

Story of the Flood

Situation out of which it arose:

This is another example of the direct or indirect acquaintance which the P authors had with Babylonian writings (205)

The philosophy and religious attitude of S are totally at variance with those of Israel at any time of its history, and are closely related to the teaching of the Book of Job, which is saturated with the wisdom of Edom if not of Edomite origin. S is of Edomite origin. (166-7)

Document in which it is placed:

P and S2

P's story was combined with S2's incomplete Flood story (205)

The S2 story has suffered severe disarrangement and loss through its insertion into the P story. S2 represents the earliest Hebrew transcript of the Babylonian flood story in the Gilgamesh Epic (161)

When it was composed:

P - 500 - 400 B.C. (22)

S2 is a Jewish midrash of S. Time of Solomon, 10th cent. (166)

Purpose of its composition:

As in Gen. 1, the Authors of P make their source conform with their norm and principles and use an old story to explain the origin of legal prescriptions (Gen. 2.2f; 9.1-6) (205)