



Flood Mythology

Overview

Flood myths are found in various cultures and religions around the world, not just in the Bible. Here are a few examples:

Mesopotamian Flood Myth (Epic of Gilgamesh):

- Story: The Epic of Gilgamesh, an ancient Mesopotamian poem, includes a flood narrative. The hero, Utnapishtim, is warned by the god Ea about an impending flood and is instructed to build an ark. After surviving the flood, Utnapishtim releases birds to find dry land, similar to the story of Noah.
- Culture/Religion: Babylonian and Sumerian cultures.

Greek Flood Myth (Deucalion and Pyrrha):

- Story: Deucalion and his wife Pyrrha are warned by the god Prometheus about an upcoming flood. They survive by building an ark and repopulate the Earth by throwing stones behind them, which turn into humans.
- Culture/Religion: Ancient Greek mythology.

Hindu Flood Myth (Matsya Avatar):

- Story: In Hindu mythology, the god Vishnu takes the form of a fish (Matsya) to save the sage Manu from a deluge. Manu ties his boat to the horn of the fish, who guides him through the floodwaters, eventually restoring the Vedas that were lost in the flood.
- Culture/Religion: Hinduism.

Native American Flood Myth (Hopi Tribe):

- Story: The Hopi tribe of North America has a flood myth involving a figure named Spider Grandmother. She warns the people of a coming flood and advises them to build a tall reed to survive. The flood comes, and the people climb the reed to safety.
- Culture/Religion: Hopi Native American culture.

Chinese Flood Myth (Great Flood of Yu):

- Story: In Chinese mythology, there's a story of a great flood controlled by the deity Yu the Great. Yu successfully manages the floodwaters through the construction of channels, earning him the mandate to become the founder of the Xia Dynasty.
- Culture/Religion: Chinese mythology and history.



Egyptian Flood Myth (The Destruction of Mankind):

- Story: In ancient Egyptian mythology, there is a story about Ra, the sun god, becoming angry with humanity's disobedience. Ra sends the goddess Hathor to destroy humans, and she does so by unleashing a flood of beer mixed with red ochre, resembling blood.
- Culture/Religion: Ancient Egyptian mythology.

Sumerian Flood Myth (Atra-Hasis Epic):

- Story: The Atra-Hasis Epic, another Mesopotamian flood narrative, tells of the gods' decision to send a flood to reduce human population. The god Enki advises the hero Atrahasis to build an ark and save himself, animals, and craftspeople.
- Culture/Religion: Sumerian and Akkadian cultures.

Mesoamerican Flood Myth (Aztec Myth of Coxcox):

- Story: In Aztec mythology, the gods decide to destroy the fourth world with a flood. Coxcox and his wife survive by hiding in a huge cypress tree. After the floodwaters recede, they emerge to repopulate the Earth.
- Culture/Religion: Aztec mythology.

Polynesian Flood Myth (Hawaiian Legend of Nu'u):

- Story: In Hawaiian mythology, Nu'u and his family survive a great flood by building a large canoe. They gather various plants and animals on the canoe, and after the flood, Nu'u sends out birds to find land.
- Culture/Religion: Hawaiian mythology.

African Flood Myths (Various):

- Story: Many African cultures have flood myths with variations. For example, the Baganda people of Uganda have a flood story involving a man named Ggulu who warns his son about a flood, and they escape in a boat. The Dogon people of Mali also have a flood myth.
- Culture/Religion: Various African cultures.

Islam:

In Islamic tradition, there is a somewhat similar to flood story of Noah. However, the Quran does mention a flood and a prophet named Nuh (Noah) who was sent by Allah to warn his people. The narrative in the Quran shares some similarities with the biblical story but also has unique elements.

In the Islamic account, Prophet Nuh is sent to his people to guide them away from idolatry and sin. As the people persist in their disobedience, Nuh prays to Allah for guidance, and Allah instructs him to build an ark. The flood is then sent as a divine punishment to cleanse the Earth of the corrupt and disobedient. Nuh, along with a group of believers and pairs of animals, boards the ark, and they are saved from the flood. After the waters subside, Nuh and his followers repopulate the Earth.

While the core elements are similar to the biblical narrative, there are distinct differences in the details and emphasis within the Islamic tradition. The story of Prophet Nuh is found in several chapters of the



Quran, including Surah Al-A'raf (7:59–64), Surah Hud (11:25–49), Surah Al-Mu'minun (23:23–30), and Surah Ash-Shu'ara (26:105–122), among others.

Buddhism and Taoism:

Buddhism and Taoism do not have flood myths that parallel the biblical or Mesopotamian narratives. However, they have their own unique cosmologies and mythologies.

Buddhism: Buddhism is more focused on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha) and the Four Noble Truths rather than elaborate mythological narratives.

FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS:

1. Suffering
2. Recognition of Suffering
3. Stop Suffering
4. Refrain from doing things that cause suffering

While Buddhism does include Jataka tales, which are stories about the Buddha's previous lives, these do not generally involve flood myths.

Taoism: Taoism, with its emphasis on the Tao (the Way) and the balance of opposites, does not have a flood myth in its foundational texts like the Tao Te Ching. However, Chinese folklore and mythology, influenced by Taoist and Confucian ideas, include various legends and stories about gods, immortals, and cosmic events.

Closing

It's important to note that Eastern religions often focus more on philosophical and ethical teachings rather than elaborate mythologies centered around cataclysmic events like floods. The absence of flood myths in Buddhism and Taoism reflects the diverse nature of religious and philosophical traditions worldwide.

These flood myths highlight the cultural diversity and common storytelling motifs across different regions and belief systems throughout history.

They share common themes of divine warning, the construction of an ark or boat to survive, and the repopulation of the Earth after the floodwaters recede. They vary in details but highlight the universality of certain themes in human storytelling across different cultures and religions.