

Correlations Between Enuma Elis and Genesis

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Abstract

I wrote this piece in response to a question prompting me to compare two religious texts. I chose to compare Babylonian Genesis and the Genesis in the Bible because I felt they corresponded the best. The differences in the deities and creation stories contrast well, and I thought they were both particularly interesting to read. My class talked some about these works, and I was inspired by these conversations when writing my paper.

While writing this paper, I was forced to really absorb the two texts and analyze them in detail. For example, I have heard the story of Genesis all my life, but I had not read it myself or thought too deeply about the actual wording. Because I was raised Catholic, I had to look inward and decide what to believe after finding out that the stories I was taught were not exactly told as they were written.

Introduction

Enuma Elis, also known as the Babylonian Genesis, is a religious work that was written around the 13th century BCE. It is a series of seven stone tablets that tells the story of the war of the gods, and the subsequent creation of the Earth. These tablets served as the basis of religion in the Babylonian Empire.

Genesis is the first book of the Christian and Hebrew Bible. It was written about one hundred years earlier than Enuma Elis, around 1400 BCE. Genesis also tells the creation story, though the two stories are very different.

In my essay, I dove into the similarities and differences between the two pieces and analyzed the logical sense of each story.

Experimental Writing Process

Before I started writing this paper, I was a bit scared because I did not think that there was enough material to write a nearly five-page paper. Once I started writing, however, I quickly realized how wrong I was. Each work holds many intricacies that I had not discovered before writing. What began as a dry, mandatory essay, turned into an incredibly interesting exploration of two different religious works.

Class Discussion

In class, Professor Ulrich had us think deeply about what it is that each text said literally, not what we understood at first glance. This thorough examination of each work formed the basis of my paper. The most relevant part of class discussions, though, was the relationship between humans and the gods or god. This dialogue is the reason I was able to connect as deeply as I did to each work. Both texts had interesting stories, but the touching part was how I, in the present day, fit into those stories.

Results and Discussion

In conclusion, writing this paper gave me a brand new insight on my life. Although it sounds generic, examining the work that I spent so much of my life taking for granted, Genesis, opened my eyes to its imperfections, while not taking away from its importance.

In addition, learning about a religion that I had previously never interacted with, Enuma Elis, gave me a new perspective on some ancient civilizations and how similar yet different the people of those times were to us.



Four of the Tablets of Enuma Elis.



The Creation of Adam by Michelangelo, 1508-1512

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