

Creation in Babylon's *Enuma Elish* and Book of Genesis

THEME	ENUMA ELISH	GENESIS
<i>Nature of divinity</i>	Two primal "parent" gods and their children gods	One God, Creator of Heaven and Earth
<i>How living things came to be</i>	Through a violent battle between a child god (Marduk) and the mother goddess (Tiamet)	Through God's speaking (Gen 1)
<i>Zone of sacred presence</i>	The gods live within the city of Babylon (meaning of Akkadian word is "gate of the gods"); outside all is chaos	God is "above" and "beyond" all of creation, yet is also fully present everywhere in creation (1.1; 3.8)
<i>Status of human beings</i>	Made to do the work "below" the dignity of the gods	Bear the image of God (1.26-27)
<i>Source of human food</i>	Surplus agriculture gained through slavery and irrigation	Fruit of trees (1.29; 2.9, 16)
<i>The garden</i>	Within the city, accessible to humans	Not in a city, created good, but now barred to humans because of human disobedience (2.8-16; 3.24)
<i>Role of cities</i>	Place of divine presence and order, made by the gods	Place apart from God's presence and order, made by humans in rebellion against God (4.16-17)

The Flood in Babylon's *Gilgamesh* and Book of Genesis

THEME	GILGAMESH	GENESIS
<i>reason for Flood</i>	humans are too populous and hence, too noisy	Moral corruption of humanity
<i>Narrative form leading to flood</i>	contentious heavenly dialogue	Divine monologue
<i>Divine relationship to events</i>	fearful deities who "cowered like dogs"	God in total control
<i>Relationship of divine to the survivor's sacrifice</i>	The gods "crowded around the sacrifice like flies"	God smelled the pleasing odor
<i>Status of hero</i>	Ziusudra (also known as Utnapishtim) is a royal figure	Noah as righteous but ordinary person