

# Rescued for Relationship

Genesis 6:5-9:17

# ARK

## ENCOUNTER



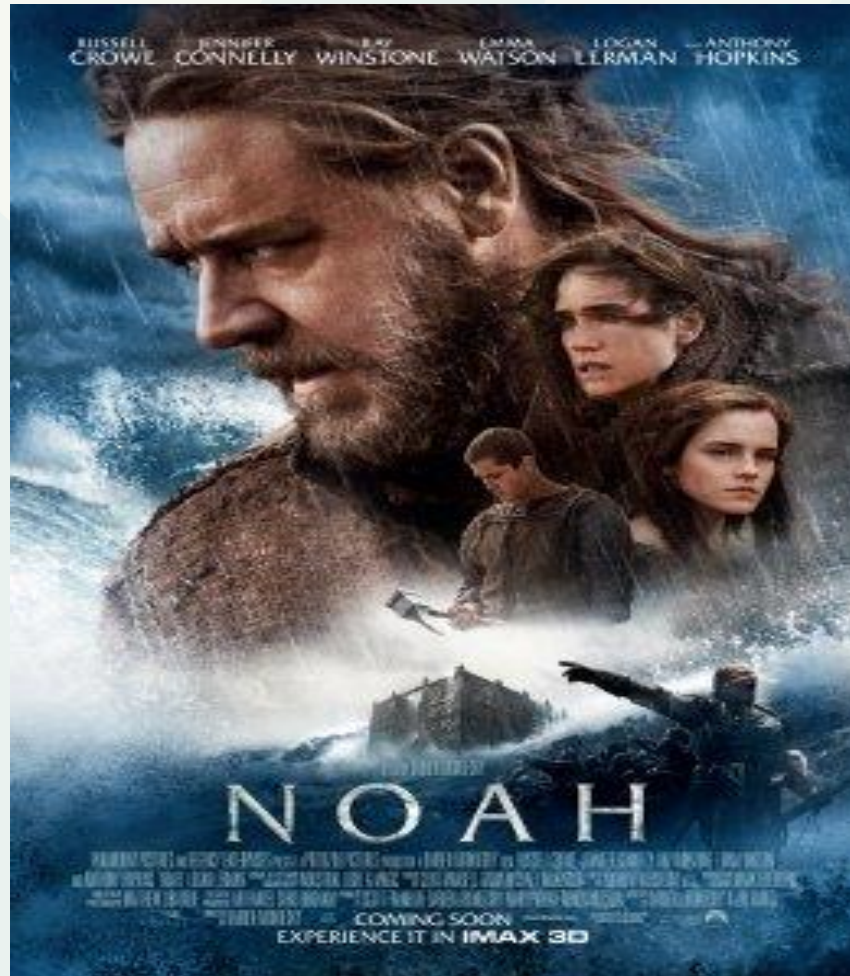
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# The Ark Encounter in Wilmington, Kentucky





# Noah (2014)



# The biblical Flood-Story (Genesis 6:5-9:17)

Our familiarity  
with the story can  
obscure its  
meaning!

The author of  
Genesis devotes  
30% of Genesis 1-  
11 for the 'Flood-  
story'!

So what DID it  
mean?

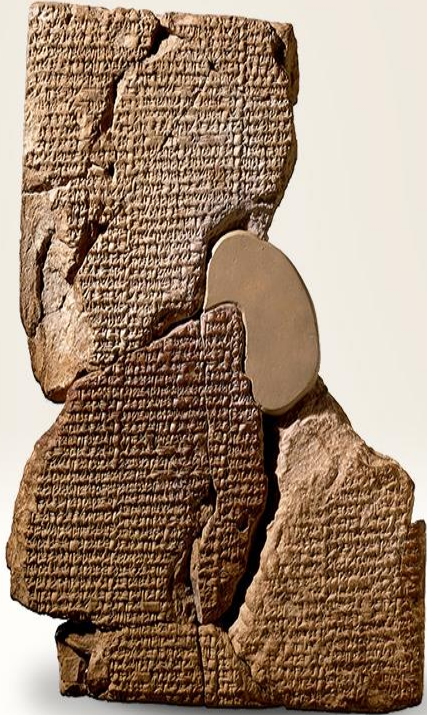
Despite the extreme and universal depravity of humankind, God so loved the world that he determined to rescue the human race and the planet with the obedient collaboration of one faithful man, through whom he gave the world a new beginning and with whom he made a lasting covenant relationship

# The biblical flood-story has counterparts in the ancient world



# Mesopotamian Flood Stories

## Atrahasis Epic



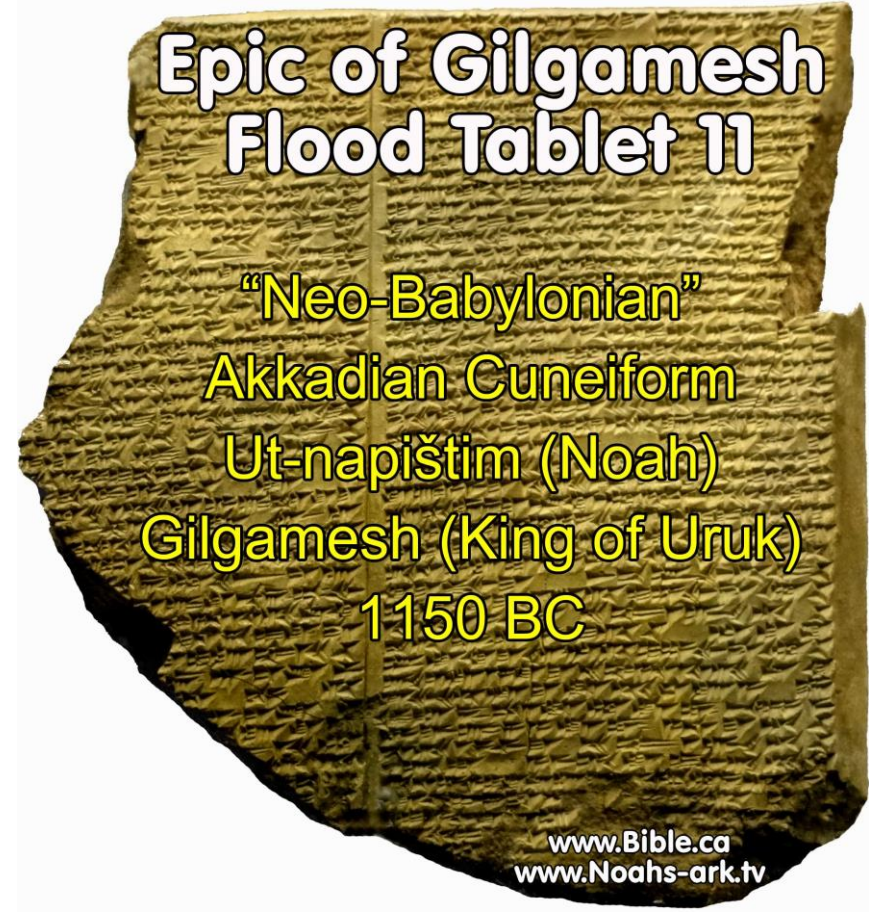
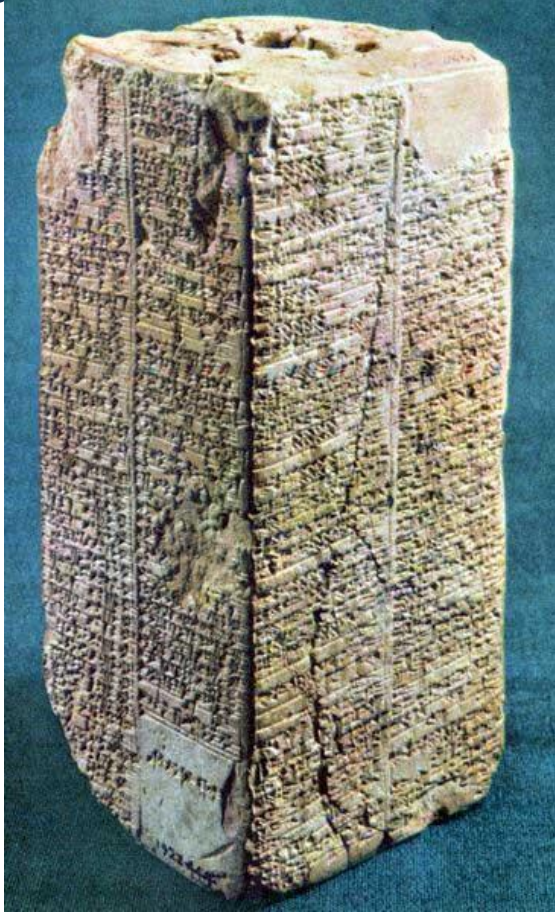
The Torah  
— EOB

“The most remarkable parallels between the Old Testament and the entire corpus of cuneiform inscriptions from Mesopotamia are found in the deluge accounts”

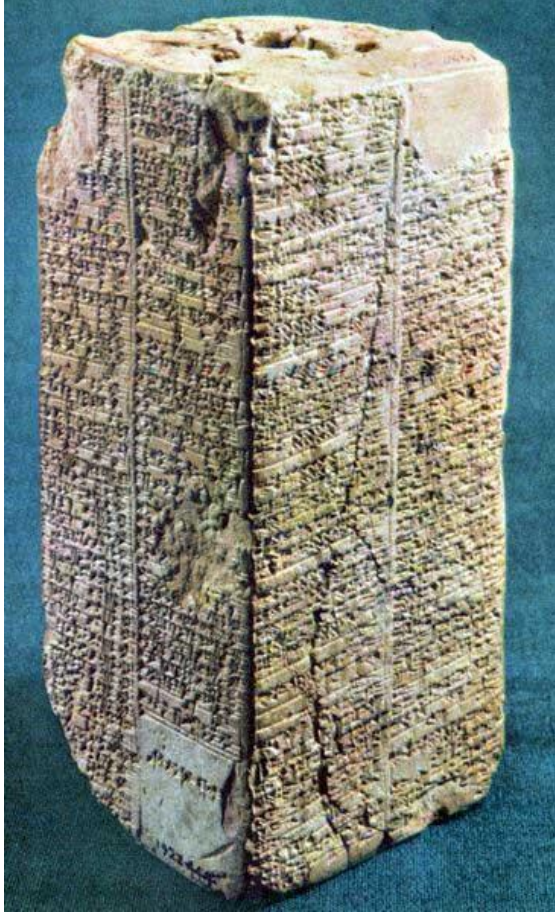
**A Heidel**



# The *Sumerian Kings list* and the *Gilgamesh Epic*



# The Sumerian Kings List



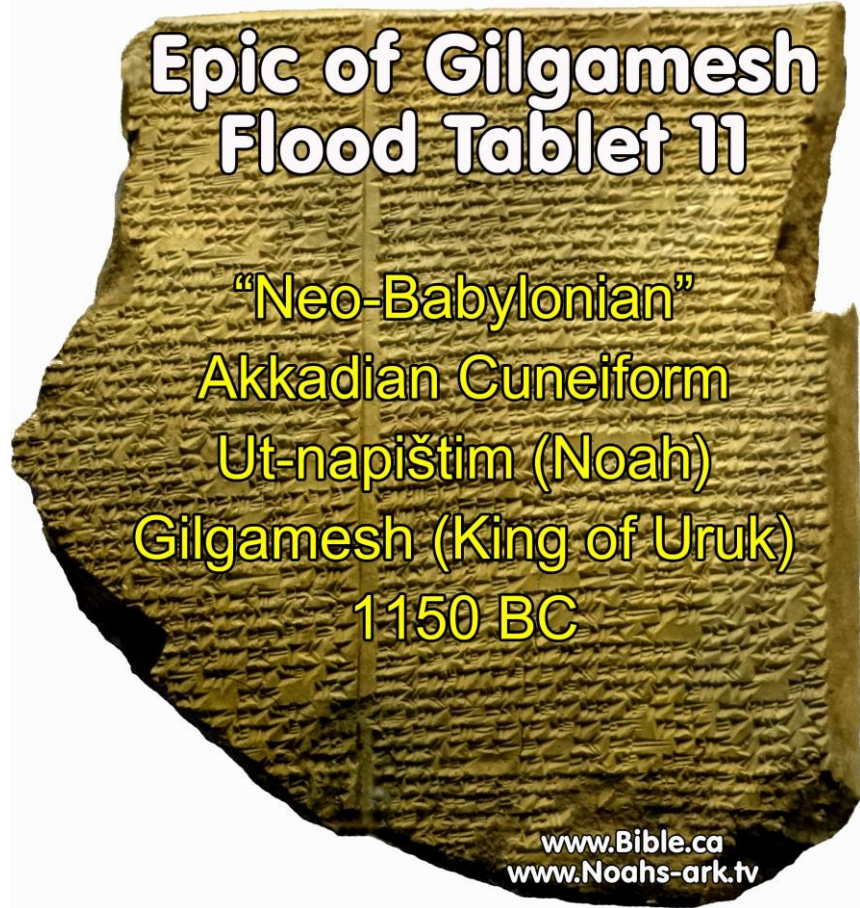
Two lists of Mesopotamian kings with the story of a universal flood told in-between:

**“These are five cities, eight kings ruled over them for 241,000 years. Then the Flood swept over the earth”**

(Victor Hamilton, translation of the Sumerian Kings list)



# The epic of Gilgamesh



Gilgamesh was a king whose longing for eternal life led him to meet Utnapishtim who had survived 'the Flood' and had been granted immortality!



alamy - G15H20

Because Utnapishtim  
and his wife had  
outwitted the gods  
and had survived the  
flood, the chief god  
was pressured to  
bestow immortality on  
them!



# What caused the Flood?

In the Gilgamesh Epic the gods are threatened by humans multiplying and irritated by humans making so much noise!

In the Bible God is grieved by the moral bankruptcy of the whole of society and wants to wipe away sin!

<sup>5</sup> The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.

<sup>7</sup> So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created-- and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground-- for I regret that I have made them."


**GENESIS 6:5-7**

The LORD saw how *great* the wickedness of the human race had become *on the earth*, and that every *inclination* of the *thoughts of the human heart* was *only evil all the time*

GENESIS 6:5

# The Reformers called this condition

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# Total Depravity



# Westminster Catechism on 'Total Depravity'

"By this sin they [our first parents] fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and so became dead in sin, wholly defiled in all the parts and faculties of soul and body.

They being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed, and the same death in sin, and corrupted nature conveyed to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation"

# Five critical aspects of our sin-condition in Genesis 6:5

1. The magnitude of sin is **great**: "God saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become"
2. The spread of sin is **universal**: "on the earth"
3. The power of sin is **thoroughly corrupting**: "every inclination . . . was only evil"
4. The operation of sin is **insidious**: "the thoughts of the human heart"
5. The persistence of sin is **enduring**: "all the time"



<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.

<sup>29</sup> They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,

ROMANS 1:28-32

<sup>30</sup> slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;

<sup>31</sup> they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

<sup>32</sup> Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

ROMANS 1:28-32



# Genesis 6:6-8

The Grief of  
God!

The Grace of  
God!

<sup>6</sup> The LORD *regretted* that he had made human beings on the earth, and *his heart was deeply troubled*.

<sup>7</sup> So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created-- and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground-- for I *regret* that I have made them."

GENESIS 6:6-8: THE GRIEF OF  
GOD!

The Grief of God motivates him to terminate the created world (6:6-7)

Does God  
feel pain?

Does God  
“regret” and  
change his  
mind?

“As he approached the Jerusalem and saw the city, **he wept over it** and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes”

LUKE 19:41-42



The grace of God motivates him to  
rescue the created world (6:8)



turning  
point

“But Noah found  
favour in the  
eyes of the  
LORD”

“The LORD said, I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians . . .”

EXODUS 3:7-8

Despite the extreme and universal depravity of humankind, God so loved the world that he determined to rescue the human race and the planet with the obedient collaboration of one faithful man, through whom he gave the world a new beginning and with whom he made a lasting covenant relationship

# Key differences between the biblical story of Noah and ancient parallels.

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I. Different understandings of 'God'

II. Different presentations of the flood-hero

III. Different explanations for the reason for a Flood

# Echoes of the 'Ark' in the books of Moses

Why is baby Moses's watercraft called an "ark" (*tevhah*)?

Exodus 2:3 & 5

Moses is the new 'Noah': saved from the water to preserve a people and start a new chapter of human history in a new land with a new covenant!



# The Tabernacle and the Ark!

“Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you”

Exodus 25:8-9

“So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high.

Genesis 6:14-16

Why are the instructions  
for building the  
Tabernacle similar to the  
instructions for building  
the Ark?

Exodus 27:9-13

Is the Tabernacle like  
Noah's Ark?

- A place of safety and salvation!
- A place for the Chosen!
- A place for the pleasing worship of Yahweh God!

# Timeless lessons from the Flood Story

- I. The finality of God's moral standards
- II. The nature of God's judgments
- III. The tenderness of God's mercy
- IV. The assurance of God's covenant  
commitment

# I. The finality of God's moral standards

- Unlike the gods of Mesopotamia, Yahweh God cannot be bribed, He has no favourites, and He cannot be pressured to conform
- Our sin affects God and he suffers the pain of our fallenness
- All sin is intolerable to the Holy God of the Bible



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## II. The nature of God's judgment

- God judges to redress the moral balance of society
- God judges to purge the world of sin
- God judges to start again



# III. The tenderness of God's mercy

"I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark – you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you" **Genesis 6:18-19**

# IV. The assurance of God's covenant commitment (Genesis 9:8-17)

- A universal covenant with all creation (9:8-10)
- An absolute promise (9:11; 2 Peter 3:3-7)
- An unmistakable sign (9:12-17)







Despite the extreme and universal depravity of humankind, God so loved the world that he determined to rescue the human race and the planet with the obedient collaboration of one faithful man, through whom he gave the world a new beginning and with whom he made a lasting covenant relationship



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