

ORIGINS

*How did everything come to be?
Where did we come from?
Why are we here?*

Class Project by student Gavin Lu, 2019

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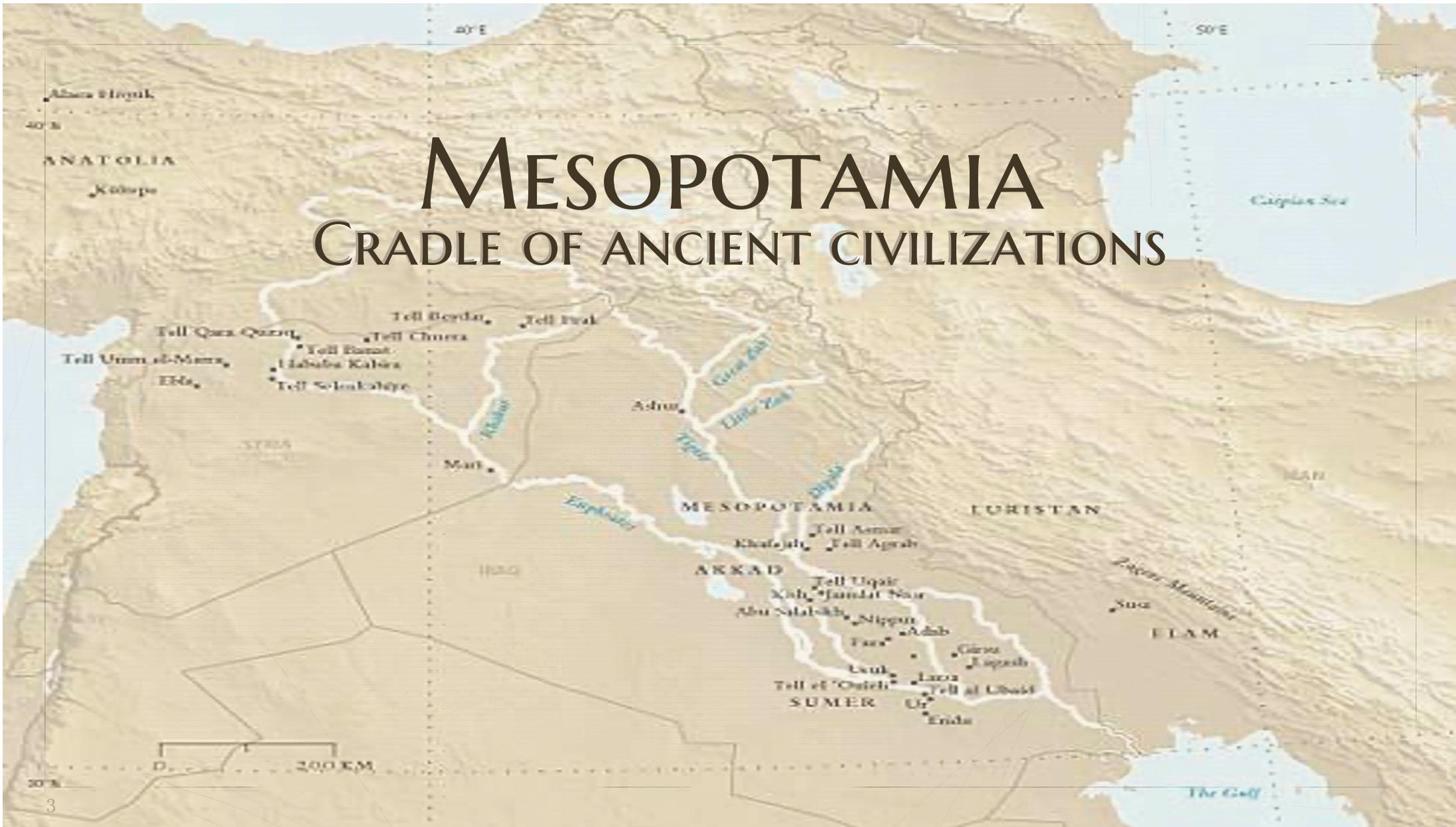
CREATION STORIES

*Understanding **how** we came to be
tells us **who** we are
and **what** to do with our lives*



MESOPOTAMIA

CRADLE OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS



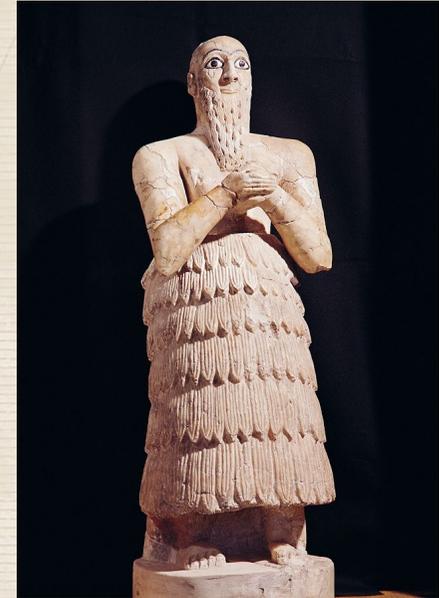
SUMERIAN

- ◆ *Eridu Genesis* - a tablet dating back to 1600 BC
 - ◆ The gods “An, Enlil, Enki and Ninhursaga fashioned the dark-headed *people*”
- ◆ *Enki and the Ordering of the World* – 2000 BC
 - ◆ Enki organized the earth and instituted essential cultural ingredients of human civilization



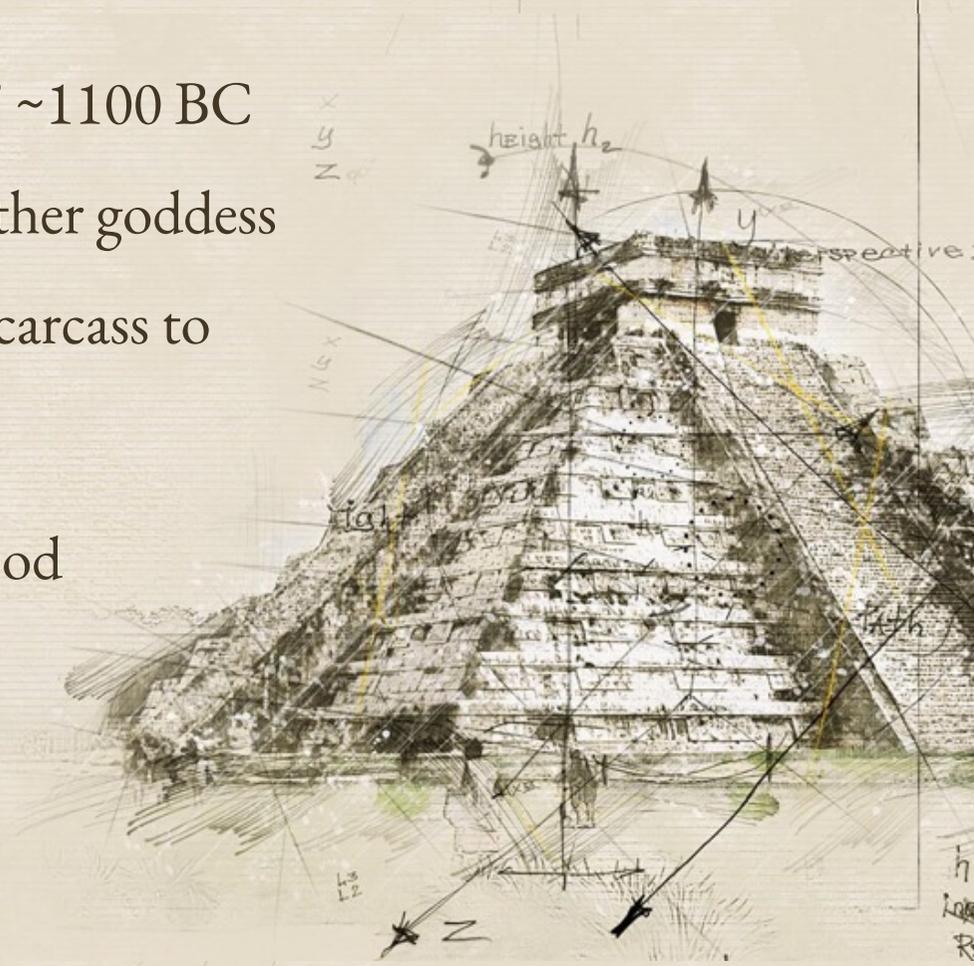
SUMERIAN

- ◆ *Epic of Atra-khasis* - composed around 1000 BC
 - ◆ Many editions from various periods of Mesopotamian history
 - ◆ Humans were created from clay to alleviate the burden of the overworked minor gods



AKKADIAN/BABYLONIAN

- ◆ *Enuma Elish* - meaning: “when on high,” ~1100 BC
 - ◆ Marduk kills his mother Tiamat (mother goddess personifying the ocean) and uses her carcass to create the universe
- ◆ *Epic of Gilgamesh* - account of a global flood



AKKADIAN/BABYLONIAN

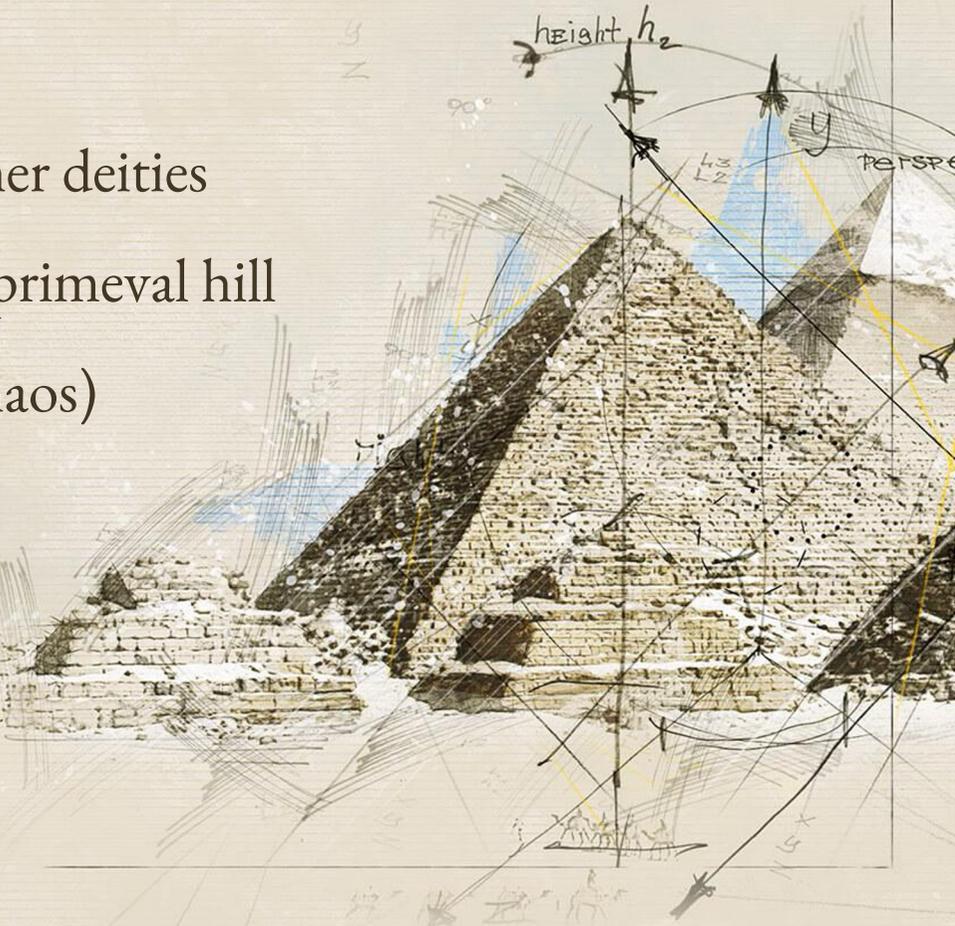
- ◆ Mankind created from blood of Kingu, consort of Tiamat, to do “the service of the gods” (i.e., manual labor)
- ◆ The gods built Marduk the grand city of Babylon in gratitude



EGYPTIAN

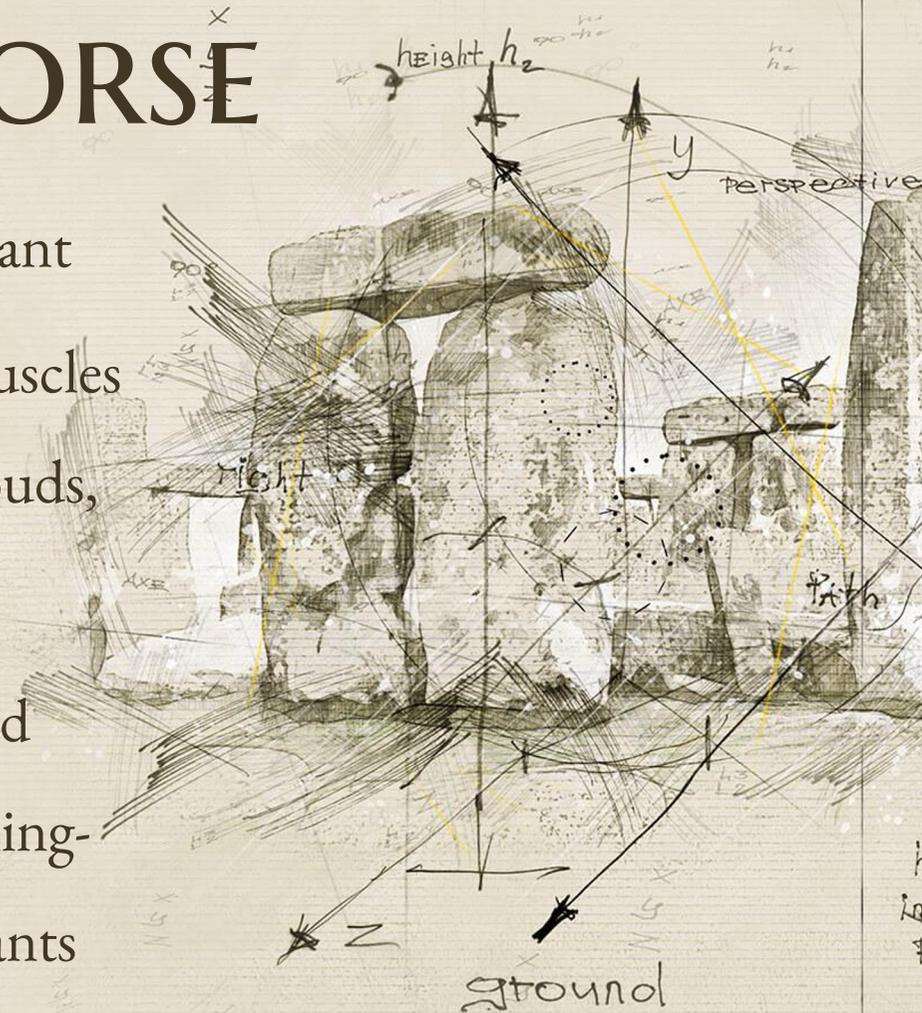
◆ *Heiropolis Pyramid Text*

- ◆ Atum, the creator-god, created the other deities and all things when he rose up on the primeval hill from Nun (undifferentiated watery chaos)
- ◆ Creation by speaking things into existence



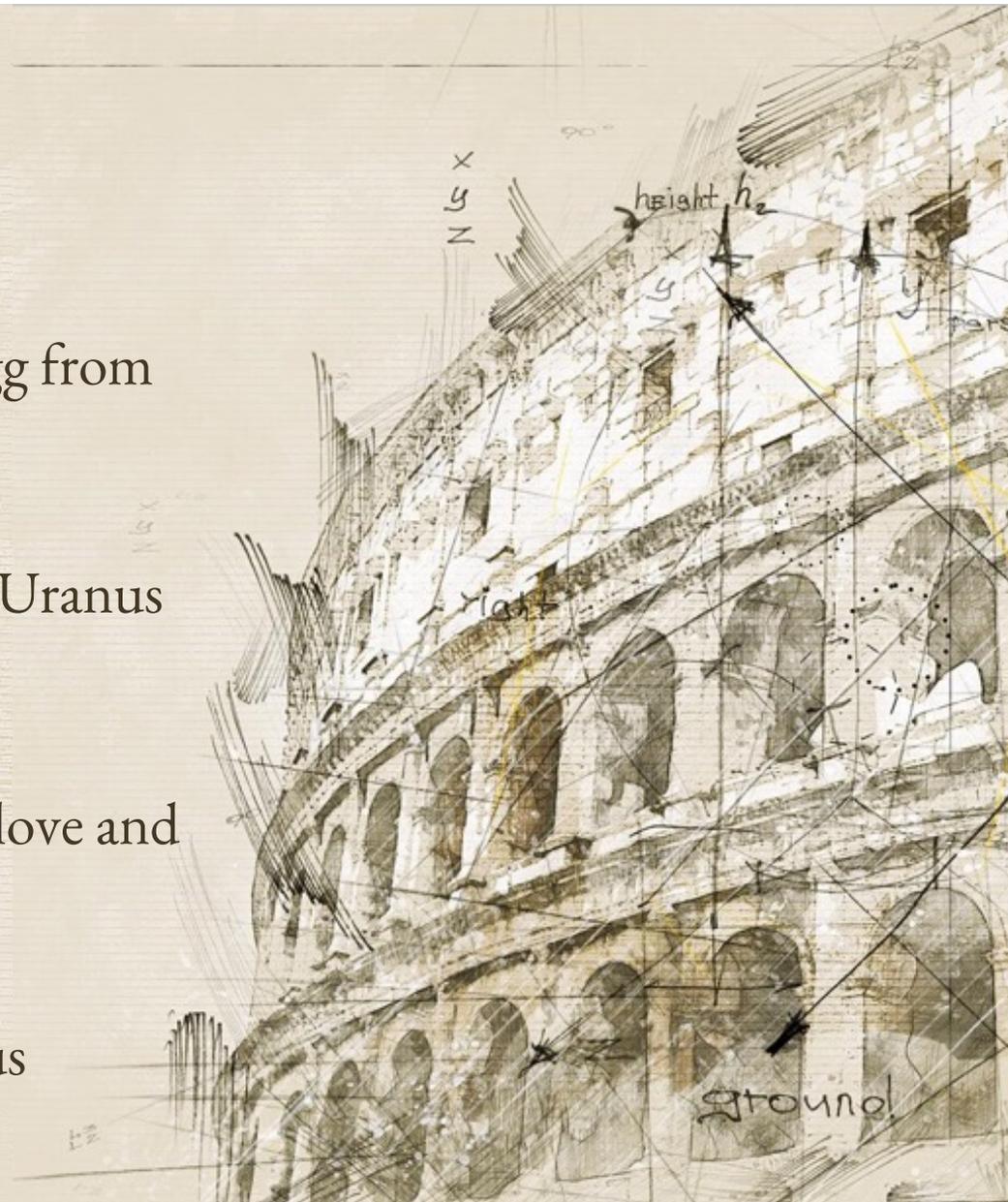
SCANDINAVIAN/NORSE

- ◆ The gods Odin, Vili and Ve slew Ymir the giant
- ◆ His blood became the ocean, his skin and muscles the soil, his hair vegetation, his brains the clouds, and his skull the sky
- ◆ The gods eventually formed the first man and woman, and built a fence around their dwelling-place, Midgard, to protect them from the giants



GREEK/ROMAN

- ◆ Nyx, a bird with black wings, laid an egg from which rose Eros, the god of love
- ◆ The egg shell became Gaia (Earth) and Uranus (Sky)
- ◆ Eros caused Gaia and Uranus to fall in love and have many children
- ◆ Notable descendants: Zeus, Prometheus



CHINESE

- ◆ Pan Gu chopped his way out of an egg where the forces of *yin* and *yang* were in chaotic flux
- ◆ The forces separated into earth and heavens
- ◆ Pan Gu stood to keep the two halves separated for another 18,000 years before succumbing
- ◆ His spirit “never ceased but turned into humans”



MODERN SCIENCE

- ◆ *Theory of evolution*
- ◆ *Big Bang Theory*

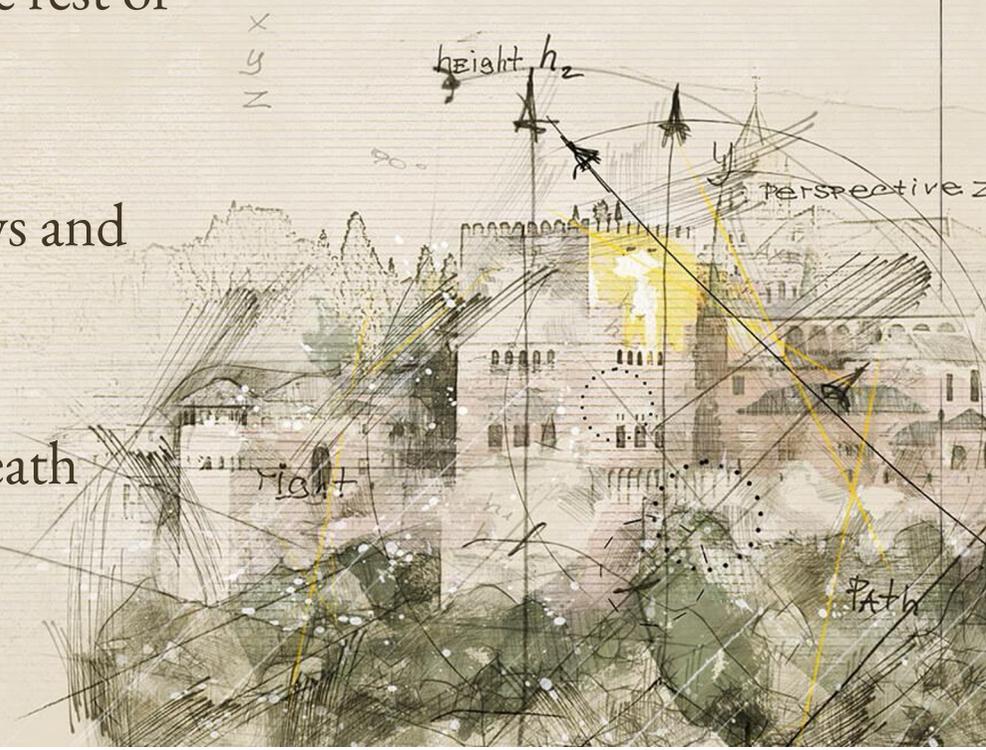


**WHAT DO YOU
BELIEVE THEN?**



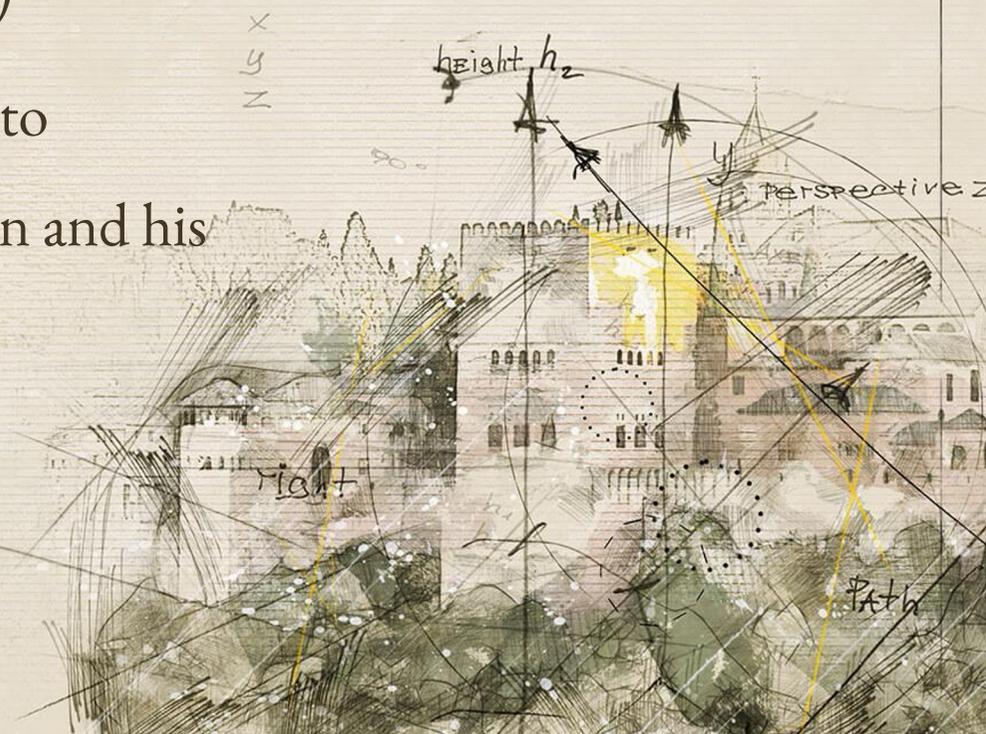
ISRAELITES

- ◆ Monotheistic belief about a creator god who made mankind “in his image” to “rule over” the rest of creation in the world
- ◆ God spoke things into existence for 6 days and rested on the 7th
- ◆ Man was made from earth and divine breath



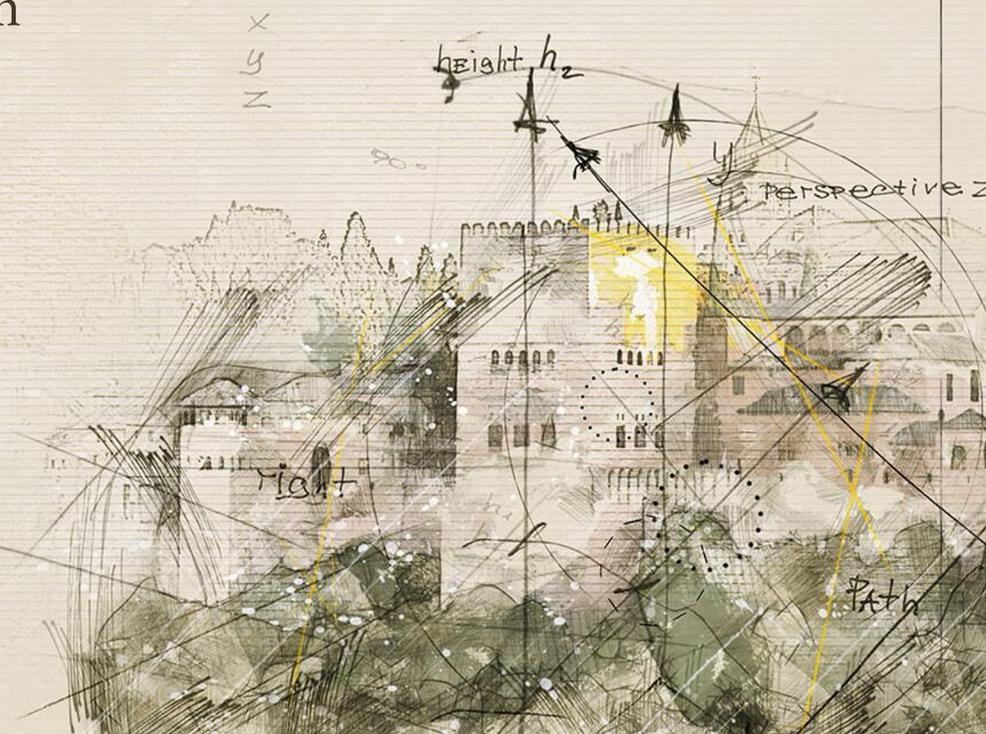
ISRAELITES

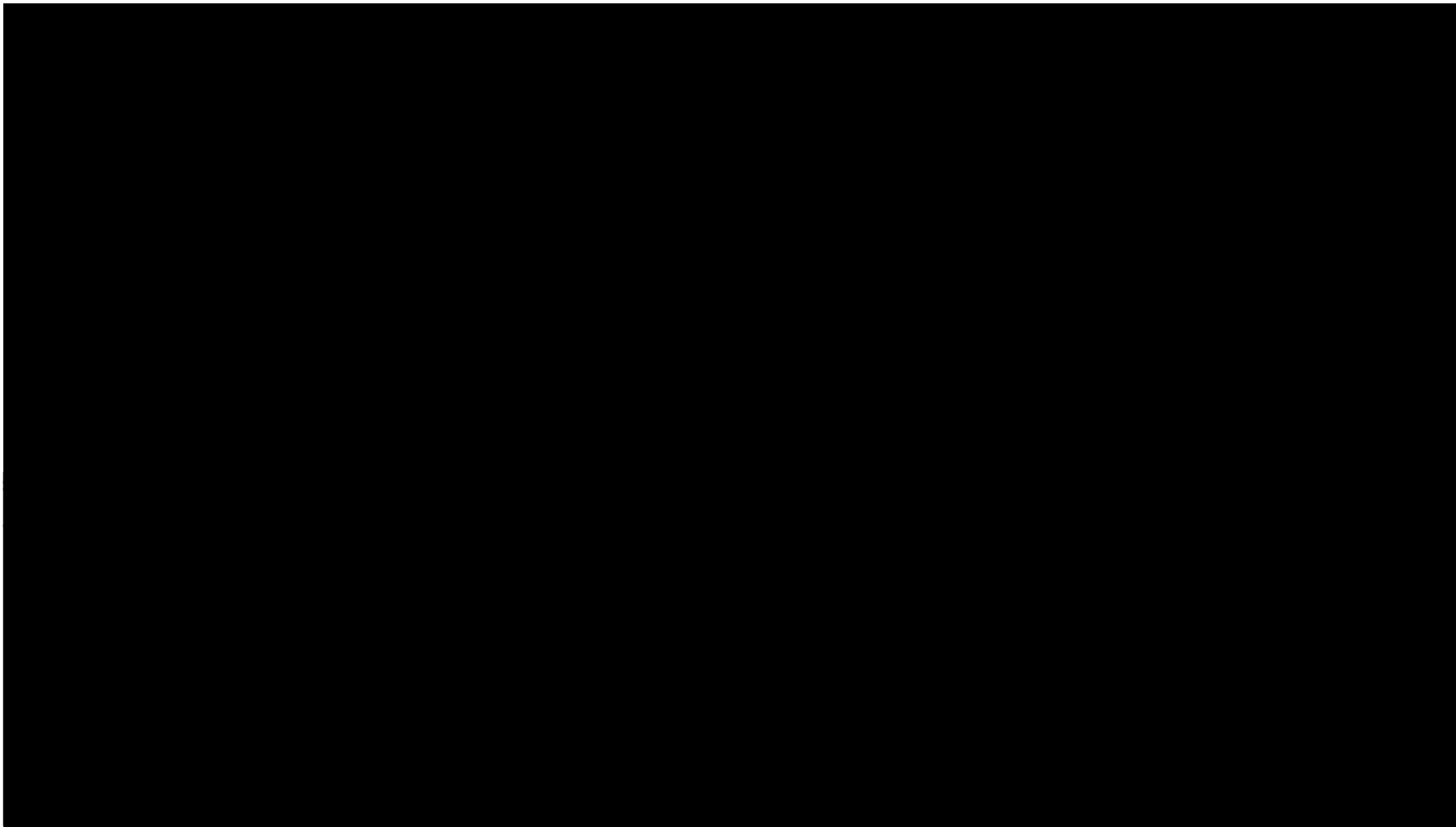
- ◆ The first man and woman disobeyed god and were expelled from paradise (“garden of God”)
- ◆ Man became more evil and God decided to exterminate humankind, save for one man and his family, with a global flood



WHAT I BELIEVE

- ◆ God created us out of love
- ◆ He wants us to co-rule creation with Him
- ◆ We were created to enjoy Him and His goodness but we disobeyed Him
- ◆ He took it upon Himself to bear the consequences of our mistakes so that we can be reconciled to Him





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