

Why I'm NOT ...

~~Atheist~~

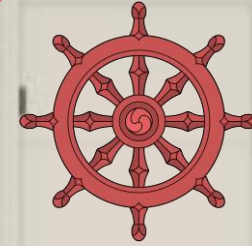
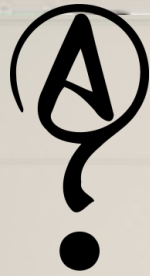
Agnostic

Hindu

Muslim

~~Buddhist~~

Jewish/
Christian



Why I'm NOT ...

~~Atheist~~

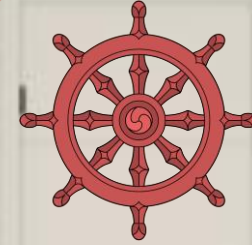
Agnostic

Hindu

Muslim

~~Buddhist~~

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Christian





Agnostics can't decide whether the evidence there is a God is sufficient when weighed against the evidence there is not a God.

The Claim: I don't believe in God because in the science vs. God debate, science wins!

The Claim: I don't believe in God because in the science vs. God debate, science wins!

Smith

v.

Jones

Plaintiff's Original Petition

Comes now Plaintiff Smith
and files this petition
against defendant Jones ...

The Claim: I don't believe in God because in the science vs. God debate, science wins!

Smith

v.

Jones

Plaintiff's Original Petition

Comes now Plaintiff Smith
and files this petition
against defendant Jones ...

or

The Claim: I don't believe in God because in the science vs. God debate, science wins!

Smith

v.

Jones

Plaintiff's Original Petition

Comes now Plaintiff Smith
and files this petition
against defendant Jones ...

or

Smith and
Jones

v.

Williams

Plaintiff's Original Petition

Plaintiff's Original Petition

Comes now Plaintiffs
Smith and Jones and file...

The Claim: I don't believe in God because in the science vs. God debate, science wins!

or

The Claim: I don't believe in God because in the science vs. God debate, science wins!

God

v.

Science

Plaintiff's Original Petition

Comes now Plaintiff Smith
and files this petition
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or

The Claim: I don't believe in God because in the science vs. God debate, science wins!

God
v.
Science

Plaintiff's Original Petition

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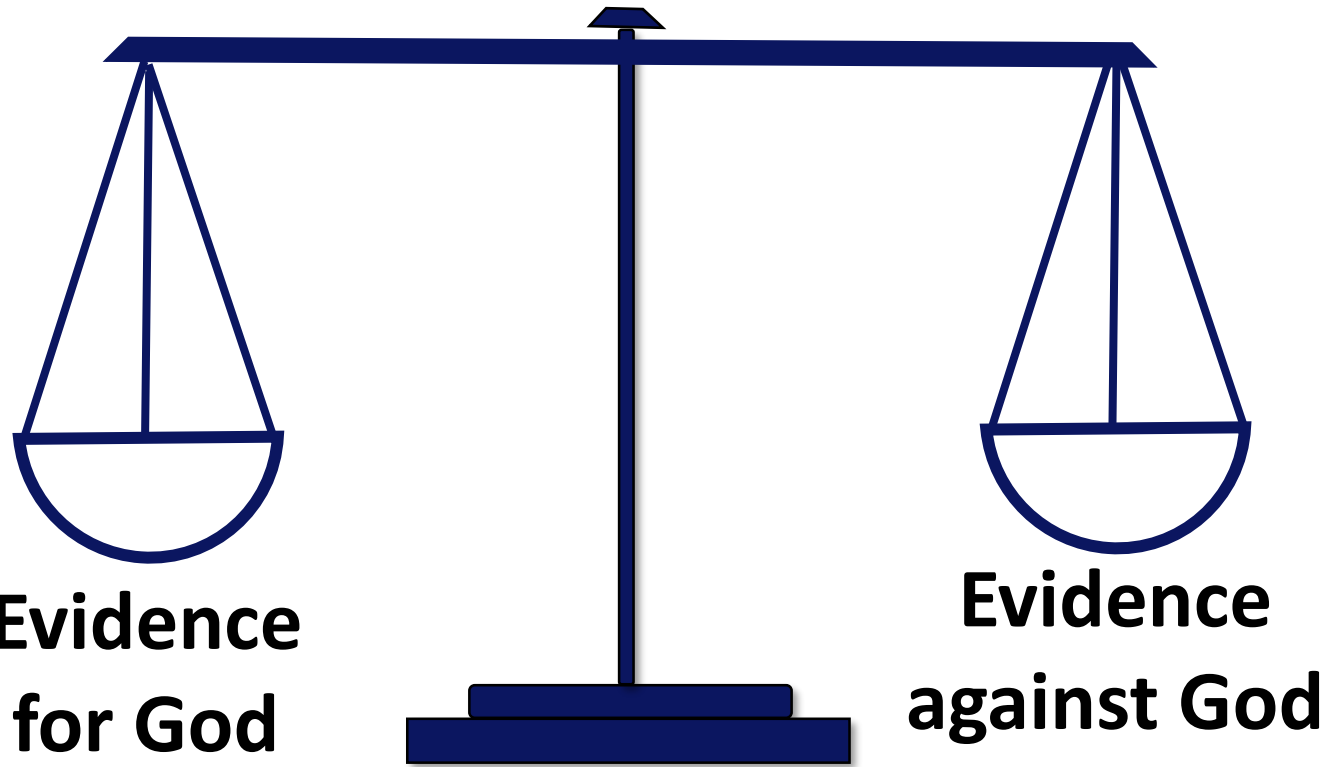
or

God and
Science
v.
Bad theology

Plaintiff's Original Petition

Comes now Plaintiffs
Smith and Jones and file...

Weighing the Evidence



The evidence: Our perceptions of reality

Positive Perceptions

- ✓ 1. Why is there objective right/wrong?
- ✗ 2. Why is there “beauty”?
- ✓ 3. Why is “justice” and “fair” important?
- ✓ 4. Why is there a basis for dignity and honor?
- ✓ 5. Why do we uniquely value humanity?
- ✓ 6. Why is there meaning and significance in life?
- ✓ 7. Why do my actions fail to meet my standards?

Negative Perceptions

- ✓ 1. Why is there suffering?
- ✓ 2. Why can't we see God?
- ✓ 3. Why do many prayers seem unanswered?
4. How does God mesh with science making sense of the cosmos?

The evidence: Our perceptions of reality

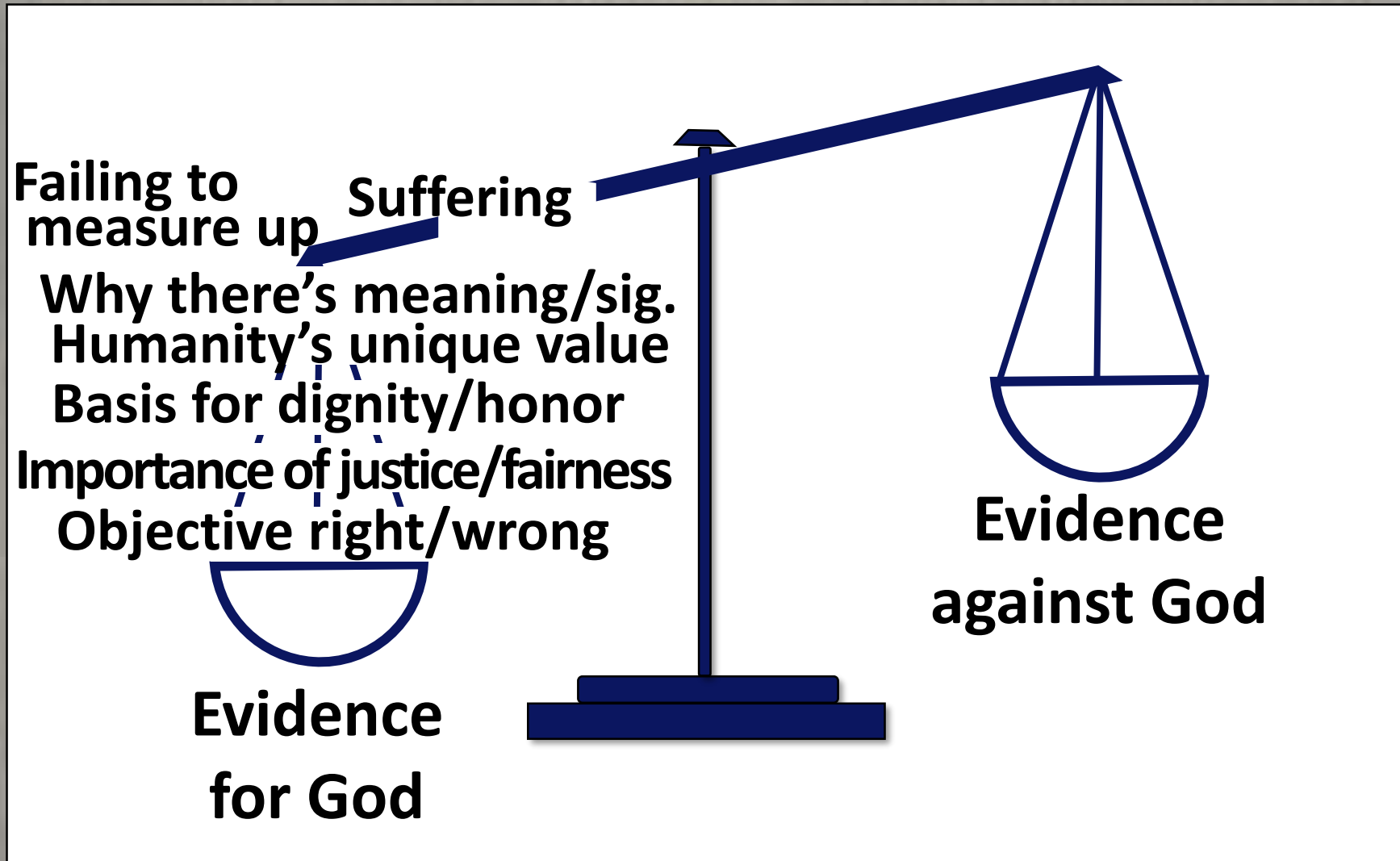
Positive Perceptions

- ✓ 1. Why is there objective right/wrong?
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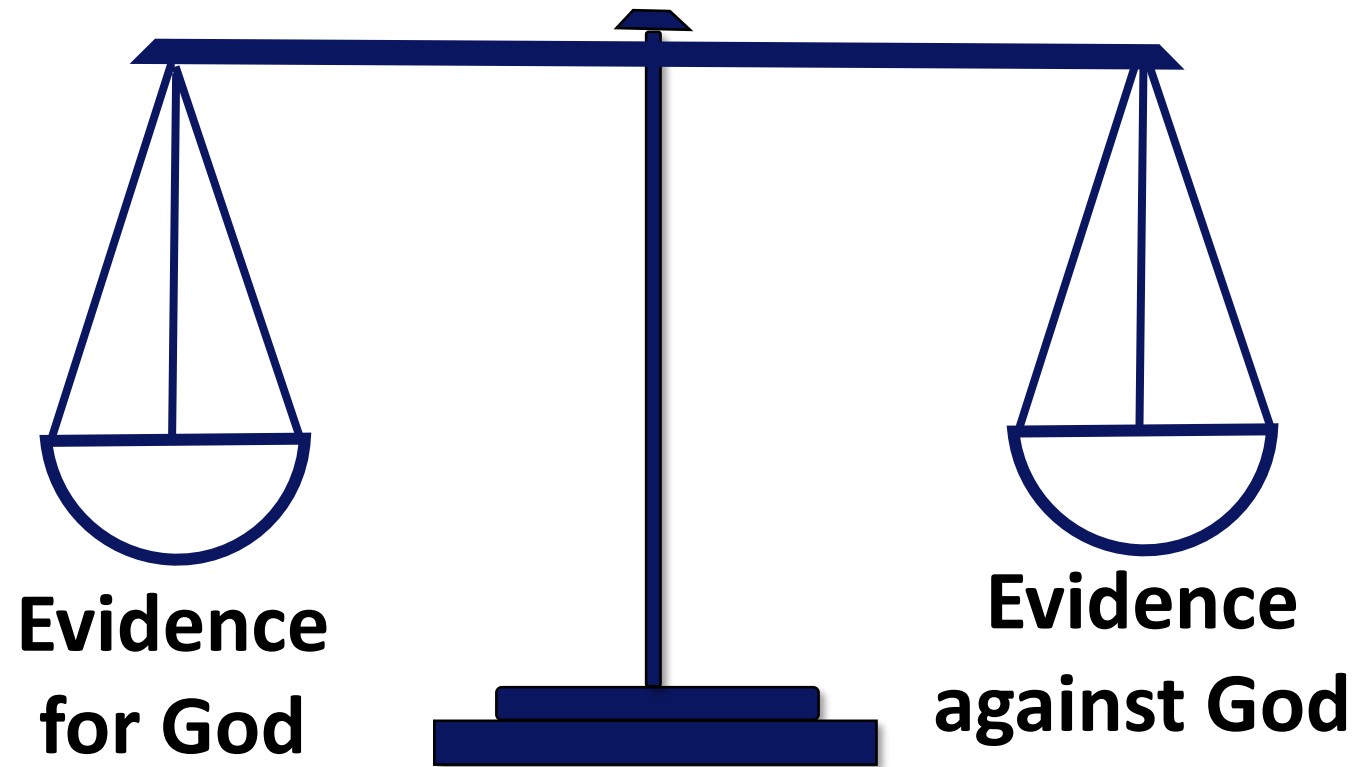
Negative Perceptions

- ✓ 1. Why is there suffering?
- ✓ 2. Why can't we see God?
- ✓ 3. Why do many prayers seem unanswered?
- ④ 4. How does God mesh with science making sense of the cosmos?

Weighing the Evidence



How does God mesh with science making sense of the cosmos?

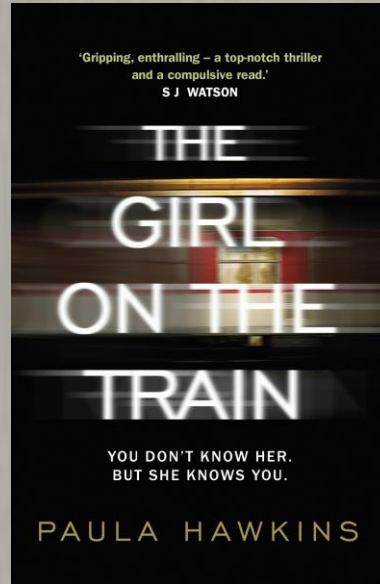


The importance of **context**

**What the
Bible is **not**:**

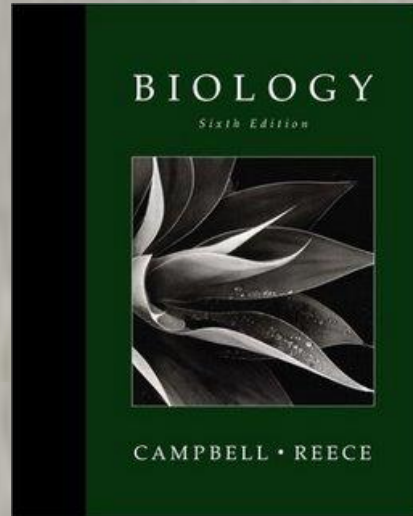
What the Bible is **not**:

- A 21st century novel



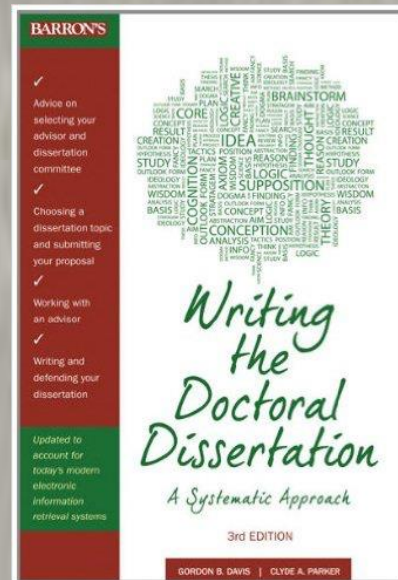
What the Bible is **not**:

- A 21st century novel
- A modern textbook



What the Bible is **not**:

- A 21st century novel
- A modern textbook
- A doctoral dissertation



What the Bible is **not**:

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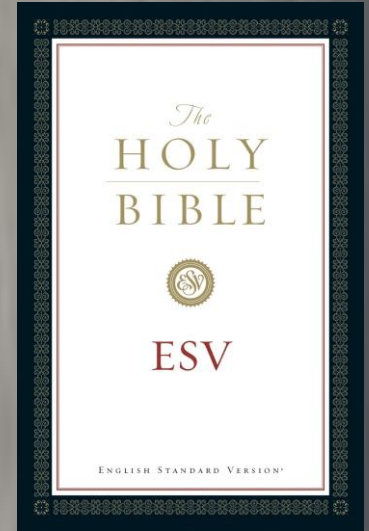
What the Bible **is**:

What the Bible is **not**:

- A 21st century novel
- A modern textbook
- A doctoral dissertation

What the Bible **is**:

Many writing types (poetry, narrative, etc.) spanning over a thousand years and set into distinct historical, cultural and geographical contexts.

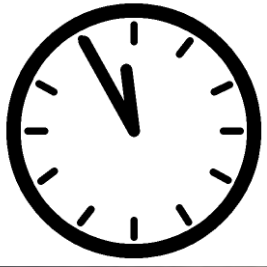


The importance of context

**We must consider the
historical linguistic, and cultural context
of each portion of writing**

Go back to 1,500BC and explain to a goat herder how genetic modification to vineyards can fight mold





Go back over 3,000 years
to get to Genesis 1-4



Israel is **incredibly different**
from all neighbors!

Differences:
God, nature, and humanity



Israel is **incredibly different**
from all neighbors!

Differences in God:

Differences in God:



Israel

Differences in God:



Israel



Neighbors

Differences in God:



Israel



Neighbors

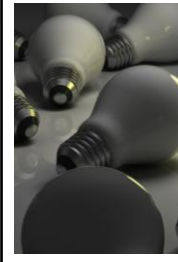
One

Differences in God:



Israel

One



Neighbors

Many

Differences in God:



Israel

One

Above creation



Neighbors

Many

Differences in God:



Israel

One

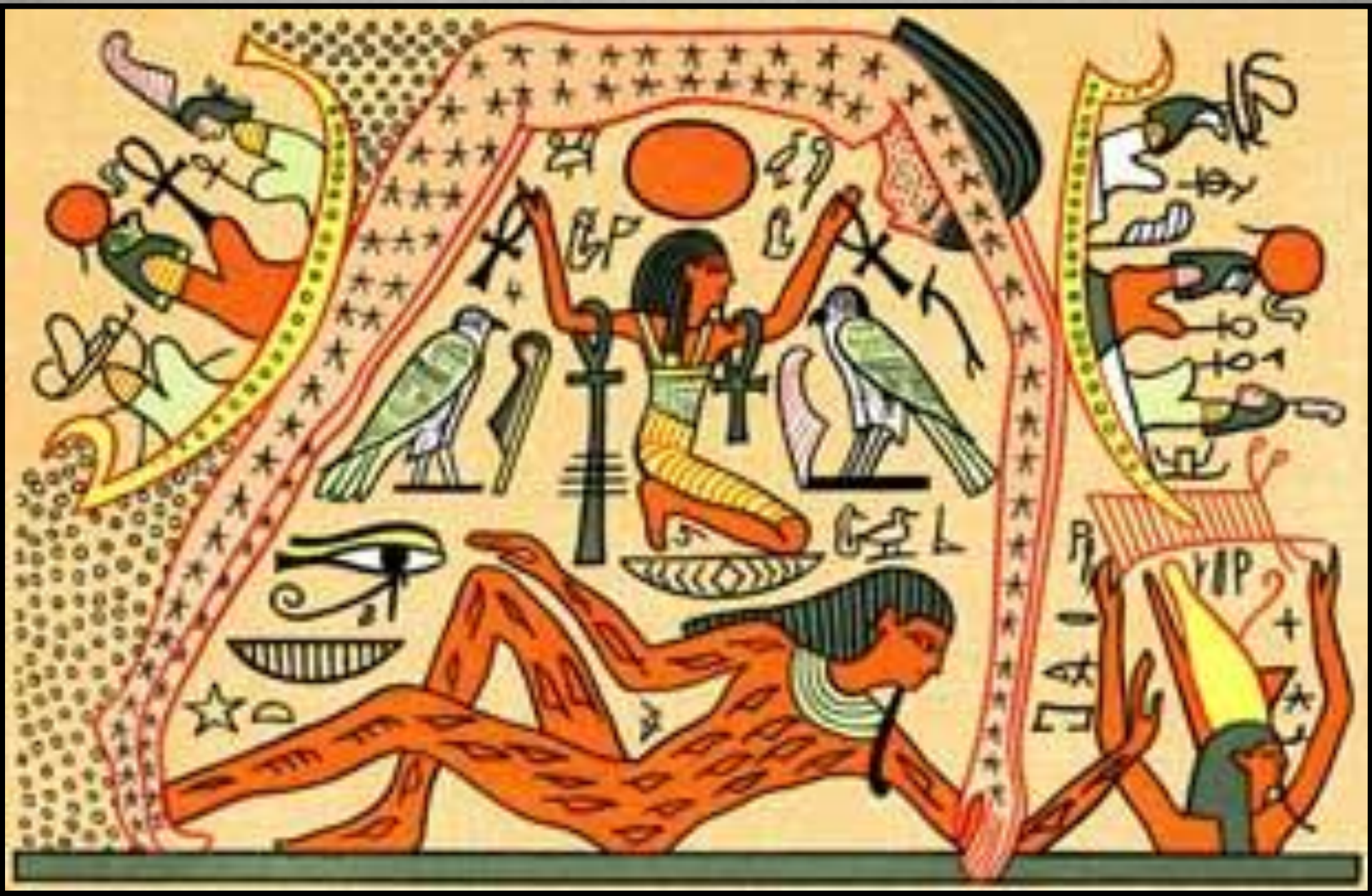
Above creation

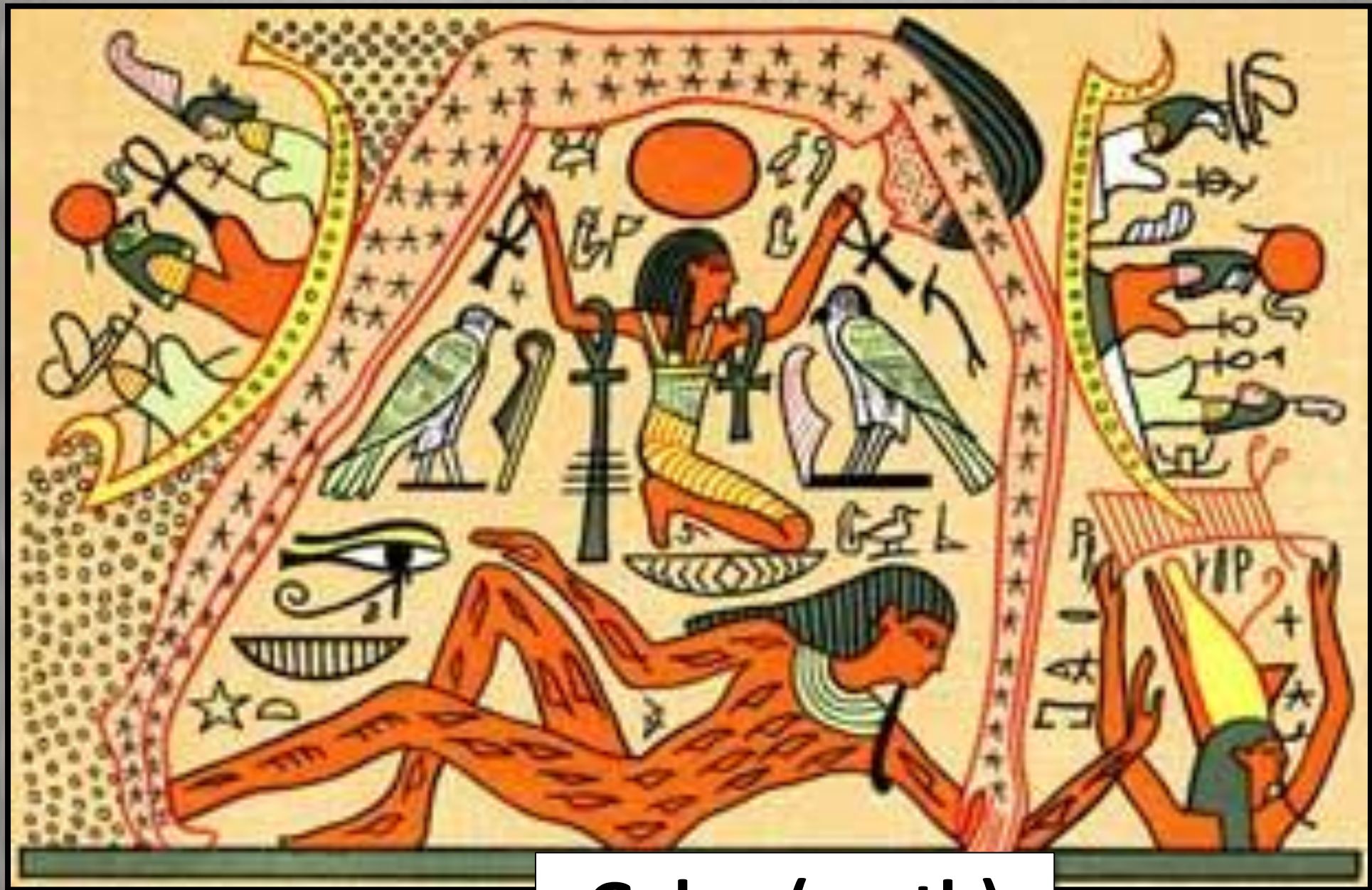


Neighbors

Many

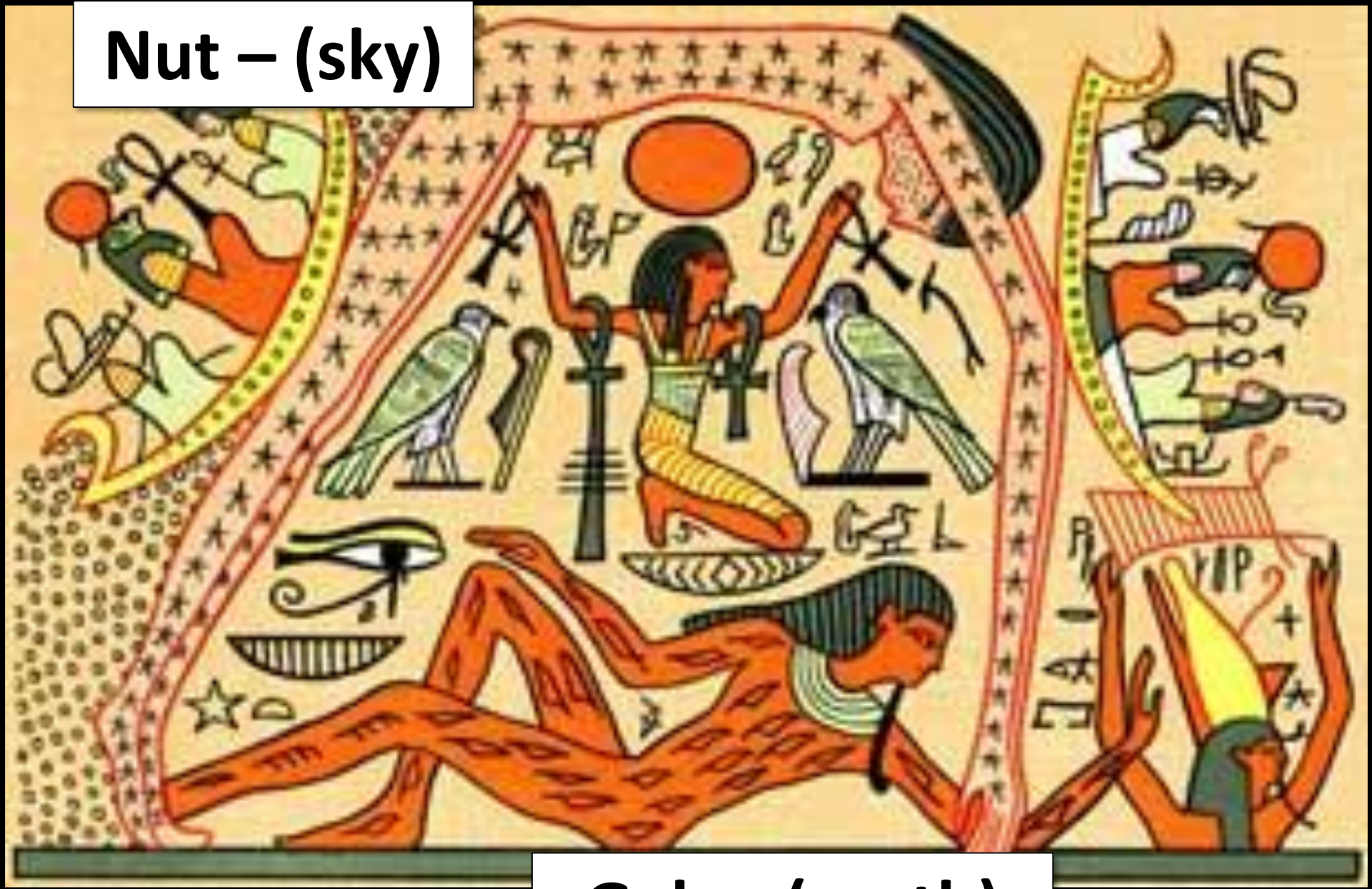
Part of creation





Geb – (earth)

Nut – (sky)

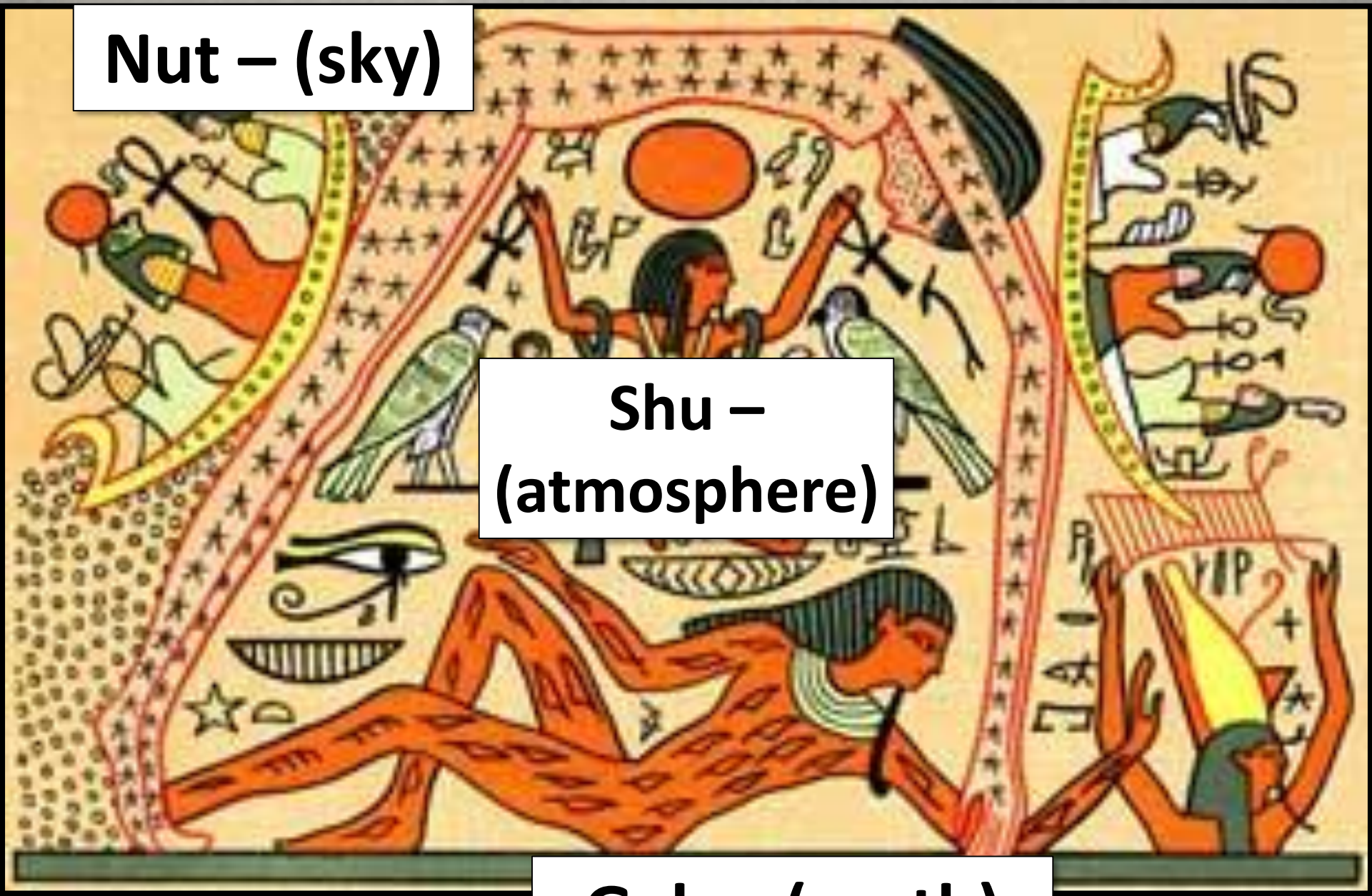


Geb – (earth)

Nut – (sky)

**Shu –
(atmosphere)**

Geb – (earth)



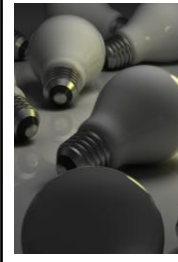
Differences in God:



Israel

One

Above creation



Neighbors

Many

Part of creation

Differences in God:



Israel

One

Above creation

Outside space and time



Neighbors

Many

Part of creation

Differences in God:



Israel

One

Above creation

Outside space and time



Neighbors

Many

Part of creation

In space and time

Enuma Elish

The Seven Tablets of the
History of Creation



L.W. King

Enuma Elish

The Seven Tablets of the
History of Creation



L.W. King

Apsu and Tiamet “mingle their waters” and more gods are formed.

Enuma Elish

The Seven Tablets of the
History of Creation



L.W. King

Apsu and Tiamet “mingle their waters” and more gods are formed.

Apsu is put to sleep by a magic spell of Ea and killed

Differences in God:



Israel

One

Above creation

Outside space and time



Neighbors

Many

Part of creation

In space and time

Differences in God:



Israel

One

Above creation

Outside space and time

God's not a sexual being



Neighbors

Many

Part of creation

In space and time

Differences in God:



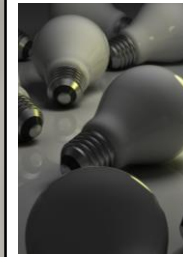
Israel

One

Above creation

Outside space and time

God's not a sexual being



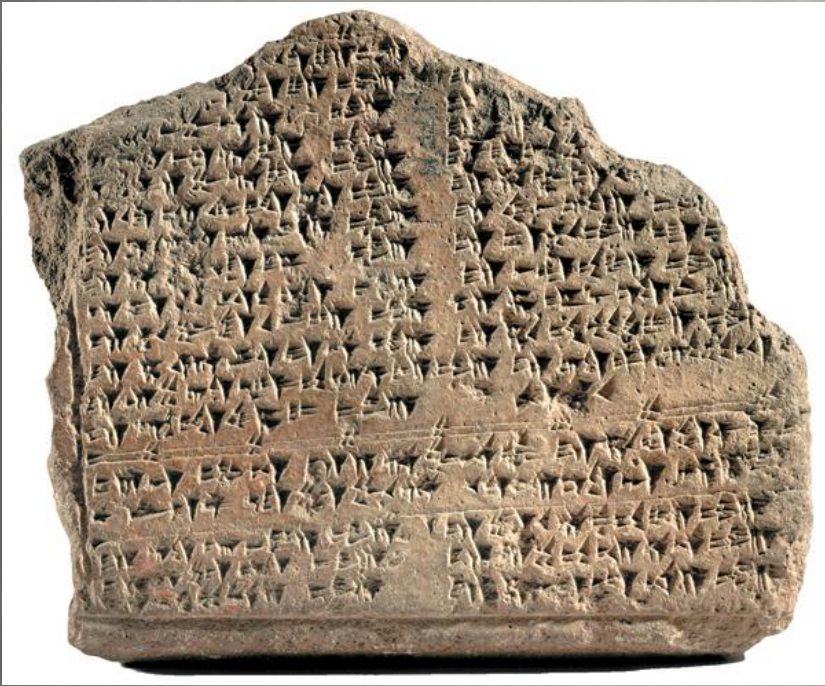
Neighbors

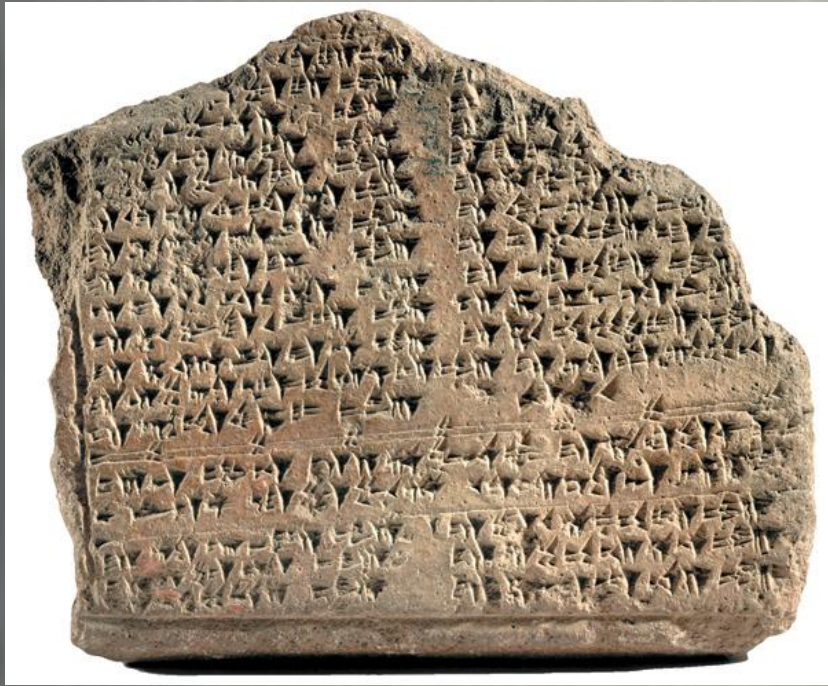
Many

Part of creation

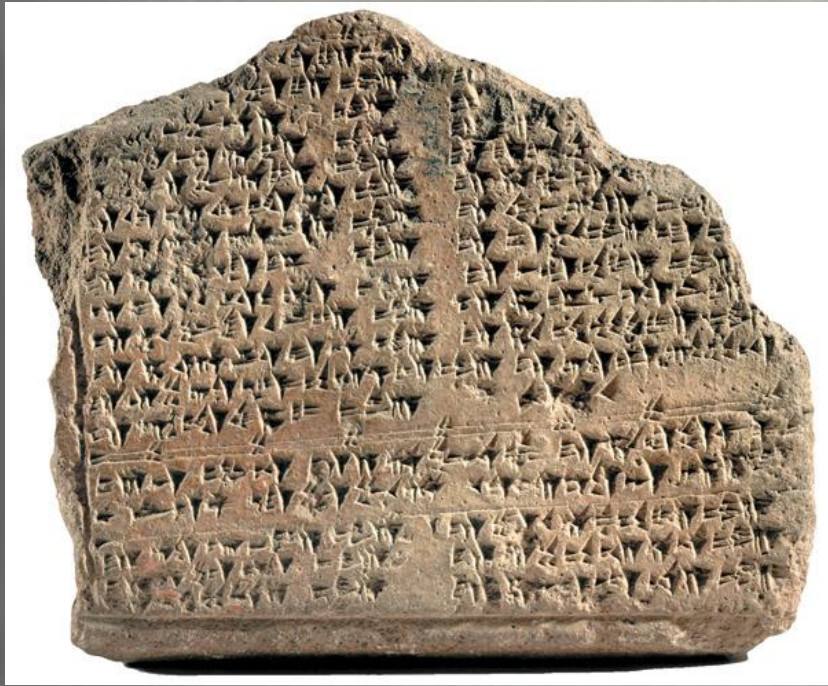
In space and time

Gods are sexual

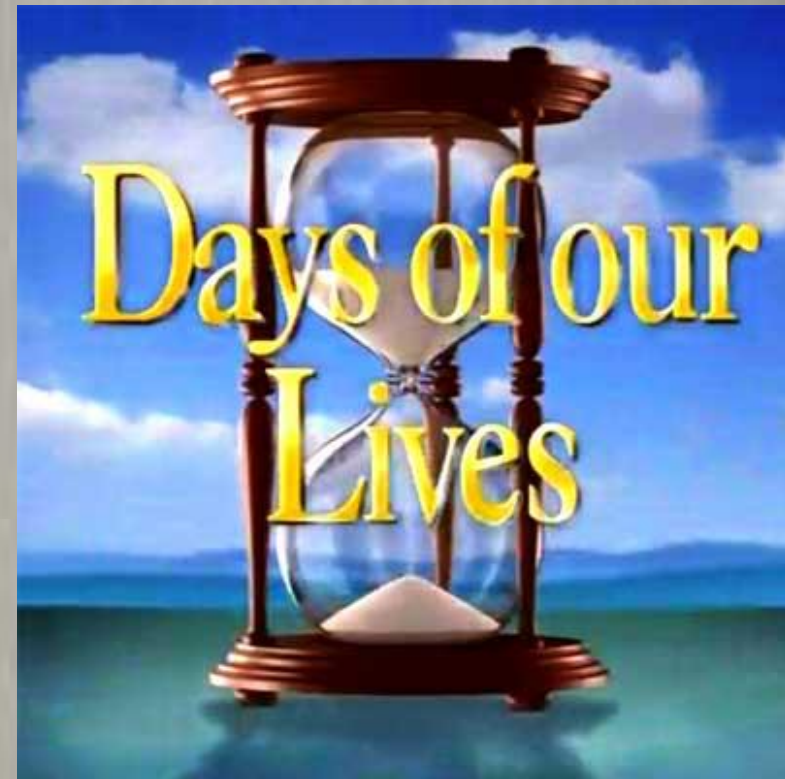




The Hittite story of
Elkunirsa and Asertu



The Hittite story of *Elkunirsa and Asertu*



Differences in God:



Israel

One

Above creation

Outside space and time

God's not a sexual being



Neighbors

Many

Part of creation

In space and time

Gods are sexual

Differences in God:



Israel

One

Above creation

Outside space and time

God's not a sexual being

God's not limited



Neighbors

Many

Part of creation

In space and time

Gods are sexual

Differences in God:



Israel

One

Above creation

Outside space and time

God's not a sexual being

God's not limited



Neighbors

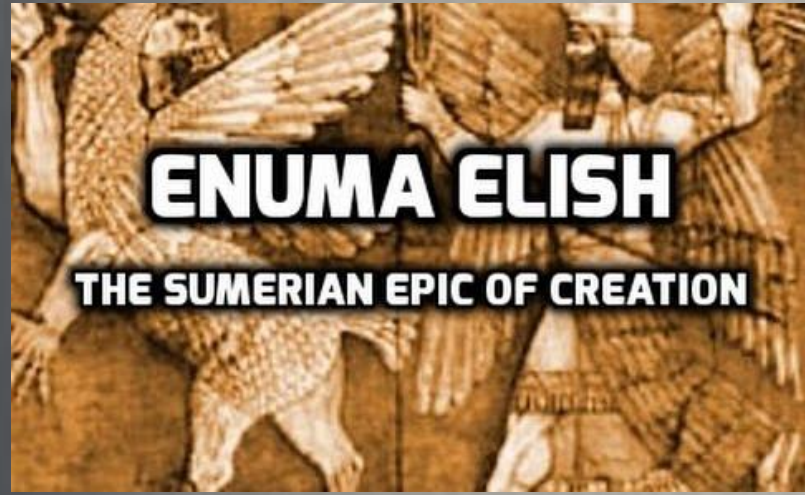
Many

Part of creation

In space and time

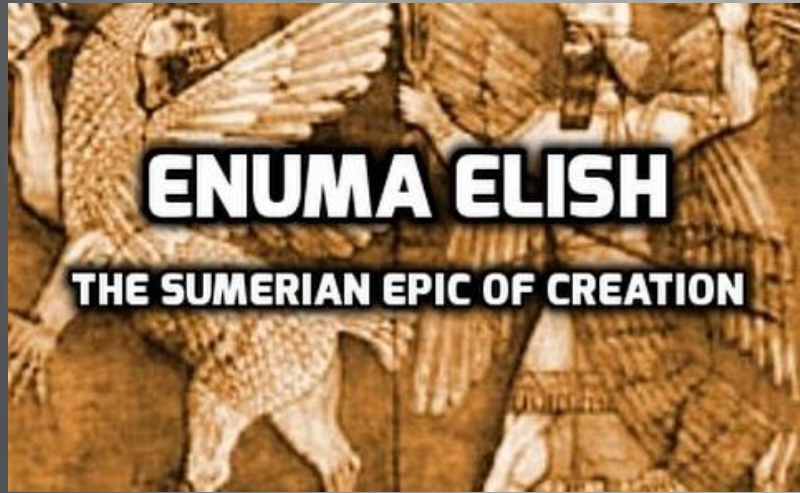
Gods are sexual

Gods share human limitations

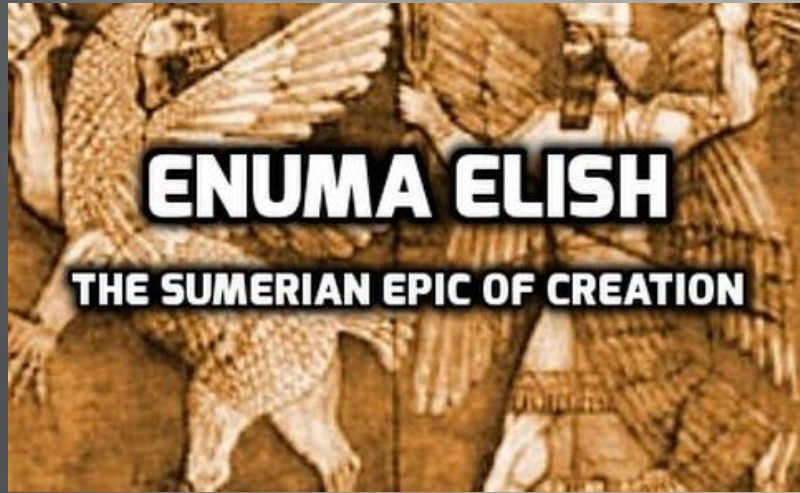


ENUMA ELISH

THE SUMERIAN EPIC OF CREATION

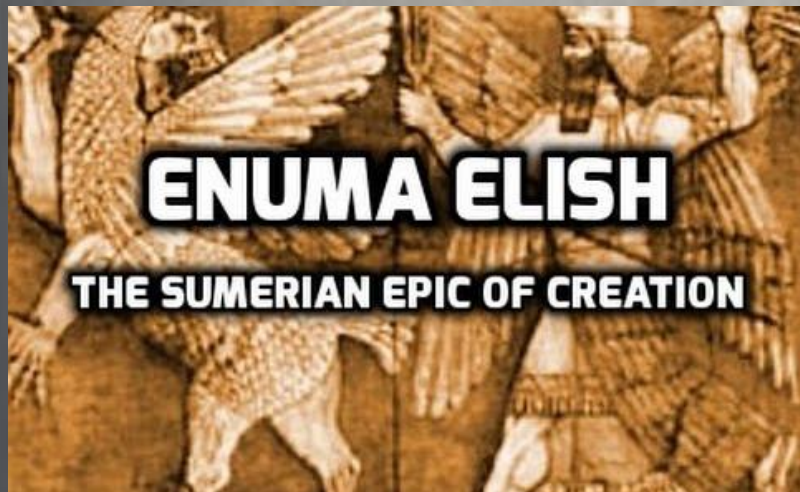


Apsu yelling at his wife: “Their behavior is noisome to me! By day I have no rest, at night I do not sleep! I wish to put an end to their behavior, to do away with it! Let silence reign that we may sleep!”



Apsu yelling at his wife: “Their behavior is noisome to me! By day I have no rest, at night I do not sleep! I wish to put an end to their behavior, to do away with it! Let silence reign that we may sleep!”

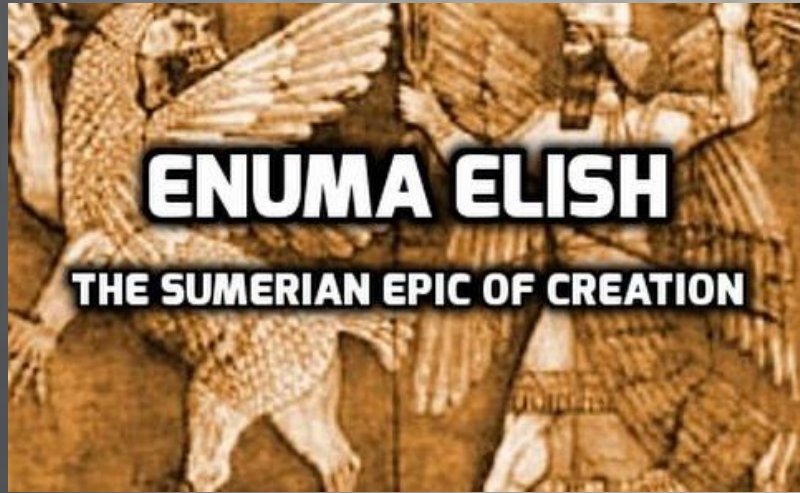
They weary



Apsu yelling at his wife: “Their behavior is noisome to me! By day I have no rest, at night I do not sleep! I wish to put an end to their behavior, to do away with it! Let silence reign that we may sleep!”

They weary

They pout



Apsu yelling at his wife: “Their behavior is noisome to me! By day I have no rest, at night I do not sleep! I wish to put an end to their behavior, to do away with it! Let silence reign that we may sleep!”

They weary

They pout

They tire

Differences in God:



Israel

One

Above creation

Outside space and time

God's not a sexual being



Neighbors

Many

Part of creation

In space and time

Gods are sexual

Differences in God:



Israel

One

Above creation

Outside space and time

God's not a sexual being

God's not limited



Neighbors

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Part of creation

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Differences in God:



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Neighbors

Many

Part of creation

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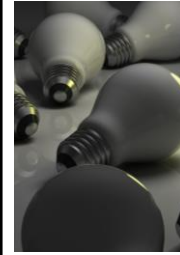
Gods are sexual

Gods share human limitations

Differences in Nature:



Israel

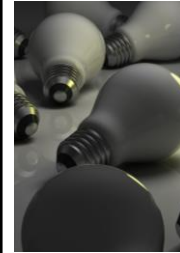


Neighbors

Differences in Nature:



Israel



Neighbors

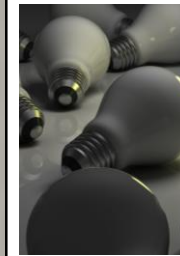
Cosmology

Function

Differences in Nature:



Israel



Neighbors

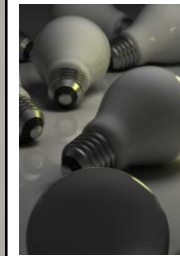
Cosmology
(Same)

Function

Differences in Nature:



Israel



Neighbors

Cosmology
(Same)

Function
(Different)

Cosmology
(Same)



Cosmology
(Same)

Cosmology
(Same)

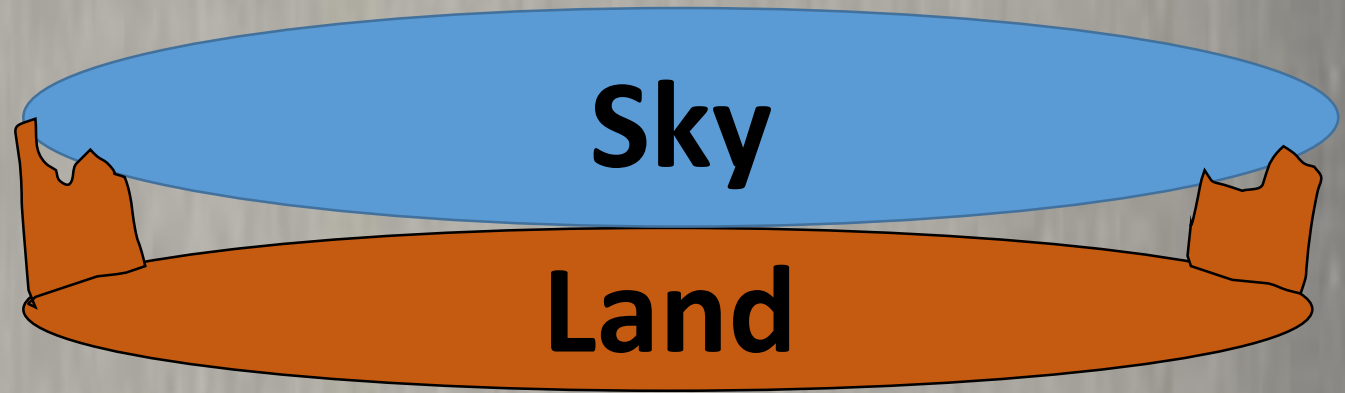
An orange oval with a black outline, containing the word "Land" in bold black text.

Land

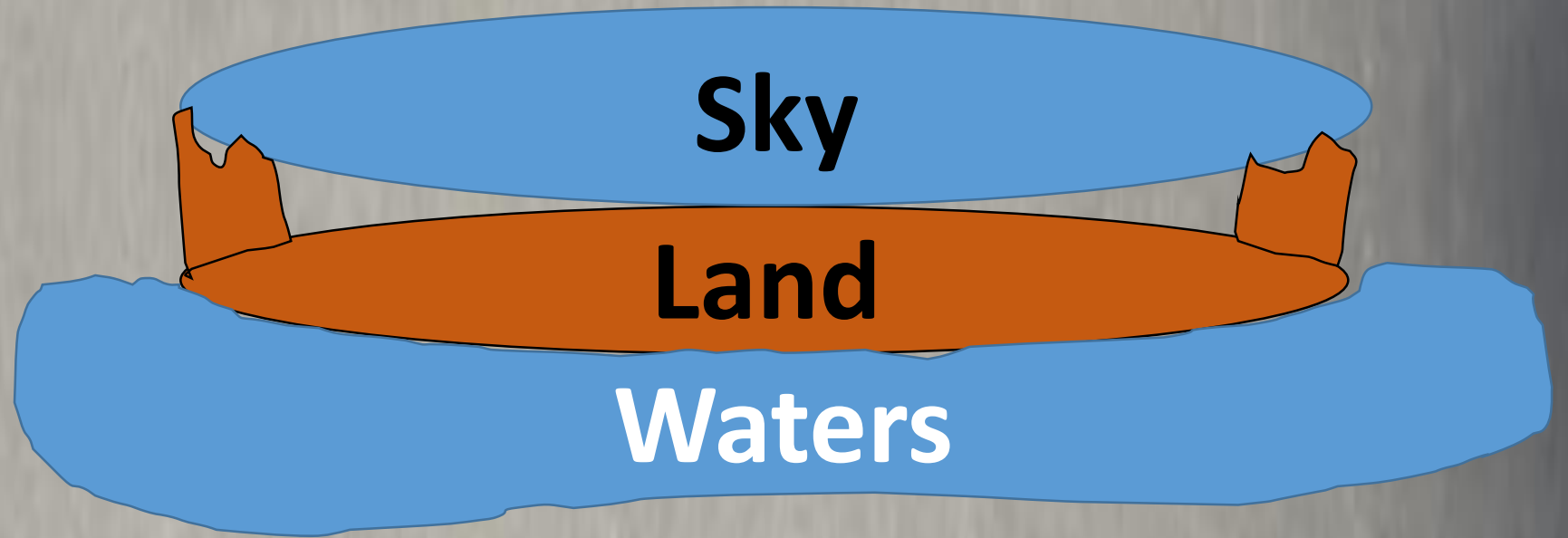
Cosmology
(Same)



Cosmology
(Same)



Cosmology
(Same)



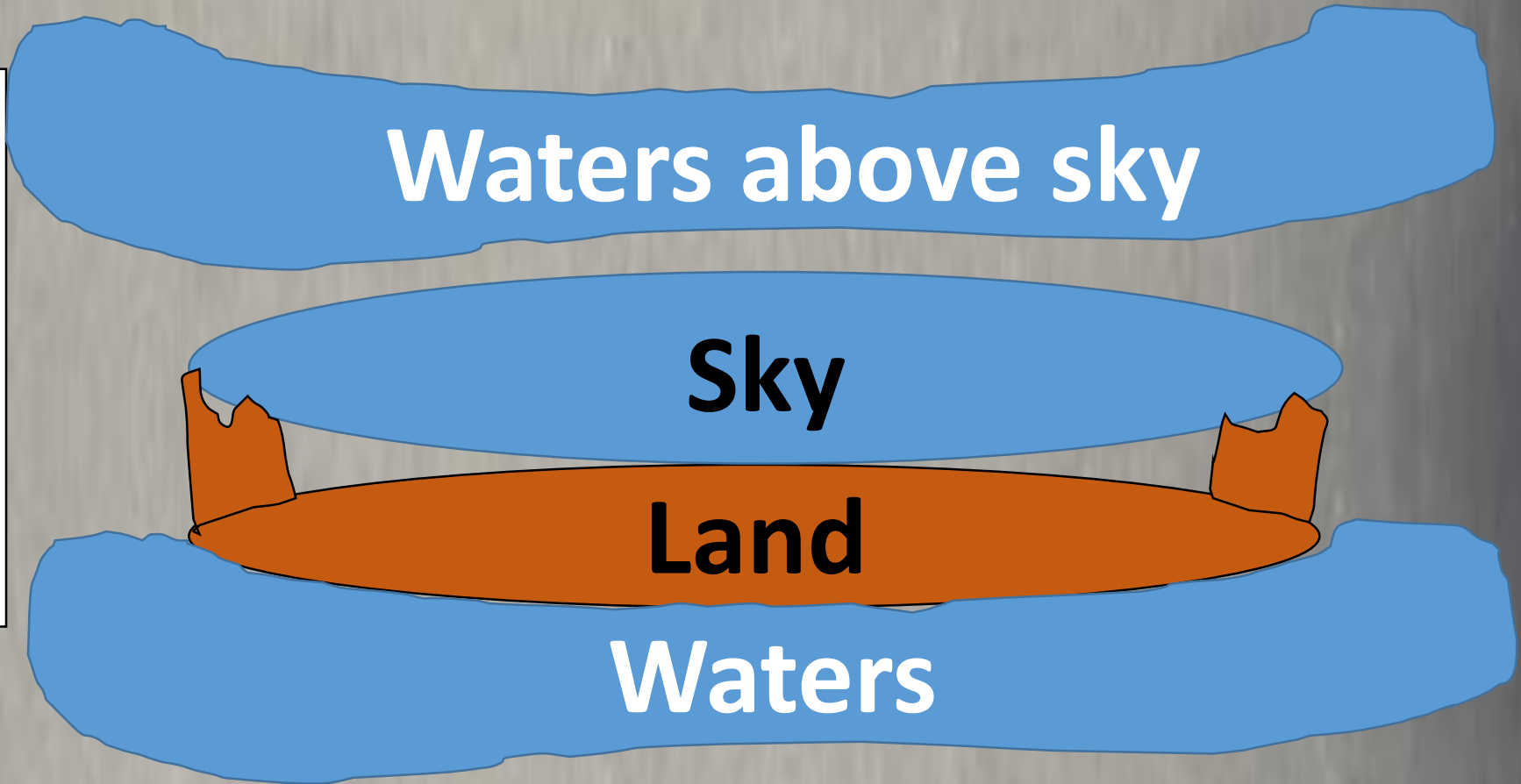
Cosmology
(Same)

Waters above sky

Sky

Land

Waters



Function
(Different)

Function
(Different)

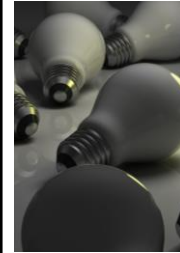


Nature is made with people in mind. Food stuffs, light, seasons, etc. People have dominion and live to God's purposes within this creation.

Differences in Humanity:



Israel

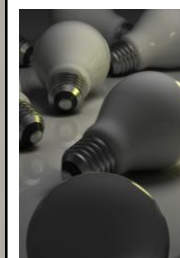


Neighbors

Differences in Humanity:



Israel



Neighbors

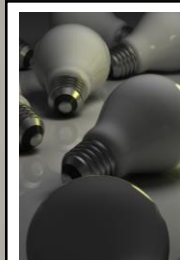
**All people in God's
image to be in
relationship as they
live to his purposes.**

Differences in Humanity:



Israel

**All people in God's
image to be in
relationship as they
live to his purposes.**



Neighbors

**The king in God's
image with the people
to do as the king
commands.**

Points for home



Points for home



*“In the beginning,
God created...”
(Gen. 1:1)*

Points for home



*“In the beginning,
God created...”
(Gen. 1:1)*

God is in control!

Points for home



*“God created the heavens
and the earth”
(Gen. 1:1)*

Points for home



*“God created the heavens
and the earth”
(Gen. 1:1)*

**I’m going to see the
world for what it is**

Points for home



*“So God created man in
his own image”
(Gen. 1:27)*

Points for home



*“So God created man in
his own image”
(Gen. 1:27)*

**I will walk deliberately as one
God chose to make**

Why I'm NOT ...

~~Atheist~~

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