Genesis Series Lesson #007 April 2, 2003

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GENESIS

Book of Beginnings

- 1. Isn't Genesis one myth comparable to other ancient legends and mythologies?
- 2. Could there be millions of years between Gen. 1:1 and 1:2 and could this not be the time frame for historical geology, the dinosaurs, and cave men?
- 3. How long are the days?
- 4. Could God have used evolution as a mechanism for creation?

1. Isn't Genesis one myth comparable to other ancient legends and mythologies?

- "When above [Enuma Elish] the heaven had not (yet) been named,
- (And) below the earth had not (yet) been called by a name,
- (When) Apsu primeval, their begetter,
- Mummu, (and) Tiamat, she who gave birth to them all, (Still) mingled their waters together,
- And no pasture land had been formed (and) not (even) a reed marsh was to be seen;
- When none of the (other) gods had been brought into being, (When) they had not (yet) been called by (their) name(s, and their) destinies had not yet been fixed,
- (At that time) were the gods created within them. . .

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They lived many days, adding years (to days)....
The divine brothers gathered together.
They disturbed Tiamat and assaulted(?) their keeper,
Yea, they disturbed the inner parts of Tiamat,
Moving (and) running about in the divine abode(?). .
[Marduk] took from [Kingu] the tablet of destinies,
which was not his rightful possession....
After he had vanquished (and) subdued his enemies.
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Strengthened his hold upon the captive gods; And then he returned to Tiamat, whom he had subdued.

The lord trod upon the hinder part of Tiamat, And with his unsparing club he split her skull. He cut the arteries of her blood, And caused the north wind to carry (it) to out-of-theway places.

[Marduk] split [Tiamat] open like a mussel into two (parts); Half of her he set in place and formed the sky (therewith) as a roof.

He fixed the crossbar (and) posted guards, He commanded them not to let her waters escape. _____

And a great structure, its counterpart, he established, (namely) Esharra [earth], . . .

He created stations for the great gods; The stars their likeness(es), the signs of the zodiac, he set up.

He determined the year, defined the divisions.... Stars aren't set up until half way through. Their function is for signs and calendar.

Punishment they inflicted upon [Kingu] by cutting (the arteries of) his blood.
With his blood they created mankind;
[Ea] imposed the services of the gods (upon them) and set the gods free.
The last act is the creation of man.

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