Hello and welcome to the weekly resources for REL-1310!

These resources are structured a bit differently from other online study guides on the Baylor Tutoring website because the content in these courses are organized largely around biblical histories and narratives. Please take a look at other weekly resources listed on our website for additional topics from Christian Scriptures throughout the semester. Your professor might be discussing these topics in a different order than presented here.

We also invite you to take a look at the group tutoring chart on our website to see if this course has a group tutoring session offered this semester.

If you have any questions about these study guides, group tutoring sessions, private 30-minute tutoring appointments, the Baylor Tutoring YouTube channel or any tutoring services we offer, please visit our website www.baylor.edu/tutoring or call our drop-in center during open business hours, M-Th 9am-8pm on class days, at 254-710-4135.

Primeval History (Genesis 1-11) Study Resource

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Terms

- **Genesis**: Greek word meaning “origin.”
- **Bereshit**: Original Hebrew name of the book of Genesis (pictured above). Translated as “In the beginning,” which is the first line of the book.
- **Primeval history**: The first 11 chapters of the book of Genesis. It seeks to answer questions about the beginning of the world and civilization.
- **Tohu/bohu**: Hebrew words meaning “unformed” and “unfilled.” This was the state of the world before God created it.
- **Adam**: Hebrew word meaning “man/creature of dust”
- **Adamah**: Hebrew word meaning “dirt” or “dust”
“adam” from “[adam]ah” = “[dust creature]” from “dust”

Notable Characters
- **God**: The creator being. Called “YHWH” or “Elohim” in Hebrew.
- **Adam**: The first man God created. His name means “man,” or “creature of dust.” He was Eve’s husband.
- **Eve**: The first woman God created. She was the wife of Adam.
- **Serpent**: The deceiving character from the Garden of Eden.
- **Cain**: Son of Adam & Eve who murdered his brother Abel.
- **Abel**: Son of Adam & Eve. He was killed by his brother Cain.
- **Noah**: Righteous man who was spared during the worldwide flood.

Genesis 1
- God creates the world.
- Emphasis on 7 days
- Days 1-3 form the world.
- Days 4-6 fill the world.
- Literary pattern of creation story: 1) Divine command, 2) Forming/filling of the earth, 3) summary phrase
- Large-scale, more general creation story
- God called “Elohim,” translated as just “God.”

Garden of Eden
- **Genesis 2**:  
  - Genesis 2 creation portrays God in anthropomorphic (human-like) terms.
  - Small-scale, more intimate creation story.
  - God called “YHWH,” translated in this chapter as “the LORD God.”
- **Genesis 3**:  
  - The man & woman (**Adam & Eve**) are deceived by the serpent and sin.
  - This is called “the Fall.”
- God curses the serpent as a result and tells the man and woman that man will endure hard work and woman will endure painful childbirth as a result of trying to live their way instead of living under God’s commands.
- As man and woman are expelled from the garden, God clothes them in an act of kindness.
- Genesis 4:
  - Abel and his brother Cain both offer sacrifices to God.
  - Cain kills Abel because God favors Abel’s sacrifice.
- Genesis 5: Genealogy of Adam’s family

Genesis 6-9
- Humankind becomes corrupt.
- Noah and his family found favor in God’s eyes, so God instructs them to build a boat.
- God sends a flood.
- After the flood, God makes a covenant with Noah to never “destroy every living creature” again (8:21).

Genesis 10
- Genealogy of Noah’s family.
- Origin of “Table of Nations”.
- Japheth’s descendants: People of Asia Minor.
- Ham’s descendants: Egyptians.
- Shem’s descendants: Semitic peoples.

Genesis 11
- Story of the Tower of Babel.
- This story explains the presence of many languages in the Ancient Near East.
- Another example of rebellion against God (alongside eating the fruit in Eden, Cain killing Abel, and the corruption of humanity in Genesis 6).
Genesis Creation vs. Enuma

**Genesis Creation**
- One God (Yahweh/Elohim)
- World created through God speaking
  - Peaceful story
- Humans cared for by God
- Humans made to be caretakers of earth

**Enuma**
- Multiple gods (Apsu, Tiamat, Marduk)
- World created by the goddess Tiamat's body
  - Chaotic war story
- Gods are neutral towards humans
- Humans made to be slaves of the gods
Test your knowledge!

Answers are at the bottom of the document.

1) In which chapter of Genesis is God portrayed in a human-like manner?
   a. Genesis 1
   b. Genesis 2

2) In which creation story do the God/gods show care for the humans that they create?
   a. Genesis
   b. Enuma Elish
   c. Both

3) Which of Adam & Eve’s sons killed the other, and why?
   a. Cain killed Abel because Abel stole his birthright.
   b. Abel killed Cain because God liked Cain more.
   c. Cain killed Abel because God favored Abel’s sacrifice.
   d. Abel killed Cain because Cain was their mom’s favorite.

4) Which story does NOT portray humans rebelling against God?
   a. Adam & Eve eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
   b. Noah building an ark
   c. The building of the tower of Babel
   d. They are all examples of humans rebelling against God.

5) Which of the following is NOT a name for God in Genesis?
   a. YHWH
   b. Elohim
   c. Marduk
   d. These are all names for God in Genesis.

Answers: 1) b. 2) a. 3) c. 4) b. 5) c.