



KINGDOM OF KINGS ACADEMY
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THE STORY OF ORIGINS

Course Outline "Session One"

Introduction to the Genesis Creation Narrative

- Overview of Genesis 1 as a creation story.
- Exploration of the phrase "God created heaven and earth" and its potential origins.
 - Reference to the Darius inscription and comparisons with other ancient texts.
 - Connection to shared cultural traditions of the ancient Near East.

The Pre-Creational State of the Cosmos

- Description of the state before creation in Genesis 1.
 - Key elements like darkness, the abyss (tohum), and their symbolic meanings.
 - Discussion of potential links between tohum and the Mesopotamian Tiamat.
 - Comparative analysis with the Egyptian Octoad of Hermopolis and Enuma Elish.

Creation of Light and Its Symbolism

- Light as the first act of creation.
 - Its symbolism as order, life, truth, and justice.
 - The recurring contrast between light and darkness.
- Theological reflections on the role of good and evil in creation.
 - Differing perspectives between Genesis, Ecclesiastes (Qohelet), and Second Isaiah.

The Act of Separation in Creation

- Analysis of separation as a key theme in Genesis 1.
 - Use of the Hebrew root badaal and examples of dividing light/darkness, waters above/below.
 - Parallels with other traditions, like the splitting of Tiamat in Enuma Elish and Egyptian cosmogonies.
- Importance of separation for creating cosmic order and a habitable world.



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The Creation of the Firmament

- Introduction to the concept of the firmament (raka) as a vault in the sky.
 - Discussion of its imagery as a canopy or stretched metal sheet.
 - Role of the firmament in separating waters and supporting the Flood narrative.

The Role of the Sea as a Chaotic Force

- Exploration of the sea's portrayal in Genesis versus Ugaritic and other ancient texts.
 - Genesis's emphasis on calm, uncontested separation of the sea.
 - Comparison with Ugaritic myths of Baal defeating chaotic sea entities like Yammu and Thu'nanu.
 - Psalm 74's depiction of God conquering Leviathan and wild, chaotic waters.

Symbolism of the Cosmos and Its Structure

- Imagining the ancient cosmological worldview:
 - A habitable earth surrounded by water above and below.
 - Pillars supporting the earth and the separation created by the firmament.
 - Sheol as the underworld, absent in Genesis but relevant in later texts.
- Connection to the Flood narrative and the precarious balance between chaos and order.

Leviathan and Cosmic Forces in Later Texts

- Tracing the Leviathan motif through biblical literature.
 - From chaotic sea monster in Psalm 74 to its identification as a dragon in the Apocalypse of John.
 - Michael's battle against the dragon as a continuation of cosmic struggle themes.

Concluding Remarks and Preview of Next Section