

DISCOVERING GOD

THROUGH THE BIBLE #3 – GENESIS AND GILGAMESH

If you have ever attended a college class on comparative religions or read a book such as, Myths of the Bible, it is common to hear that stories in Genesis are nothing more than a *rip-off* of near-Eastern creation mythologies.

Most common is a reference to the creation days in the Babylonian Enuma Elish, or the flood story found in the Sumerian Gilgamesh Epic.

Here is how it works.

The college professor enumerates the similarities; the Bible on the left, the Enuma Elish on the right. The themes or events on the lists become almost identical and, in the same order.

The natural conclusion is that the Genesis account is an elaborate expansion of pagan creation stories.

The problem with this approach is that it does not tell the whole story.

Rather than looking only at the professor's list or reading the specific verses out of context, if you take a thorough look at these Babylonian-Sumerian documents the message is quite different.

First, what jumps out at you immediately are not similarities to the Biblical account, but rather, vast *differences*.

Rather than another Bible, you find yourself reading about successive generations of gods and goddesses battling each other over food, drink and sexual relations with each other. You find dragons and monsters, both terrestrial and celestial. You read of blood and saliva becoming rivers; bodies being cut into pieces to become continents; the earth floating on a saltine sea; stars and planets that are, or become, gods and goddesses or, body parts of gods and goddesses.

Second, you find vast *omissions*

Rather than a creation event consistent with modern science as in the Genesis account, you find astrological events completely out of order with an emphasis on astrology and the zodiac, the sun and moon transporting through *gates* or *doors* in the inverted bowl of the sky, no creation of vegetation or animals and, all this amid pleas from the dozens of gods for order out of chaos.

Perhaps most startling, rather than the elegant, poetic and scientific creation of man as described in Genesis, the god Marduk is orchestrating and killing other gods so man can be created from the blood of a god so as to feed Marduk's blood lust and ego.

As to similarities, blood mixed with dirt seems to be similar to man's creation from dust found in Genesis and, three of the many gods are involved in the creation of man before they start killing each other off. Some point to 7 days of creation however, scholars agree the order is mixed and, there are clay tablets missing which point to 9 or 10 Babylonian creation days, not 7.

Although there are in fact, words and alluded to events in the Enuma Elish and Gilgamesh epics which are common to Genesis, Moses transforms these words and utterly pagan events into concepts that are eons away from their source material and, which are in fact, compatible with 21st century science.

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