

Gilgamesh	Hebrew Bible	Qur'an
With the first glow of dawn, the land was gathered about me. The little ones carried bitumen, while the grown ones brought all else that was needed. On the fifth day I laid her framework. One whole acre was her floor space, ten dozen cubits the height of each of her walls, ten dozen cubits each edge of the square deck. I laid out the contours and joined her together. I provided her with six decks, dividing her thus into seven parts. Her floor plan I divided into nine parts. I hammered water-plugs into her. I saw to the punting poles and laid in supplies. Six 'sar' measures 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 caulking consumed, and the two sar of oil which the boatman stowed away. Bullocks I slaughtered for the people, and I killed sheep every day. Must, red wine, oil, and white wine I gave the workmen to drink, as though river water, that they might feast on New Year's Day... On the seventh day the ship was completed. The launching was very difficult, so that they had to shift the floor planks above and below, until two-thirds of the structure had gone into the water. Whatever I had I laded upon her: whatever I had of silver I laded upon; 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, showers down a rain of blight, board the ship and batten up the entrance!" That stated time had arrived. I watched the appearance of the weather. The weather was awesome to behold. I boarded the	The Lord 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. And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the Lord said: "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the ground, man and beast and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. These are the generation of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh; for the earth is filled with violence through them; behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above; and set the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second and third decks. For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you; you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds,	We sent Noah to his people (and he said): "I give you a clear warning. Do not worship anyone but God; for I fear the punishment of a dreadful day for you." The leaders of the people, who were unbelievers, replied: "We see that you are but a man like us, and see that none among us follows you but the meanest and immature of judgement, and do not see any excellence in you above us. In fact, we think you are a liar." He said: "O my people, think. If I have a clear proof from my Lord, and He had bestowed on me His grace, though unknown to you, can we force it upon you when you are averse? I do not demand for it any wealth from you, O my people. My reward is with God. And I will not drive those away who believe. They have also to meet their Lord. But I see you are an ignorant people. O my people, who will save me from God if I drive them away? Do you not understand? I say not that I have the treasures of God, or that I possess the knowledge of the unknown. I do not claim to be an angel, nor can I say that God will not bestow any good on those you disdain, for God is cognizant of what is in their hearts. If I say this, I will surely be unjust." They said: "O Noah, you have argued with us, and disputed at length; so bring that retribution that you promise, if you speak the truth." He replied: "Only God will bring it on you if He please, and you cannot prevail against Him. Even if I wish to advise you aright my counsel will not profit you if God intends that you go astray, for He is your Lord and to Him you will return." Do they say you have fabricated it? Tell them: "If I have fabricated it, then mine is the guilt; but I am

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ship and battened up the entrance. To batten down 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 Hanish go in front moving as heralds over hill and plain. Erragal tears out the posts; Ninurta comes forth and causes the dikes to follow. The Anunnaki lift up the torches, setting the land ablaze with their glare. Consternation 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. 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. 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 bespoken evil in the assembly of the gods. How could I bespeak evil in the assembly of the gods, 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, 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. The sea grew quiet, the tempest was still, the flood ceased. I looked at the weather: stillness	and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you, to keep them alive. Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them." Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the foundations of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, they and every beast according to its kind, and all the cattle according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth according to its kind, and every bird according to its kind, every bird of every sort. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And they that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in. The flood continued forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed so mightily upon the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; the waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, birds, cattle, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm upon the earth and every man; everything on the dry land in	innocent of what you are guilty." And Noah was informed through revelation: "Apart from those who have come to believe already, not one of your people is going to believe. So grieve not for what they are doing. Build an ark under Our eye and as We instruct. Do not plead for those who have been wicked, for they shall certainly be drowned." So he built the ark; and when groups of his people passed by him, they scoffed at him. He said to them: "Though you laugh at us now, we shall laugh at you, as you are laughing at us. You will soon come to know who suffers the punishment that would put him to shame, and who suffers lasting torment." When Our command was issued and the waters gushed forth from the source, We said: "Take into the ark a pair of every species, and members of your family other than those against whom the sentence has been passed already, and those who come to believe." But only a few believe in him. And Noah said: "Embark. In the name of God be its course and mooring. My Lord is surely forgiving and kind." It sailed on waves like mountains high, and Noah called to his son who was separated from him: "Embark with us, O my son, and be not one of those who do not believe." "I shall go up a mountain," he said, "which will keep me from the water." "There is no getting away," said Noah, "from the decree of God today, except for those on whom be His mercy." And a wave came between them, and he was among those who drowned. Then it was said: "O earth, swallow back your water, and, O

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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 my face. I looked about for coast lines in the expanse of the sea. On Mount Nisir the ship came to a halt. 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; since no resting place for it was visible, 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 all out 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, the gods crowded like flies about the sacrificer. When at length as the great goddess 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 consigned my people to destruction." When at length as Enlil arrived,	whose nostrils was the breath of life died. He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth a hundred and fifty days. But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided; the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of a hundred and fifty days the waters had abated; and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made, and sent forth a raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put forth his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and lo, in her mouth a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent forth the dove; and she did not return to him any more.	sky, desist." And the water subsided, and the decree was accomplished. The ark came to rest on al-Judi, and it was said: "Away with the cursed people!" And Noah called on his Lord and said: "O Lord, my son is surely a member of my family, and verily Your promise is true, as You are the most just of all judges." "O Noah," He answered, "truly he is not of your family. He is surely the outcome of an unrighteous act. So ask me not of what you do not know. I warn you not to be one of the ignorant." "Preserve me, O Lord," said Noah, "from asking You that of which I have no knowledge. If you do not forgive me and have mercy on me I shall be among those who perish." And the Lord said: "O Noah, disembark with peace and safety from Us and blessings on you and the people with you. As for some of them, We shall bestow advantages for a time, then send a grievous punishment on them." This is the news of the Unknown We reveal to you, which neither you nor your people knew before. So endure with patience. The future is for those who keep away from evil and follow the straight path. (Hud: 25-49)

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and saw the ship, Enlil was wroth, he was filled with wrath: "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? 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 could you bring on the deluge?" (Adapted from James Pritchard, ed., <i>The Ancient Near East: An Anthology of Texts and Pictures</i>, volume I, 67-70)	In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the face of the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. The God said to Noah, "Go forth from the ark, you and your wife, your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring forth with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh-birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth – that they may breed abundantly on the earth and be fruitful and multiply upon the earth." So Noah went forth, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. And every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves upon the earth, went forth by families out of the ark. Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the Lord smelled the pleasing odor, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." (Genesis 6:5 – 8: 22)	