

Creation: Genesis vs. The Enuma Elish (Babylonian Creation Myth)

Similarity:

- Both **Genesis** and the **Enuma Elish** (a Babylonian creation myth) describe the world **starting in chaos** before an orderly creation.
- Both involve a **powerful being bringing the world into existence**.

Key Differences That Reveal God:

Genesis – *God speaks* creation into existence with **purpose, order, and love** (Genesis 1).

- **God is sovereign**, needing no battle or struggle to create.
- Humans are **made in God's image**—with dignity, value, and purpose.

Enuma Elish – The world is created **through war and violence**.

- The god **Marduk kills the chaos dragon Tiamat** and forms the world from her corpse.
- Humans are **created as slaves** to serve the gods.

What This Reveals About God:

- The **Bible's God is radically different** from pagan gods—He doesn't create out of violence but **out of love**.
- Humanity is not **an afterthought or slaves**; we are **created for relationship with God**.

The Flood: Noah vs. The Epic of Gilgamesh

Similarity:

- Both describe a **massive flood** that wipes out most of humanity.
- Both have a **righteous man** (Noah vs. Utnapishtim) who is told to **build a boat** and save life.
- Both stories end with a **sacrifice to the divine** after the flood.

Key Differences That Reveal God:

Genesis – *God judges with justice, but also with mercy and a covenant*.

- The flood is a **response to human wickedness**, not because the gods are annoyed.
- Noah is saved **because of faithfulness**, not trickery.
- God makes a **covenant** (Genesis 9:12-15) never to destroy the earth this way again.

Gilgamesh – The flood happens because **the gods are irritated by human noise**.

- Utnapishtim is **spared by accident**, not divine justice.
- The gods **panic and cower** at the flood, showing their weakness.

What This Reveals About God:

- God **acts with justice, not arbitrary destruction**.
 - He **extends grace** and promises **hope for the future**.
 - The **Bible's flood narrative has a moral purpose**, while the pagan version is about **capricious gods**.
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Moral Law: The Ten Commandments vs. The Code of Hammurabi

Similarity:

- Both **The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)** and **Hammurabi's Code** lay out laws for society.
- Both include **laws about justice, property, and relationships**.

Key Differences That Reveal God:

Ten Commandments – *Rooted in God's holiness and love for humanity.*

- **"You shall have no other gods before me."** The foundation is **worship and love of God** (Exodus 20:3).
- Justice is **equal for all** (Deuteronomy 16:19-20).
- Commands focus on **both external actions and inner morality** (e.g., "Do not covet").

Hammurabi's Code – *A rigid, caste-based system that favors the elite.*

- Justice is **unequal**—different punishments based on class.
 - *"If a nobleman kills another nobleman, he shall be put to death."*
 - *"If a nobleman kills a slave, he shall pay a fine."*
- No moral commands about **loving others or worshiping one true God**.

Slavery: While Hammurabi's Code treated slaves as property, biblical law recognized their dignity and provided protections absent in other ancient cultures.

Women:	Hammurabi's Code	Old Testament
	Were treated as property under male control.	Were created in God's image, giving them inherent value.
	Laws were harsh and unequal, favoring men.	Biblical laws protected women from unjust treatment.
	woman's value depended on her fertility and obedience.	Were given property rights, legal protections, and leadership roles.

What This Reveals About God:

- **God is just and impartial**—His law applies to **all people equally**.
- Morality isn't just about **actions** but about **the heart**.
- The **Ten Commandments call for faithfulness, holiness, and love**—not just order and punishment.

Final Takeaway: The Bible Stands Apart

While the **Bible shares themes** with ancient stories, its differences **reveal the heart of God**:

- **A God of order, not chaos** in Creation.
- **A God of justice and mercy**, not fickleness, in the Flood.
- **A God of holiness and love**, not just law and punishment, in His moral commands.
- The **Bible doesn't just mirror ancient myths—it transforms and corrects them**, revealing the **one true God**.