

BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

BACKGROUND OF GENESIS

1. Author: Who wrote it?

➤ MOSES

- The author of the Pentateuch (“Law of Moses”; “the book of Moses”)
- Reject the JEPD theory

2. Date: When was it written?

➤ 1400's B.C.; shortly after the Exodus; during the wilderness wanderings

- same time as the rest of the Pentateuch

3. Purpose: Why was it written?

➤ TWO PURPOSES

A. Didactic: provide the necessary background up to the point of the Exodus;

B. *Polemical*: against the pagan myths (gods and goddesses) of Israel's culture; especially the relationship of God and the creation

Leviathan/Rahab/Dragon Motif

Usage

1. Used to describe God's creative activity in the prehistoric past (defeats dragon, rules the sea)
2. Used to describes Yahweh's victory over Pharaoh and Egypt (crossing the sea)
3. Used to portray God's final victory over His enemies (enemy, Satan) in the future

Interpretation

- Not literal; the biblical poets did not believe in pagan mythology or the existence of pagan gods
- Not borrowed *theology*, but borrowed *imagery*; using well-known imagery for a purpose

SUMERIAN

Asag



RESTRAINT

Ninurta



RELEASE

Hursag



REGULATION

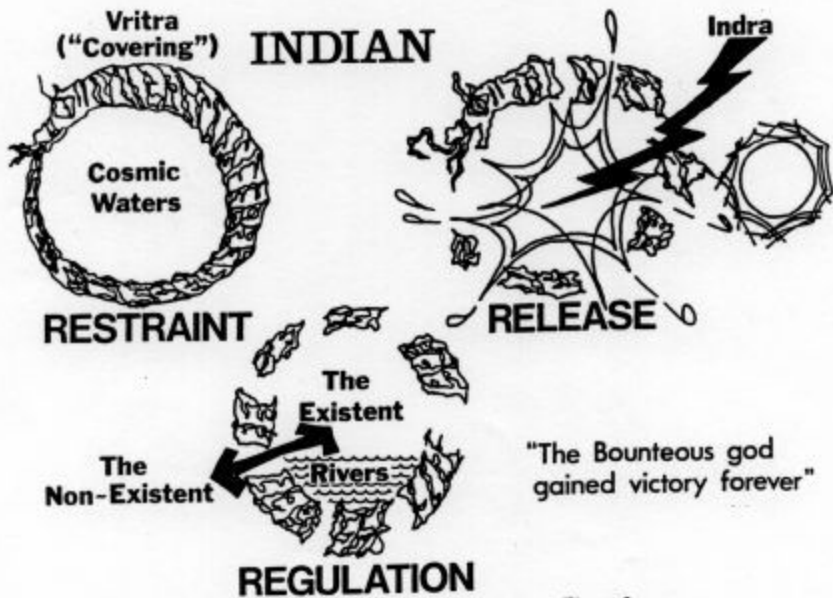


Figure 2

AKKADIAN

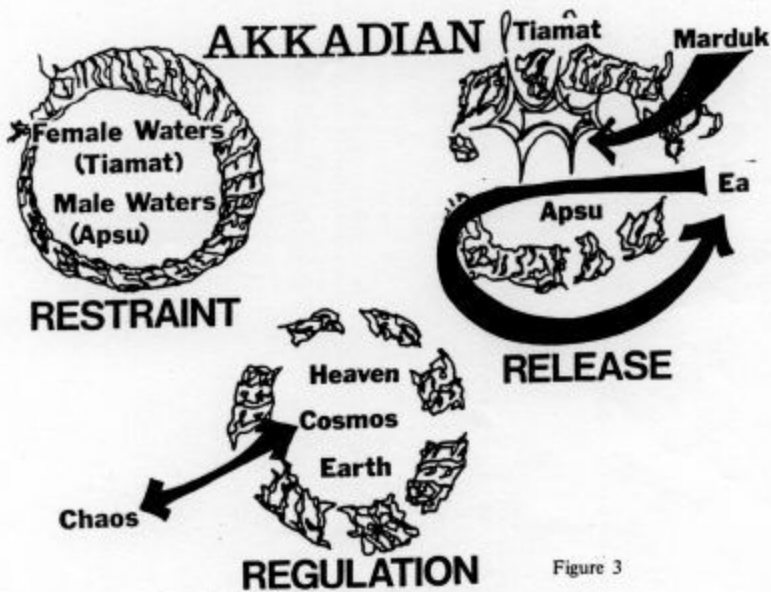


Figure 3

Ugaritic Texts

“ When thou smitest Lotan (*ltn*) the evil dragon
even destroyest the crooked dragon (*tnn*)
The mighty one with seven heads...”

“The crooked dragon (*tnn*),
The mighty one with seven heads.”

Ltn (Lotan) = Leviathan

Tnn (dragon) = Tannin (sea monster/dragon)

Seven heads = heads of Leviathan