

BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

Genesis 1 and Pagan Cosmogonies

Discontinuity

1. Relationship of God and the creation

A. Nature of God

- Myths: pagan gods are personifying cosmic spaces or forces of nature; they were begotten
- Genesis: Yahweh is before, separate from and above His creation

B. Nature of created materials

- Myths: animate forces (gods)
- Genesis: inanimate material; created by command of God; under His dominion

2. Relationship to other gods

- Myths: describe creation as cosmic struggle between gods
- Genesis: Yahweh is the only god; no struggle, no lesser forces

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Discontinuity (con't)

3. Creation of man

- Myths: man is an afterthought; relieve the gods of work and provide them with food
- Genesis: man is the pinnacle of creation; created in image of God; creation a gift for man (has dominion)

4. Nature and style of the literature

- Myths: very fanciful, dramatic poetry of cosmic struggle between gods
- Genesis: very straightforward, descriptive account given in elevated prose

Question:

“Where did the Hebrews get their unique view of God and creation?”