

# Chapter 19

Monotheism: the religion of the Israelites

# First Chapter of Genesis

First chapter of Genesis: is a poem about creation of world

Israelites believed God cared about the earth and its people

Adam and Eve (first man and woman)

Garden of Eden → where Adam and Eve lived

Snake tempts Eve to taste a “forbidden fruit”

Disobey God (had commanded them not to eat this fruit), banished from Garden of Eden, now had to “work” to survive

# The Great Flood

God becomes angry at mankind: the Flood

Decides to destroy mankind; saved one good man and his family (Noah)

Noah is commanded to build an ark and take a male and female of all the living creatures of the earth onto his ark

Flood waters rain for 40 days and 40 nights

Rainbow: God's promise that he will never again flood the earth

# What Does that remind you of?

Story is similar to Mesopotamian flood story of Utnapishtim

Similarities: household of one man saved, both warned about incoming flood, both told to build a boat and fill it with animals

Differences: Reason for the flood (Israel → punishment, Mesopotamia → mankind loud and Enlil could not sleep), the “gods” much different from one another (Israel → one god, expected them to worship him, Mesopotamia → many gods that expected people to serve and care for them)

God of Israelites: combines traits of Ea and Enlil

Flood stories too much alike not to be related (ancient tradition behind both)

# Tower of Babel

Israelites believed that, at first, all peoples spoke a common language

Built a huge tower of baked bricks, god becomes angered that people are proud and rebellious

God causes people to speak different languages and could no longer work together on the Tower of Babel (people then scattered to different lands)

# Abraham

Israelites' original ancestor

God gives him a promise: he will bless Abraham and make his name great

Had two sons: Issac (Israelites) and Ishmael (Arabs)

# Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors

Joseph = Issaac's grandson

Sold into slavery by his brothers because they are jealous of him and his coat

God is with Joseph in Egypt and he becomes powerful; in charge of all the land

Brothers, desperate from a famine, come to trade with Egypt

Joseph reconciles with his brothers and they move to Egypt where they resided until the time of Moses