Old Testament Survey

Genesis 6-11

Double Tradition of J and P in Noah

- What elements in the story of Noah would indicate two sources?
  - **Two reasons given for God's intention to destroy world: 6:5 - wickedness of humankind; and 6:11 -violence throughout earth**
  - **6:19 says bring 2 of each kind of animal, male & female; 7:2 says bring 7 mating pairs of clean and one pair of unclean animals**
  - **7:4 & 12 says it rained 40 days & nights; 7:24 says waters surged over earth for 150 days**
  - **7:8-9 says animals came on the ark; 7:15 again says animals came on ark**

Comparison of J and P in the Noah Story

J Source	P Source
*Use of name YHWH	*Use of name Elohim
*no account of building ark	*specific dimensions of ark
*clean and unclean animals	*one pair of animals, "male & female" — reference to P creation
* animals described as having "breath of life" and being on the "face of the ground" — reference to J creation	*details of Noah's age, measurements, dates
*40 days of rain	*150 days of flood from waters below ground and above firmament like waters of P creation
*YHWH acts because of wickedness	*God acts because of violence

Utnapishtim and Noah

- What are the specific similarities between the two stories?
- What are the specific differences between the two stories?
- What do the similarities and differences tell us about the nature of the divine for each tradition?
  - Which do you find to be more “true”?

Utnapishtim & Noah

Similarities

- Human family saved from flood by God(s)
- Told to take mating pairs of animals
- End of flood determined by sending out birds
- Sacrifice to God(s) after flood
- Rainbow in sky

Utnapishtim & Noah

Differences

Utnapishtim

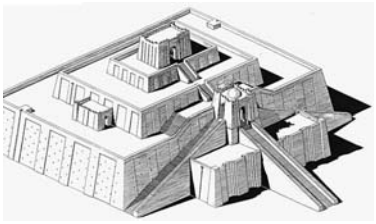
- Polytheistic
- Gods act from irritation with noise
- God saves Utnapishtim as return for favor
- Cube-shaped ark
- Brings craftsmen & gold — urban setting
- God is angry that a human escaped
- Utnapishtim given immortality

Noah

- Monotheistic
- God acts out of morality
- God saves Noah and family because they are righteous
- Shoe-box shaped ark
- Brings only family — rural setting
- God is sorry for having destroyed humans
- All humankind given a covenant not to destroy world again

Babel

Image found on Bandstra CD-ROM (file:///D:/rtot/resources/ch1/CH1_F4.JPG)



- From Hebrew word “confusion”
- Reflects historical reality of ziggurats of Mesopotamia, e.g., Ziggurat of Nabonidus
- Pre-Abrahamic story ends on note of alienation of humans from YHWH

Genesis 1-11

Artful Skill of the Final Editor (Bandstra p. 89)

A. Creation (1-2) ▸ Deeps ▸ Blessing ▸ Mandate ▸ Food ▸ Adam worked ground	A. Re-creation (8:1-9:17) ▸ Deeps ▸ Blessing ▸ Mandate ▸ Food ▸ Noah worked the ground
B. Adam/Eve ate fruit ▸ Fruit of the tree ▸ Nakedness exposed	B. Noah drank fruit of the vine ▸ Wine ▸ Nakedness viewed
C. Cain sinned & cursed	C. ham sinned and Canaan cursed
D. Genealogy: Adam-Noah	D. Genealogy: sons of Noah
E. Sons of God ▸ Divine-human mix ▸ Men of a name [shem]	E. Tower of Babel ▸ Reach heaven ▸ Make a name [shem]
F. Flood (6:5-7:24)	F. Genealogy of Shem
Result: Undoing of creation	Result: Covenant with Abram & makes his name [shem]