

REL 1310 – Christian Scriptures

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:
 - o Genesis 2 creation portrays God in anthropomorphic (human-like) terms.
 - o Small-scale, more intimate creation story.
 - o God called “YHWH,” translated in this chapter as “the LORD God.”
- Genesis 3:
 - o The man & woman (**Adam & Eve**) are deceived by the serpent and sin.
 - o 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

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

- 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.