



How Utnapishtim gained immortality from Enlil after the Flood the Annunaki caused.

The primary and most well-known account of how Utnapishtim gained immortality comes from the **Epic of Gilgamesh** itself, specifically in Tablet XI. However, variations of the flood story appear in other Mesopotamian texts as well, often with differences in the details. Here's a summary of these accounts:

1. Epic of Gilgamesh (Tablet XI)

- This is the most detailed version of Utnapishtim's story. Utnapishtim narrates his tale to Gilgamesh, describing how he and his wife were granted immortality.

Summary:

1. **Warning from Ea:** Ea (Enki), the god of wisdom and freshwater, warns Utnapishtim of the gods' plan to destroy humanity.
2. **Building the Ark:** Utnapishtim builds a large boat according to Ea's instructions.
3. **Surviving the Flood:** The boat survives the storm and lands on Mount Nimush.
4. **Offering to the Gods:** Utnapishtim offers a sacrifice that pleases the gods.
5. **Immortality Granted:** Enlil, initially angry at the survival of humans, grants Utnapishtim and his wife immortality.

2. Atra-Hasis Epic

- The **Atra-Hasis Epic** is another Mesopotamian flood narrative that pre-dates the Epic of Gilgamesh.
- In this version, Utnapishtim is known as **Atra-Hasis** ("Exceedingly Wise").

Summary:

1. **Warning from Enki:** Enki warns Atra-Hasis of the gods' plan to send a flood.
2. **Building the Ark:** Atra-Hasis builds a large boat with instructions from Enki.
3. **Surviving the Flood:** Atra-Hasis survives the storm and lands safely.
4. **Offering to the Gods:** He offers a sacrifice to the gods.
5. **Immortality Granted:** Enki and the other gods grant immortality to Atra-Hasis and his wife.

Notable Differences:

- In this version, the gods are angry at the overpopulation of humanity, leading them to create the flood as a solution.

3. Sumerian Flood Story (Ziusudra)

- The **Sumerian Flood Story** involves the character **Ziusudra** (the Sumerian precursor to Utnapishtim).
- Although only fragmentary tablets exist, the general outline is consistent with other versions.

Summary:

1. **Warning from Enki:** Enki warns Ziusudra of an impending flood sent by the gods.
2. **Building the Ark:** Ziusudra builds a large boat following Enki's guidance.
3. **Surviving the Flood:** Ziusudra survives the flood and offers a sacrifice to the gods.
4. **Immortality Granted:** Ziusudra is granted immortality and taken to live in **Dilmun** (a mythical paradise).

Notable Differences:

- Ziusudra is taken to Dilmun, a mythical land, as opposed to the "mouth of the rivers" mentioned in the Epic of Gilgamesh.

Comparative Analysis

1. Common Elements:

- A god warns the hero about the flood.
- The hero builds a boat according to divine instructions.
- The flood destroys humanity.
- The hero survives and offers a sacrifice to the gods.
- The gods grant immortality to the hero and his wife.

2. Differences:

- The motivations behind the flood vary (overpopulation, noise, human wickedness).
- The precise nature of the immortality differs (Utnapishtim vs. Atra-Hasis vs. Ziusudra).

Conclusion

The main sources describing Utnapishtim's (or Atra-Hasis's or Ziusudra's) path to immortality are the **Epic of Gilgamesh**, the **Atra-Hasis Epic**, and the **Sumerian Flood Story**. These ancient texts provide different perspectives on the same core myth.

Biblical Flood Story (Genesis 6-9)

Overview:

- God decides to destroy humanity due to its wickedness.
- Noah is warned by God to build an ark and save his family and pairs of all living creatures.
- After the flood, Noah offers sacrifices, and God establishes a covenant with Noah, promising not to flood the earth again

Approximate Dates of Composition and Events

1. Sumerian Flood Story (Ziusudra)

- **Date of Composition:** ca. 2100 BCE - 2000 BCE
- **Tablet Discovery Location:** Nippur, modern-day Iraq
- **Details:**
 - Ziusudra is mentioned as a king in the Sumerian King List and in the Sumerian flood myth.
 - He survives the flood and is granted eternal life.

2. Atra-Hasis Epic

- **Date of Composition:** ca. 1800 BCE - 1600 BCE
- **Tablet Discovery Location:** Assur, Sippar, Babylon (modern-day Iraq)
- **Details:**
 - The Atra-Hasis Epic is an Akkadian flood story written in Old Babylonian.
 - Atra-Hasis builds a boat to survive the flood and receives divine favor.

3. Epic of Gilgamesh (Tablet XI - Flood Story)

- **Date of Composition:** ca. 1200 BCE (Standard Babylonian Version)
 - Older versions date back to ca. 2000 BCE (Old Babylonian Period).
- **Tablet Discovery Location:** Library of Ashurbanipal, Nineveh (modern-day Iraq)
- **Details:**

- The Epic of Gilgamesh includes a flood story where Utnapishtim survives the flood and is granted immortality.

4. Biblical Flood Story (Genesis 6-9)

- **Date of Composition:**
 - Traditional Dating: ca. 1446 BCE (Exodus date, Mosaic authorship)
 - Scholarly Consensus: ca. 1000 BCE - 500 BCE (multiple sources and redaction)
- **Details:**
 - The biblical flood story describes Noah building an ark to save his family and pairs of animals from the flood.

Key Summary:

1. **Sumerian Flood Story (Ziusudra):** ca. 2100 BCE - 2000 BCE
 - Earliest known flood story.
2. **Atra-Hasis Epic:** ca. 1800 BCE - 1600 BCE
 - Akkadian version of the flood narrative.
3. **Epic of Gilgamesh (Tablet XI):** ca. 1200 BCE (Standard Babylonian Version)
 - Contains a version of the flood story.
4. **Biblical Flood Story:** ca. 1000 BCE - 500 BCE
 - Incorporates elements from older Mesopotamian traditions.

Correlation of Themes Across Stories:

- **Divine Warning:**
 - Ziusudra, Atra-Hasis, Utnapishtim, and Noah are all warned by gods of the impending flood.
- **Building a Boat/Ark:**
 - All figures build a large boat to survive the flood.
- **Sacrifice and Reward:**
 - Ziusudra, Atra-Hasis, and Utnapishtim receive immortality/divine favor.
 - Noah receives a covenant with God.