

GENESIS 6-9 — NOAH & THE FLOOD

Many ancient traditions include stories about how the gods tried to destroy humankind with a great flood, for example, the Enuma Elish myth and the Gilgamesh epic, both from Mesopotamia c. 2000 BCE. The Bible's version is carefully structured to show a movement from judgment to grace.

Genesis

5:32 Genealogy, Part 1 _____

6:1-4 Prefix _____

A Movement toward Chaos

6:5-8 Introduction _____

6:9-12 Violence in the world _____

6:13-22 God's 1st Speech _____

7:1-5 God's 2nd Speech _____

7:6-10, 11-16 The Flood Begins _____

7:17-24 The Waters Rise _____

A Movement toward a New Creation

8:1-5 The Waters Recede _____

8:6-14 The Earth Dries Up _____

8:15-19 God's 3rd Speech _____

8:20-22 Renewed Order _____

9:1-17 God's 4th Speech _____

9:20-27 Appendix _____

9:28-29 Genealogy, Part 2 _____

The events in this story are summarized on the back side of this sheet. Number each group in their proper order, and place those numbers on the lines above. Do you notice any discrepancies or patterns? Some paragraphs talk about "the Lord," others about "God," for example. Some have pairs of all animals; some have 7 pairs of "clean" animals. Some say that "all breathing things" die; others, "all flesh" dies. Scholars assume the biblical narrative is a conflation of two different sources. What do you think? Does it make a difference?