

“If we ask where the world came from, Genesis answers: God. If we wonder why the universe continues to operate in an orderly, timely, predictable fashion, the answer in Genesis is God. And as we ponder how all this ancient information has been preserved and passed down to us, the answer again is God...”

BERESHITH

RIVAL STORIES - ENUMA ELISH

*When in the height heaven was not named,
And the earth beneath did not yet bear a name,
And the primeval Apsu, who begat them,
And chaos, Tiamut, the mother of them both
Their waters were mingled together,
And no field was formed, no marsh was to be seen;
When of the gods none had been called into being,
And none bore a name, and no destinies were ordained;
Then were created the gods in the midst of heaven...*

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)

6 DAYS OF SPEAKING

As we continue to think about the theme of showing who God is through the creation account we also note that he doesn't just make the heavens and the earth, he spoke them into being, "God said..."

Discuss – As the creation narrative challenged the gods of Moses' day, what 'gods' of the 21st Century does it challenge and how?

LIGHT

Physical

- Sun
- Moon - reflective
- Stars

Metaphorical

- Spoken Light
- Earthly and Heavenly Temple lights
- Jesus is the light of the World
- Day = Light

JOSEPH

DREAMS

“Dreams in the ancient world were considered derived from the divine realm and were thus taken seriously. Dreams by prophets and kings often contained theophanies offering divine revelation. The ordinary dreams of common people were believed to contain omens that communicated information about what the gods were doing, though they usually made no reference to deity.”

Walton

GENESIS 38 - WHY?

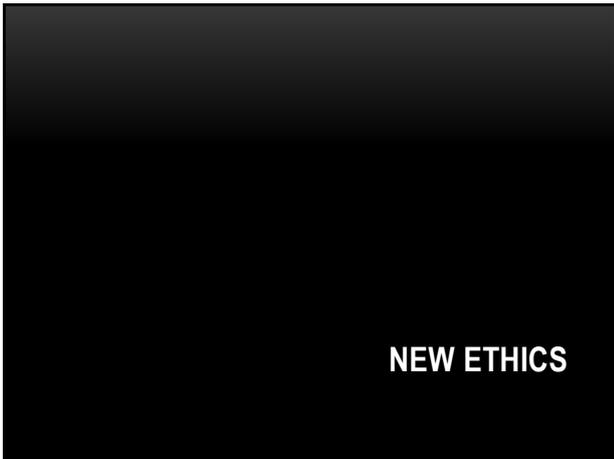
GENESIS 38 - WHY?

- Jacob speaks the following concerning Judah in Genesis 49:8-12
- Judah will be the dominant tribe in Israel (v. 8).
- Judah will be lion-like in courage and strength (v. 9).
- The Messiah will come from the tribe of Judah (v. 10)
- His coming brings peace, joy and prosperity (v. 11-12)

GENESIS 39

- "the LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man" (39:2)
- "the LORD was with him" (39:3)
- "the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand" (39:3)
- "the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph" (39:5)
- "the LORD's blessing was upon all that he owned" (39:5)
- "the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him" (39:21)
- "the LORD was with him" (39:23)
- "whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper" (39:23).

Strassner, K.





READING THE TOP, MIDDLE AND BOTTOM LEVEL

- Promise of blessing and land (Jacob in Canaan)
- Sin and removal from the land (Sons lives and into Egypt)
- Redemption purposes in punishment through being saved from ultimate consequences (Deliverance from permanent loss and saved to regain identity)

- Living in the land (Israel and Judah)
- Sin and removal from the land (Israel to Assyria, Judah to Babylon)
- Redemption through 70 years exile to regain identity (Judah only)

- Blessing of the birth of Messiah (Jesus!)
- Exile to Egypt for safety
- Redemption through cross for humanity
