- 1:2b** Spirit of Yahweh hovers over life-giving waters
- 1:3-2:3** Seven-day creation

The First Creation Account (Gen. 1)

Forming	Filling
1 Separated light from darkness	4 Lights for day and night
2 Separated sky from the waters below	5 Creatures of the air and water
3 Separated water from land and plants	6 Creatures of the land and humanity
7 Yahweh entered and rested in the garden, which was His temple on earth	

- Yahweh undoes the chaos (abyss), darkness, and the formlessness and emptiness.
- Yahweh pronounces each day as good.
- Evening means “disorder” and morning means “order.”
Yahweh bring order to the chaos.

The First Creation Account (Gen. 1)

“Yahweh’s shout is heard over the **water**; the majestic God thunders, Yahweh appears over the **surging water**... Yahweh sits enthroned over the **engulfing waters**, Yahweh sits enthroned as the eternal king.” (Ps. 29:3,10)

“Your throne has been secure from ancient times; you have always been king. The **waves roar**, O Yahweh, the **waves roar**, the **waves roar** and crash. Above the sound of the **surging water**, and the mighty **waves of the sea**, Yahweh sits enthroned in majesty.” (Ps. 93:2-3)

The First Creation Account (Gen. 1)

“But God has been my king from ancient times, performing acts of deliverance on the earth. You **destroyed the sea** by your strength; you shattered the heads of the **sea monster** in the **water**. You crushed the heads of **Leviathan**; you fed him to the people who live along the coast. You broke open the spring and the stream, You dried up perpetually flowing rivers. You established the cycle of day and night you put the moon and sun in place. You set up all the boundaries of the earth; you created the cycle of summer and winter.” (Ps. 74:12-17)

The First Creation Account (Gen. 1)

“O Yahweh, sovereign God! Who is strong like you, O Yahweh? Your faithfulness surrounds you. You rule over the **proud sea**. When its **waves surge**, you calm them. You crushed **Rahab** and killed it; with your strong arm you scattered your enemies. The heavens belong to you, as does the earth. You made the world and all it contains.”
(Ps. 89:8-11)

The First Creation Account (Gen. 1)

“The **watery deep** covered it like a garment; the waters reached above the mountains. Your rebuke made the **waters** retreat; at the sound of your thunderous voice they hurried off as the mountains rose up, and the valleys went down to the place you appointed for them. You set up a boundary for them that they could not cross, so that they would not cover the earth again.” (Ps. 104:6-9)

The First Creation Account (Gen. 1)

“At that time Yahweh will punish with His destructive, great, and powerful sword the **Leviathan** the fast-moving **serpent**, **Leviathan** the squirming **serpent**; He will kill the **sea monster**.” (Isa. 27:1)

The First Creation Account (Gen. 1)

Forming	Filling
1 Separated light from darkness	4 Lights for day and night
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- Yahweh undoes the chaos (abyss), darkness, and the formlessness and emptiness.
- Yahweh pronounces each day as good.
- Evening means “disorder” and morning means “order.” Yahweh bring order to the chaos.
- The seventh day Yahweh ceases (rest), sanctifies His creation, and enters it as His temple.

The First Creation Account (Gen. 1)

- Verse 26—Purpose: humanity is to rule and subdue.
- Verse 27—3-7: male and female as the image of God.
- Verse 28—Command: humanity is to rule and subdue.

- Image is representation of Yahweh and responsibility over creation.
- Likeness is to reflect the character of Yahweh.
- Humanity is to make Yahweh's creation look like Him.
- They are commanded to be fruitful and multiply.
- They were created to be equals.

The Second Creation Account (Gen. 2)

- The emphasis is on the connection between the land/soil (*adama*) and the humans (*adam*).
- They were to till and keep the garden.
- They were to be kings and priests, who were to join Yahweh and maintain His redemption of creation
- They were to expand the garden, the kingdom of Yahweh.



The Second Creation Account (Gen. 2)

The Adamic Covenant

Requirements

- Be fruitful and multiply
- Expand (till and keep) the garden
- Do not eat of the tree of knowledge

Blessings

- Rule and subdue
- Dwell with Yahweh (Eden and Tree of Life)

Sign

- The tree of life
- This covenant is conditional.