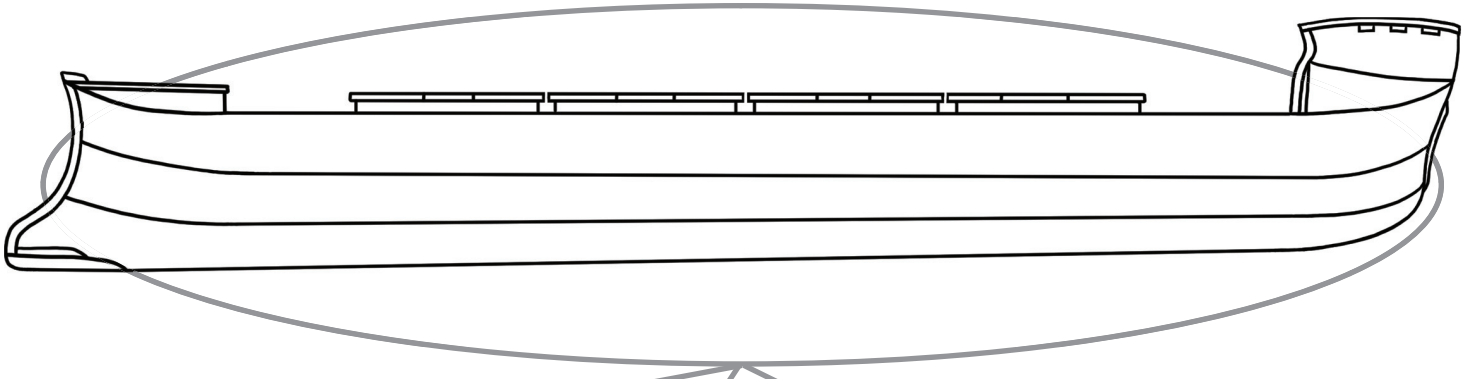


Flood Legends



HAWAII

- After the death of the first man, the earth became wicked.
- Nu'u was the only good man left.
- Nu'u built a canoe with a house on it and filled it with animals.
- The earth was flooded and only Nu'u and his family survived.
- Nu'u's canoe landed on Mauna Kea.
- Nu'u offered a sacrifice to the moon.
- Kane, the creator god, descended on a rainbow to correct Nu'u's mistake.

BABYLON

- After the death of Ardatos, Xisuthros reigned and there was a great flood.
- Xisuthros received a vision from Kronos where he was told the flood would come on the fifteenth day of Dasios.
- Xisuthros was to build a boat and bring his friends and family aboard along with provisions and birds and four-legged animals.
- The boat was 3,000 feet long and 1,200 feet wide.
- Xisuthros sent out birds as the flood receded until they returned with muddy feet and then did not return.
- Xisuthros offered sacrifices after the flood and was taken to dwell with the gods.

SUMERIA (GILGAMESH EPIC)

- Utnapishtim was commanded to build a boat of reeds by the god Ea.
- The boat was to have six decks and be a cube measuring 200 feet on all sides.
- Workers were hired to build the boat and they covered it with a waterproofer.
- The boat was loaded with living things and Utnapishtim's friends and relatives.
- The god Shamash sealed the door and the flood began.
- The land was shattered like a pot and all the people turned to clay.
- The flood lasted six days and the gods were sorry for sending the flood.
- The boat landed on Mount Numush and ravens, doves, and swallows were released.
- The animals were let off the boat and Utnapishtim offered sacrifices to the gods.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What themes are common to these legends?
2. What elements are missing when compared to the biblical account?
3. Does it make more sense to say that these accounts were developed from the Bible or that the biblical account was borrowed from one of the others? Why?

Flood Legends Answer Key

1. What themes are common to these legends? *See table below.*
2. What elements are missing when compared to the biblical account? *See table below.*
3. Does it make more sense to say that these accounts were developed from the Bible or that the biblical account was borrowed from one of the others? **Why?** *Apart from being the Word of God (the most important factor), the biblical account contains more detail and realistic proportions for the Ark. For example, if the Ark were a cube, it would tip over in the water, and it could not be over half a mile long. It makes more sense that details would be lost, exaggerated, or simplified as the story was passed along. Elements would be lost and some new elements, like the multiple gods, would be added in to match the culture.*

Bible	Hawaii	Babylon	Sumeria (Gilgamesh Epic)
Mankind is wicked.	Mankind is wicked.	Mankind is wicked.	Mankind is wicked.
God judges the earth.	The creator god Kane floods the earth.	Kronos floods the earth.	The god Ea floods the earth.
Noah and his family are saved.	Nu'u and his family are saved.	Xisuthros and his family and friends board the boat.	Utnapishtim and his family and friends board the boat.
An Ark is built of gopherwood, 300 by 50 by 30 cubits.	A canoe with a house is built.	A boat is built five stadia by two stadia (over half a mile long).	Utnapishtim is commanded by Ea to build a boat of reeds in a 120-cubit cube and covered with pitch.
Animals are taken on the Ark.	Animals are taken on the canoe.	Birds and four-footed creatures are taken on the boat.	Animals are taken on the ship.
The Ark lands on a mountain on day 150.	The canoe lands on Mauna Kea.	The boat lands on the side of a mountain.	The boat lands on Mount Numush (Nisir) after six days.
Birds are sent out, the dove returning with an olive leaf.	—	Birds are sent out, returning with muddy feet.	Birds are sent out and the raven does not return.
The family offers sacrifices.	Nu'u sacrifices to the moon.	Sacrifices are offered and Xisuthros and a few others are taken to the gods.	Utnapishtim offers a sheep and the gods gather for the sacrifice.
Rainbow given as a sign of God's promise.	Kane comes down on a rainbow.	—	—