

ANCIENT
NEAR EASTERN TEXTS

Relating to the Old Testament

EDITED BY
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Third Edition with Supplement

THIRD EDITION WITH SUPPLEMENT, 1969

Third printing, 1974

Fifth printing, 1992

L.C.C. NO. 78-76499

I.S.B.N. 0-691-03503-2

5 7 9 11 12 10 8 6

PRINCETON · NEW JERSEY
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

1969

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SECOND EDITION, 1955

Ea opened his mouth to speak,
 Saying to me, his servant:
 'Thou shalt then thus speak unto them:
 "I have learned that Enlil is hostile to me,
 So that I cannot reside in your city, (40)
 Nor set my f[oo]t in Enlil's territory.
 To the Deep I will therefore go down,
 To dwell with my lord Ea.

[But upon] you he will shower down abundance,
 [The *choicest*] birds, the *rarest*¹⁸⁹ fishes.
 [The land shall have its fill] of harvest riches.
 [He who at dusk orders] the husk-greens,
 Will shower down upon you a rain of wheat."¹⁹⁰

With the first glow of dawn,
 The land was gathered [about me].
 (too fragmentary for translation) (50-53)
 The little ones [carr]ied bitumen,
 While the grown ones brought [all else] that was need-
 ful.

On the fifth day I laid her framework.
 One (whole) acre¹⁹¹ was her floor space,¹⁹²
 Ten dozen cubits the height of each of her walls,
 Ten dozen cubits each edge of the square deck.¹⁹³
 I laid out the contours (and) joined her together.¹⁹⁴
 I provided her with six decks, (60)
 Dividing her (thus) into seven parts.
 Her floor plan I divided into nine parts.
 I hammered water-plugs into her.¹⁹⁵
 I saw to the punting-poles and laid in supplies.¹⁹⁶
 Six 'sar' (measures)¹⁹⁷ of bitumen I poured into the
 furnace,
 Three sar of asphalt [I also] poured inside.
 Three sar of oil the basket-bearers carried,
 Aside from the one sar of oil which the *calking*¹⁹⁸ con-
 sumed,
 And the two sar of oil [which] the boatman stowed
 away.
 Bulls I slaughtered for the [people], (70)
 And I killed sheep every day.
 Must, red wine, oil, and white wine¹⁹⁹
 [I gave the] workmen [to drink], as though river water,
 That they might feast as on New Year's Day.
 I op[ened . . .] ointment, applying (it) to my hand.

Utnapishtim said to him, to Gilgamesh:
 "I will reveal to thee, Gilgamesh, a hidden matter
 And a secret of the gods will I tell thee: (10)
 Shurippak—a city which thou knowest,
 [(And) which on Euphrates' [banks] is situate—
 That city was ancient, (as were) the gods within it,
 When their heart led the great gods to produce the flood.
 [There] were Anu, their father,
 Valiant Enlil, their counselor,
 Ninurta, their assistant,
 Ennuge, their irrigator.¹⁸³
 Ninigiku-Ea was also present with them;
 Their words he repeats to the reed-hut:¹⁸⁴ (20)
 'Reed-hut, reed-hut! Wall, wall!
 Reed-hut, hearken! Wall, reflect!
 Man of Shuruppak,¹⁸⁵ son of Ubar-Tutu,
 Tear down (this) house, build a ship!
 Give up possessions, seek thou life.
 Forswear (worldly) goods and keep the soul alive!
 Aboard the ship take thou the seed of all living things.
 The ship that thou shalt build,
 Her¹⁸⁶ dimensions shall be to measure.
 Equal shall be her width and her length. (30)
 Like the Apsu thou shalt ceil her.¹⁸⁷
 I understood, and I said to Ea, my lord:
 '[Behold], my lord, what thou hast thus ordered,
 I will be honored to carry out.
 [But what] shall I answer the city, the people and
 elders?'¹⁸⁸

[On the sev]enth [day] the ship was completed.
 [The launching] was very difficult,
 So that they had to shift the floor planks²⁰⁰ above and
 below,
 [Until] two-thirds of [the structure]²⁰¹ [had g]one [into
 the water].

[Whatever I had] I laded upon her: (80)
 Whatever I had of silver I laded upon her;
 Whatever I [had] of gold I laded upon her;
 Whatever I had of all the living beings I [laded] upon
 her.

All my family and kin I made go aboard the ship.
 The beasts of the field, the wild creatures of the field,
 All the craftsmen I made go aboard.
 Shamash had set for me a stated time:
 'When he who orders unease at night,²⁰²
 Will shower down a rain of blight,
 Board thou the ship and batten up the entrance!
 That stated time had arrived:
 'He who orders unease at night, showers down
 a rain of blight.' (90)

I watched the appearance of the weather.
 The weather was awesome to behold.
 I boarded the ship and battened up the entrance.
 To batten down²⁰³ the (whole) ship, to Puzur-Amurri,
 the boatman,
 I handed over the structure together with its contents.

With the first glow of dawn,
 A black cloud rose up from the horizon.
 Inside it Adad thunders,
 While Shullat and Hanish²⁰⁴ go in front,
 Moving as heralds over hill and plain. (100)
 Erragal²⁰⁵ tears out the posts;²⁰⁶
 Forth comes Ninurta and causes the dikes to follow.
 The Anunnaki lift up the torches,
 Setting the land ablaze with their glare.
 Consternation²⁰⁷ over Adad reaches to the heavens,
 Who turned to blackness all that had been light.
 [The wide] land was shattered like [a pot]!
 For one day the south-storm [blew],
 Gathering speed as it blew, [submerging the mountains],
 Overtaking the [people] like a battle. (110)
 No one can see his fellow,
 Nor can the people be recognized from heaven.

The gods were frightened by the deluge,
 And, shrinking back, they ascended to the heaven of
 Anu.²⁰⁸

The gods cowered like dogs
 Crouched against the outer wall.
 Ishtar cried out like a woman in travail,
 The sweet-voiced mistress of the [gods] moans aloud:
 'The olden days are alas turned to clay,
 Because I bespoke evil in the Assembly of the gods.
 How could I bespeak evil in the Assembly
 of the gods, (120)

Ordering battle for the destruction of my people,
 When it is I myself who give birth to my people!
 Like the spawn of the fishes they fill the sea!
 The Anunnaki gods weep with her,
 The gods, all humbled, sit and weep,
 Their lips drawn tight,²⁰⁹ [. . .] one and all.
 Six days and [six] nights
 Blows the flood wind, as the south-storm sweeps the
 land.

When the seventh day arrived,
 The flood(-carrying) south-storm subsided in the
 battle,
 Which it had fought like an army. (130)
 The sea grew quiet, the tempest was still, the flood
 ceased.

I looked at the weather: stillness had set in,
 And all of mankind had returned to clay.
 The landscape was as level as a flat roof.
 I opened a hatch, and light fell upon my face.
 Bowing low, I sat and wept,
 Tears running down on my face.
 I looked about for coast lines in the expanse of the sea:
 In each of fourteen²¹⁰ (regions)

There emerged a region(-mountain).²¹¹
 On Mount Nisir²¹² the ship came to a halt. (140)

Mount Nisir held the ship fast,
 Allowing no motion.
 One day, a second day, Mount Nisir held the ship fast,
 Allowing no motion.
 A third day, a fourth day, Mount Nisir held the ship
 fast,
 Allowing no motion.
 A fifth, and a sixth (day), Mount Nisir held the ship
 fast,
 Allowing no motion.

When the seventh day arrived,
 I sent forth and set free a dove.
 The dove went forth, but came back;
 Since no resting-place for it was visible, she turned
 round.
 Then I sent forth and set free a swallow.

The swallow went forth, but came back; (150)
Since no resting-place for it was visible,^{212a} she turned round.

Then I sent forth and set free a raven.
The raven went forth and, seeing that the waters had diminished,

He eats, circles, caws, and turns not round.
Then I let out (all) to the four winds
And offered a sacrifice.

I poured out a libation on the top of the mountain.
Seven and seven cult-vessels I set up,
Upon their pot-stands I heaped cane, cedarwood, and myrtle.

The gods smelled the savor,
The gods smelled the sweet savor, (160)
The gods crowded like flies about the sacrificer.
When at length as the great goddess²¹³ arrived,
She lifted up the great jewels which Anu had fashioned to her liking:

'Ye gods here, as surely as this lapis
Upon my neck I shall not forget,
I shall be mindful of these days, forgetting (them) never.
Let the gods come to the offering;
(But) let not Enlil come to the offering,
For he, unreasoning, brought on the deluge
And my people consigned to destruction.'

When at length as Enlil arrived, (170)
And saw the ship, Enlil was wroth,
He was filled with wrath over the Igigi gods:²¹⁴
'Has some living soul escaped?

No man was to survive the destruction!
Ninurta opened his mouth to speak,
Saying to valiant Enlil:

'Who, other than Ea, can devise plans?'²¹⁵
It is Ea alone who knows every matter.'
Ea opened his mouth to speak,

Saying to valiant Enlil:
'Thou wisest of gods, thou hero,
How couldst thou, unreasoning, bring on the deluge?
On the sinner impose his sin, (180)

On the transgressor impose his transgression!
(Yet) be lenient, lest he be cut off,
Be patient,²¹⁶ lest he be dis[lodged]!
Instead of thy bringing on the deluge,

Would that a lion had risen up to diminish mankind!

Instead of thy bringing on the deluge,
Would that a wolf had risen up to diminish mankind!

Instead of thy bringing on the deluge,
Would that a famine had risen up to l[ay low] mankind!

Instead of thy bringing on the deluge,

Would that pestilence²¹⁷ had risen up to smi[te down] mankind!

It was not I who disclosed the secret of the great gods.
I let Atrahasis²¹⁸ see a dream,

And he perceived the secret of the gods.
Now then take counsel in regard to him!
Thereupon Enlil went aboard the ship.
Holding me by the hand, he took me aboard. (190)
He took my wife aboard and made (her) kneel by my side.

Standing between us, he touched our foreheads to bless us:

'Hitherto Utnapishtim has been but human.
Henceforth Utnapishtim and his wife shall be like unto us gods.

Utnapishtim shall reside far away, at the mouth of the rivers!

Thus they took me and made me reside far away,
At the mouth of the rivers.

5

THE NEW CAMBRIDGE PARAGRAPH BIBLE

WITH THE APOCRYPHA

King James Version

Edited by David Norton

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, United Kingdom
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

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The New Cambridge Paragraph Bible
with the Apocrypha: King James Version,
as edited by David Norton

© Cambridge University Press 2005

This edition is printed and published by
Cambridge University Press,
The Queen's Printer,
under Royal Letters Patent

Typeset in 10/12.5pt Swift (EF)

Printed in the United Kingdom
at the University Printing House, Cambridge

ISBN-13 978-0-521-84386-7 hardback

ISBN-10 0-521-84386-3 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-84387-4 black French Morocco leather

ISBN-10 0-521-84387-1 black French Morocco leather

6 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, ²that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair, and they took them wives of all which they chose. ³And the LORD said, 'My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years'. ⁴There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bore children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

⁵And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. ⁷And the LORD said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air: for it repenteth me that I have made them'. ⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

⁹These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah begot three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt: for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. ¹³And God said unto Noah, 'The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴Make thee an ark of gopher

wood: rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. ¹⁵And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: the length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. ¹⁶A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third storeys shalt thou make it. ¹⁷And behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven, and everything that is in the earth shall die. ¹⁸But with thee will I establish my covenant: and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee: they shall be male and female. ²⁰Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. ²¹And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.' ²²Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

7 And the LORD said unto Noah, 'Come thou and all thy house into the ark: for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. ²Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. ³Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. ⁴For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights: and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.' ⁵And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him. ⁶And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

⁷And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. ⁸Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of everything that creepeth upon the earth, ⁹there went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. ¹²And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark, ¹⁴they, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. ¹⁵And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. ¹⁶And they that went in, went in

male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷And the flood was forty days upon the earth, and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it was lifted up above the earth. ¹⁸And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. ¹⁹And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth, and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. ²⁰Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered. ²¹And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: ²²all in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. ²³And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. ²⁴And the waters prevailed upon the earth a hundred and fifty days.

8 And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged. ²The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. ³And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated. ⁴And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat. ⁵And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.

⁶And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. ⁷And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth. ⁸Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground. ⁹But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. Then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark. ¹⁰And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. ¹¹And the dove came in to him in the evening, and lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth. ¹²And he stayed yet other seven days, and sent forth the dove, which returned not again unto him any more.

¹³And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. ¹⁴And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.

¹⁵And God spoke unto Noah, saying, ¹⁶'Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. ¹⁷Bring forth with

GENESIS 9

thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.' ¹⁸And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him: ¹⁹every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark.

²⁰And Noah built an altar unto the LORD, and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹And the LORD smelled a sweet savour, and the LORD said in his heart, 'I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more everything living, as I have done. ²²While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.'

THE KORAN INTERPRETED

By

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*

VOLUME ONE

SURAS I-XX

First published in 1955

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LONDON: GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN LTD

NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

*Printed in Great Britain
in 11 point Bell type
by Simson Shand Ltd
London Hertford and Harlow*

THE KORAN INTERPRETED

is as the man blind and deaf, and the man who sees and hears; are they equal in likeness? Will you not remember?

And We sent Noah to his people:
'I am for you a warner, and a bearer
of good tidings:

Serve you none but God. I fear
for you the chastisement of
a painful day.'

Said the Council of the unbelievers
of his people, 'We see thee not
other than a mortal like ourselves,
and we see not any following thee
but the vilest of us, inconsiderately.
We do not see you have over us
any superiority; no, rather we
think you are liars.'

30

He said, 'O my people, what think you?
If I stand upon a clear sign
from my Lord, and He has given me
mercy from Him, and it has been obscured
for you, shall we compel you to it while
you are averse to it?

O my people, I do not ask of you
wealth for this; my wage falls only
upon God. I will not drive away
those who believe; they shall surely
meet their Lord. But I see you are
an ignorant people.

O my people, who would help me
against God, if I drive you away?

Will you not remember?

I do not say to you, "I possess the
treasuries of God"; I know not the Unseen;
and I do not say, "I am an angel."

Nor do I say to those your eyes despise,
"God will not give them any good";
God knows best what is in their hearts.

242

HOOD

Surely in that case I should be
among the evildoers.'

They said, 'Noah, thou hast disputed with
us and make much disputation with us.
Then bring us that thou promisest us, if
thou speakest truly.'

35

He said, "God will bring you it if He will;
you cannot frustrate Him.

And my sincere counsel will not profit
you, if I desire to counsel you
sincerely, if God desires to pervert
you; He is your Lord, and unto Him
you shall be returned.'

(Or do they say, 'He has forged it'?
Say: 'If I have forged it, upon me
falls my sin; and I am quit of
the sins you do.')

And it was revealed to Noah, saying,
'None of thy people shall believe
but he who has already believed;
so be thou not distressed by that
they may be doing.

Make thou the Ark under Our eyes,
and as We reveal; and address Me not
concerning those who have done evil;
they shall be drowned.'

40

So he was making the Ark; and whenever
a council of his people passed by him
they scoffed at him. He said, 'If you
scoff at us, we shall surely scoff at
you, as you scoff,

and you shall know to whom will come
a chastisement degrading him,
and upon whom there shall alight a
lasting chastisement.'

Until, when Our command came, and
the Oven boiled, We said, 'Embark
in it two of every kind, and thy
family—except for him against

243

whom the word has already been spoken—and whosoever believes.' And there believed not with him except a few.

He said, 'Embark in it! In God's Name shall be its course and its berthing. Surely my Lord is All-forgiving, All-compassionate.'

So it ran with them amid waves like mountains; and Noah called to his son, who was standing apart, 'Embark with us, my son, and be thou not with the unbelievers!'

45 He said, 'I will take refuge in a mountain, that shall defend me from the water.' Said he, 'Today there is no defender from God's command but for him on whom He has mercy.' And the waves came between them, and he was among the drowned.

And it was said, 'Earth, swallow thy waters; and, heaven, abate!' And the waters subsided, the affair was accomplished, and the Ark settled on El-Judi, and it was said: 'Away with the people of the evildoers!'

And Noah called unto his Lord, and said, 'O my Lord, my son is of my family, and Thy promise is surely the truth. Thou art the justest of those that judge.'

Said He, 'Noah, he is not of thy family; it is a deed not righteous. Do not ask of Me that whereof thou hast no knowledge. I admonish thee, lest thou shouldst be among the ignorant.'

He said, 'My Lord, I take refuge with Thee, lest I should ask of Thee that whereof I have no knowledge; for if Thou forgivest me not, and hast not mercy on me, I shall be among the losers.'

50 It was said, 'Noah, get thee down in peace from Us, and blessings upon thee and on the nations of those with thee; and nations—We shall give them enjoyment, then there shall visit them from Us a painful chastisement.'

(That is of the tidings of the Unseen, that We reveal to thee; thou didst not know it, neither thy people, before this. So be patient; the issue ultimate is to the godfearing.)

25

30

And We sent Noah to his people; and he said, 'O my people, serve God! You have no god other than He.

'Will you not be godfearing?'" Said the Council of the unbelievers of his people, 'This is naught but a mortal like yourselves, who desires to gain superiority over you. And if God willed, He would have sent down angels. We never heard of this among our fathers, the ancients.

He is naught but a man bedevilled; so wait on him for a time.'

He said, 'O my Lord, help me, for that they cry me lies.'

Then We said to him, 'Make thou the Ark under Our eyes and as We reveal, and then, when Our command comes and the Oven boils,

insert in it two of every kind and thy family—except for him against whom the word already has been spoken; and address Me not concerning those who have done evil; they shall be drowned.

Then, when thou art seated in the Ark and those with thee, say, "Praise belongs to God, who has delivered us from the people of the evildoers."

And say, "O my Lord, do Thou harbour me in a blessed harbour, for Thou art the best of harbourers."

Surely in that are signs, and surely We put to the test.