

REVERSING HERMON

Chapter 3: The Apkallu

10 and 13 October 2024

Learning objectives

- Know why Genesis includes verses 1-4 about angels, giants and a flood.
- Identify the apkallu with the watchers.
- Contrast Genesis 6 with Mesopotamian mythology.
- Explain why Jesus had to 'reverse hermon'.

Mesopotamian apkallu myths

Israelites listened to pagan myths all the time. So, did the Hebrew Bible writers:

- borrow from those creation, angel, and flood myths?
- make up their own similar myths?
- or have some other reason for including Genesis 6:1-4 in their Scriptures?

Apkallu origins & depictions

- Created in the "river", the primeval deep, the Apsu (abyss), underworld. Depicted as fishmen.
- Responsible for the correct functioning of the heaven and earth.
- Had access to the gods in heaven. Depicted as birdmen.



Apkallu carrying 'banduddu' bag containing a purification pine cone.

Prediluvian Mesopotamian kings

King	Reign	Apkallu	Description
Alulim	28,800	Uanna	"who finished the plans for heaven and earth"
Alalgar	36,000	Uannedugga	"who was endowed with comprehensive intelligence"
Enmenluanna	43,200	Enmedugga	"who was allotted a good fate"
Enmengalana	28,800	Enmegamma	"who was born in a house"
Dumuzi	36,000	Enmebulugga	"who grew up on pasture land"
Ensipadidana	13,800	An-Enlilda	"the conjurer of the city of Eridu"
Ubara-Tutu	18,600	Utuabzu	"who ascended to heaven"

Pre- and post-flood apkallu

Pre-flood (≈ Watchers)

- Divine beings
- Access to the gods
- Receive knowledge for human society

Post-flood (≈ Nephilim)

- Four named in tablets
- Part divine, part human
- Human sages (wise men)

The biblical Enoch

Genesis 5:21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. 22 Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.

6 And without faith it is impossible to please him.

Jude 1:14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, 15 to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed.

Bible

- Yahweh.
- Enoch, 7th generation from Adam.
- Walked with God.
- God took him up into heaven.
- Divine watchers sinned.
- Watchers mate with women.
- Watchers father Nephilim giants.
- Nephilim violent.
- Nephilim perish.
- Watchers in hell.

Mesopotamia

- Marduk and gods.
- Enmeduranki, 7th antediluvian king.
- Learned from gods
- Ascended into heaven.
- Divine apkallu have wisdom.
- Apkallu mate with human women.
- Apkallu fathered part-human kings.
- Apkallu are wise.
- Teach survivors.
- Scribes transmit divine wisdom.

Secret knowledge

Mesopotamian apkallu (cuneiform texts)

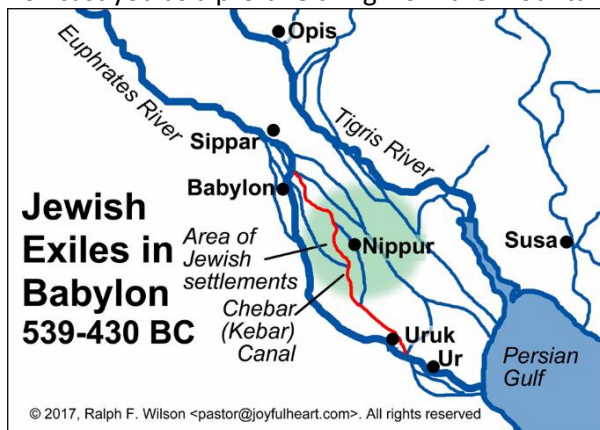
- Make and keep the nation great.
- Through divination and horoscopy.
- Applied to technology & handicraft.

Hebrew watchers (1 Enoch 8 and 10)

- Instruments of war
- Seductive cosmetology
- Sorcery and spells

Ezekiel 22:1 I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal [Babylonia], the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God... 28 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God... 14 an anointed guardian cherub ...

16 I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God... 38 9 all the trees of Eden.



Watchers' duties Before they sinned, the watchers

- ascended onto earth (Book of Jubilees 4:18)
- instructed humans to judge righteously
- worked as (tree) gardeners (DSS 4Q530)
- According to Mesopotamian texts, their only sin was to cohabit with human women.
- Their knowledge lived on among humans through their hybrid offspring.

Apkallu giants, men of renown

Genesis 6:4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward... the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

- The fourth post-flood apkallu is described as being "two-thirds apkallu" (Cuneiform *bīt mēsri* texts).

Was Noah Gilgamesh?

Noah was a righteous human being.

Gilgamesh was said to be:

- a post-flood apkallu.
- "two thirds divine, one-third human."
- of gigantic stature (11 cubits ≈ 17 feet).
- a bearer of a pre-flood message.
- a giant who is weaker than heavenly beings (Book of Giants, 4Q531).

Akkadian Apkallu = Watchers

- Apkallu could be good or evil.
- Watchers could be good or evil.
- Text KAR 298 from Assur prescribes the making of apkallu figurines, quoting, *attunu šalmē apkallē maššarē*, "You are the apkallu-figures, the watchers."
- Akkadian *maššarē* < 'êru 'be awake' ≈ Aramaic 'îr 'to guard' ≈ Hebrew 'wr, 'be awake'

Mesopotamian myths prove that...

- All elements of Genesis 6:1-4 correspond to ancient myths about the flood.
- These parallels are preserved in the second-temple book 1 Enoch.
- Non-biblical details in 1 Enoch are consistent with Genesis 6:1-4.
- Jude and Peter rightly incorporated 1 Enoch in their theological thinking.

Conclusion

Why did the writer of Genesis include 6:1- 4?

- To challenge Babylonian superiority over other nations.
- Showing that Mesopotamian 'apkallu' were really evil 'watchers' and giants who corrupted humans.
- As a 'polemic' argument for the superiority of Yahweh over Marduk.

How will Messiah Jesus

- Undo the effects of Satan's deceit?
- Secure forgiveness for human sins?
- Solve the problem of human death?
- Keep humans from total depravity?
- Help Christians to live righteously?
- Get rid of the evil spirits who deceive governments and nations?
- Reverse 'Hermon' worldwide?