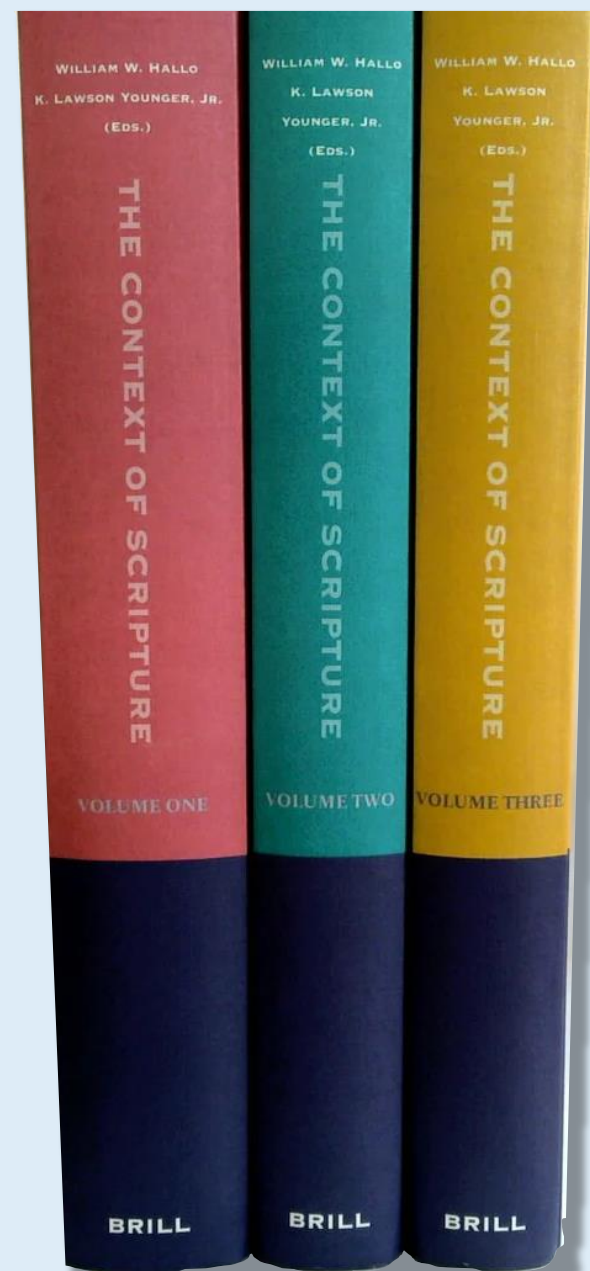
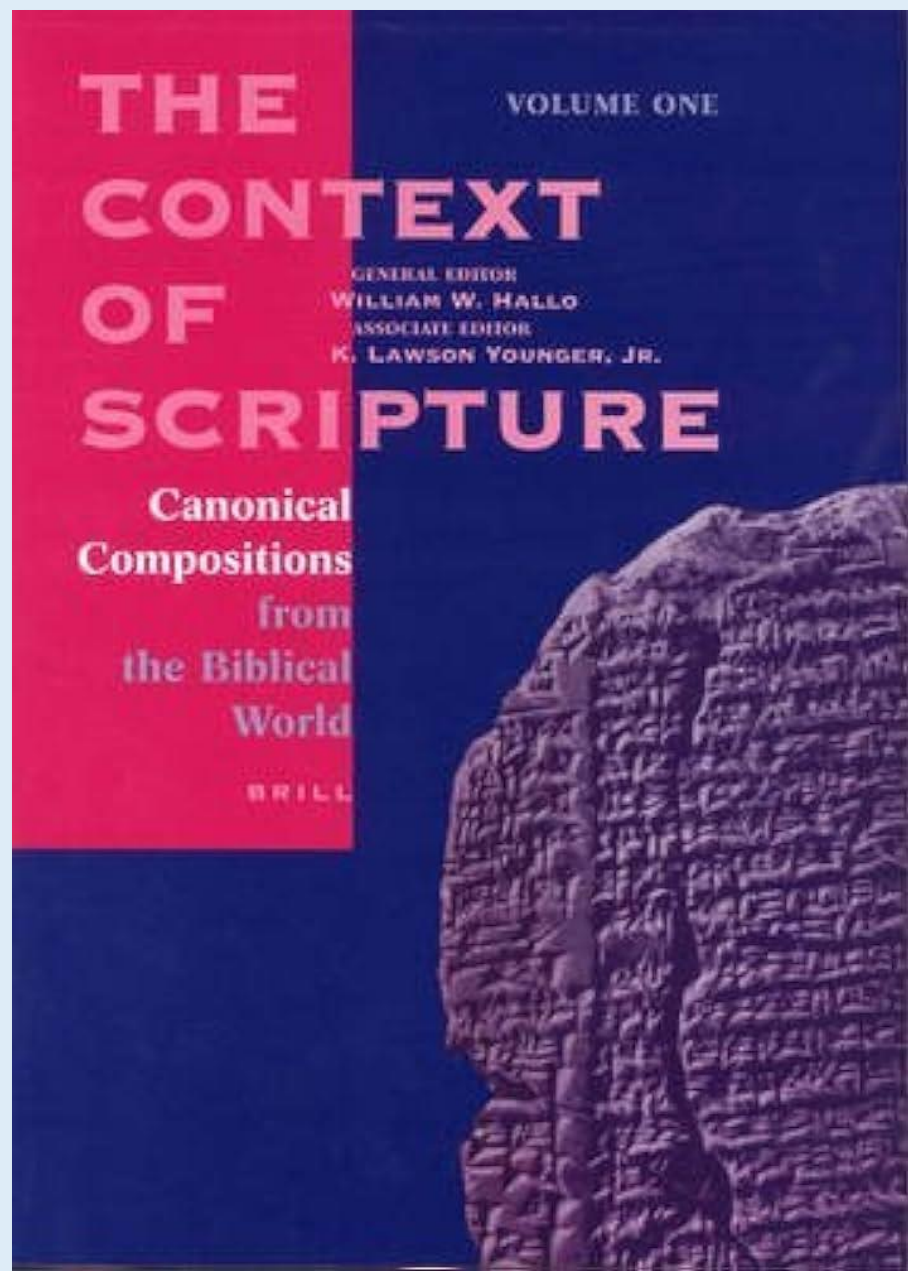


Genesis



Lots of good email traffic





REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

030+010

POSTES 1964

COTTE



1509 CALVIN 1564

John Calvin (1509-1564)

“We will see some who are so deranged, not only in religion but who in all things reveal their monstrous nature, that they will say that the sun does not move, and that it is the earth which shifts and turns. When we see such minds we must indeed confess that the devil possesses them, and that God sets them before us as mirrors, in order to keep us in his fear.”

- Calvini Opera Selecta, Corpus Refomatorum, Vol 49, 677

Genesis



Genesis Creation (3)



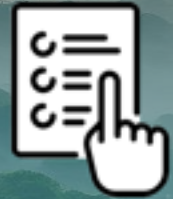
Genesis Creation and Science



THEOLOGY



BASICS



OPTIONS

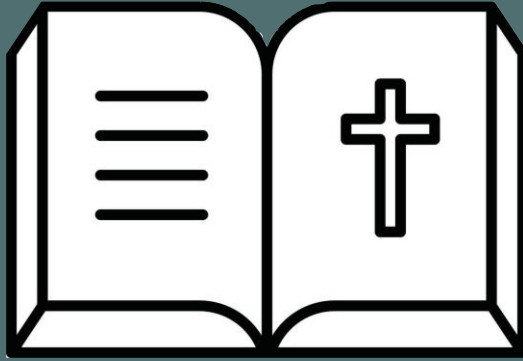


Bizarre Story

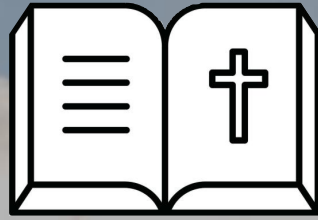


Bizarre Story

What Moses and the people heard was
massively different and hugely revealing

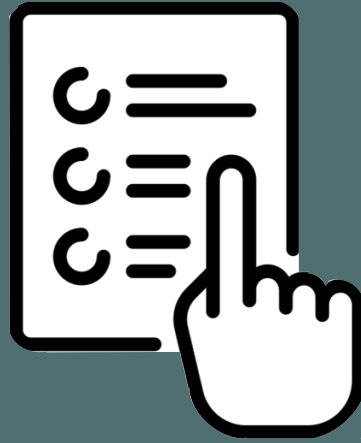


Text in Context

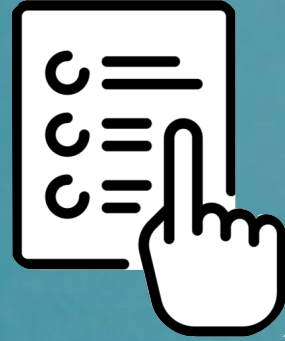


Text in Context

What does it say?
What are the options?



**Points for
home**



Points for home

Take home points for ancient Israel
and modern humanity



Bizarre Story

What Moses and the people heard was
massively different and hugely revealing

The Setting:

Mount Sinai
± 1240BC

God is revealing information to Israel



בראשית

GENESIS.

Genesis was written *for* us

But it was written *to* ancient Israel

Written in
Ancient Hebrew

Ancient
Vocabulary

Ancient
Understanding

We treasure God's word when
we read it in context



Try to hear the ancient world
despite our modern understanding

The Setting:



Mount Sinai
± 1240BC



“And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.” (Acts 7:22)

The Setting:

Cultures of the Levant

Mount Sinai
± 1240BC







Hittites

Ugarit

Israel

Egypt
Sinai

Tigris
Euphrates

Akkadian

What did the neighbors think?

Hittites

- Elkunirša – El, Creator of Earth
- Serpent = chaos



The image is a composite. The background is an aerial view of a Hittite city, showing a large, walled enclosure with several towers and a surrounding landscape of green fields and distant mountains. Overlaid on the right side is a large, close-up image of a stone head sculpture, likely a Hittite deity or royal figure, with large, almond-shaped eyes and a serene expression. The word "Hittites" is written in red text in the upper left quadrant.

Hittites

The operation of the universe
requires each deity properly
perform his or her function.



Hittites

Calamity happens when a god
abandons a post.

- The wrath of Telipinu



Hittites

Ugarit

Israel

Akkadian

Egypt

Sinai

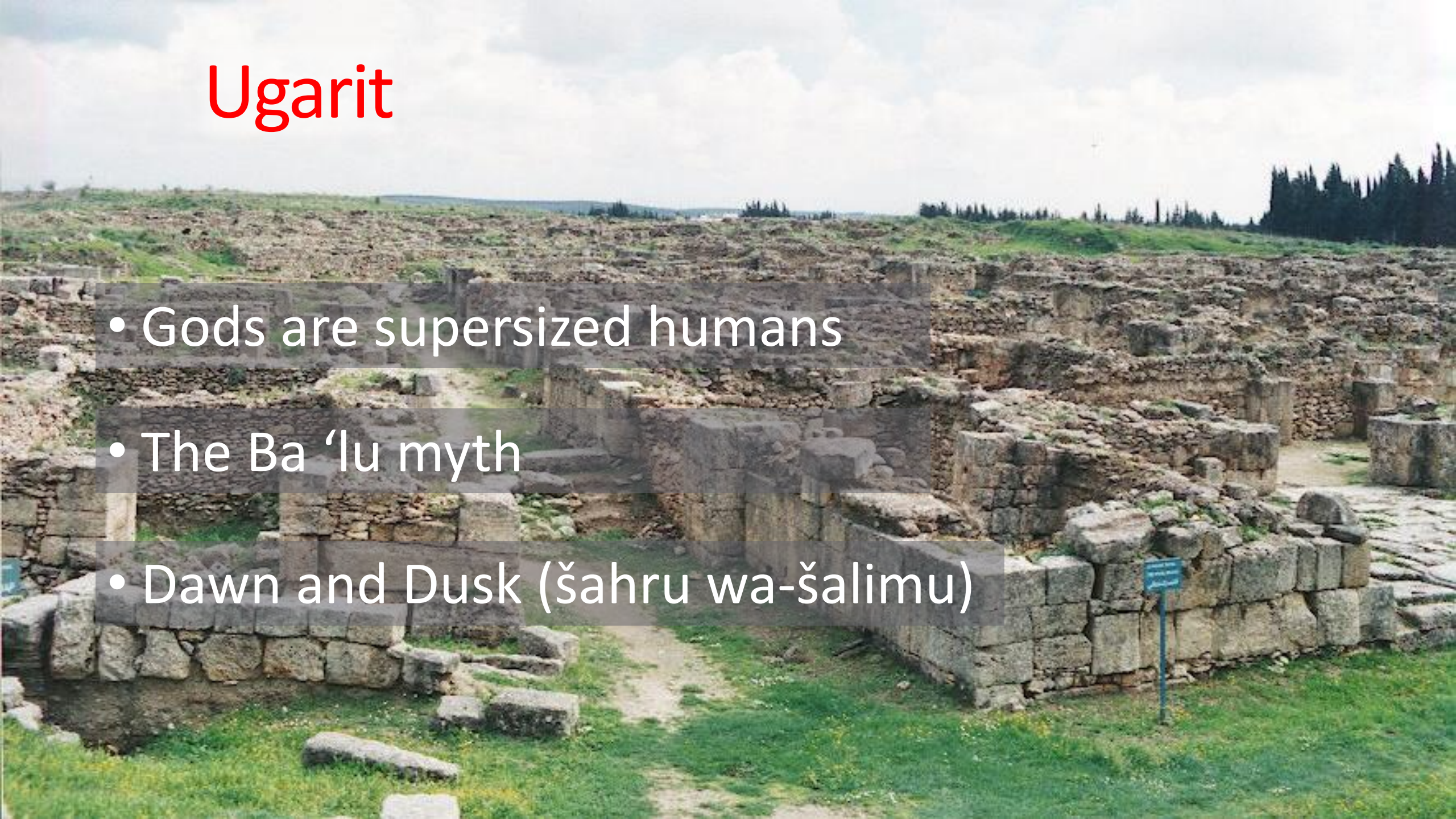
Euphrates

Tigris

What did the neighbors think?

Ugarit

- Gods are supersized humans
- The Ba 'lu myth
- Dawn and Dusk (šahru wa-šalimu)





Hittites

Ugarit

Israel

Egypt

Sinai

Tigris

Euphrates

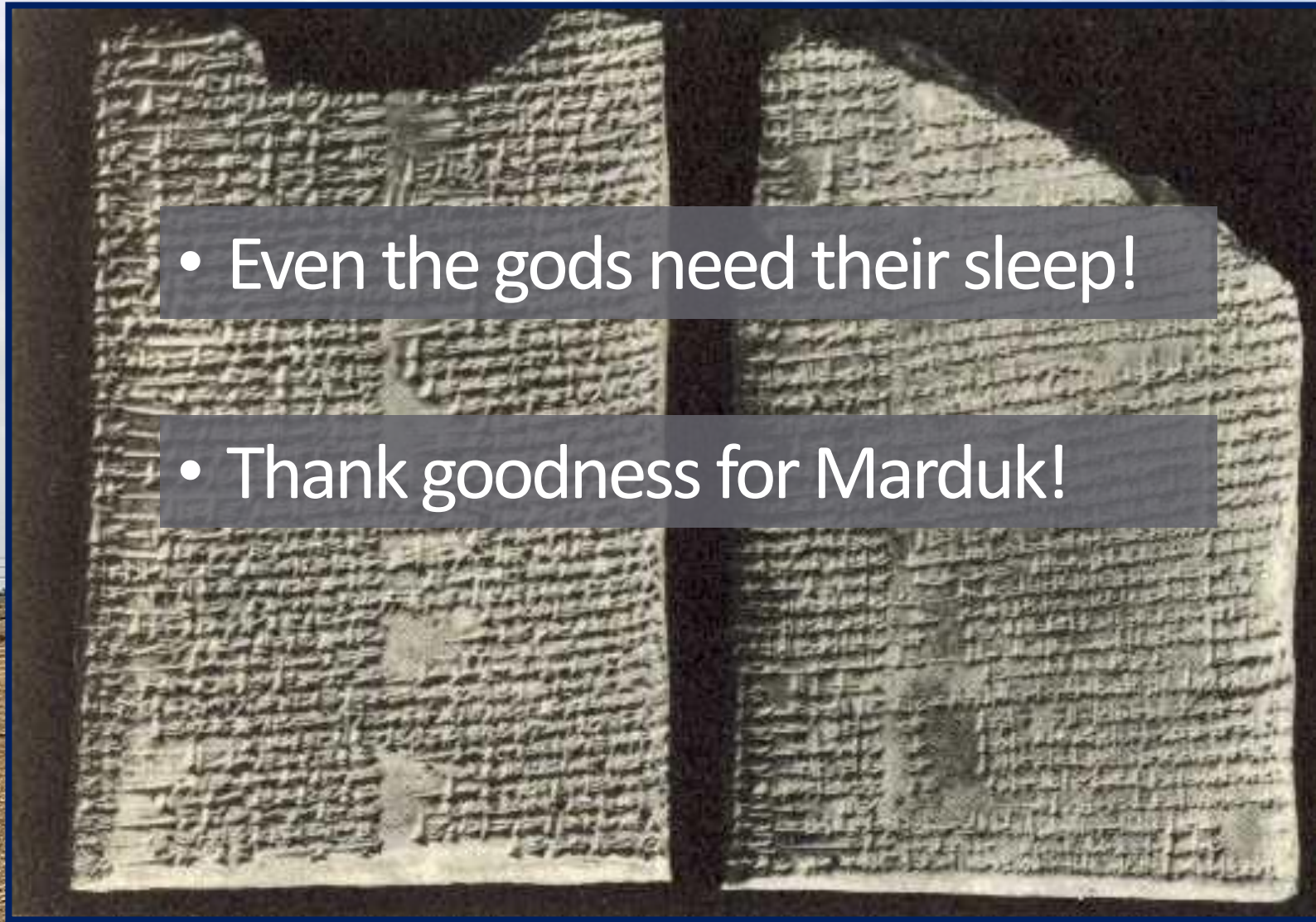
Akkadian

What did the neighbors think?

The Enuma Elish

Akkadian

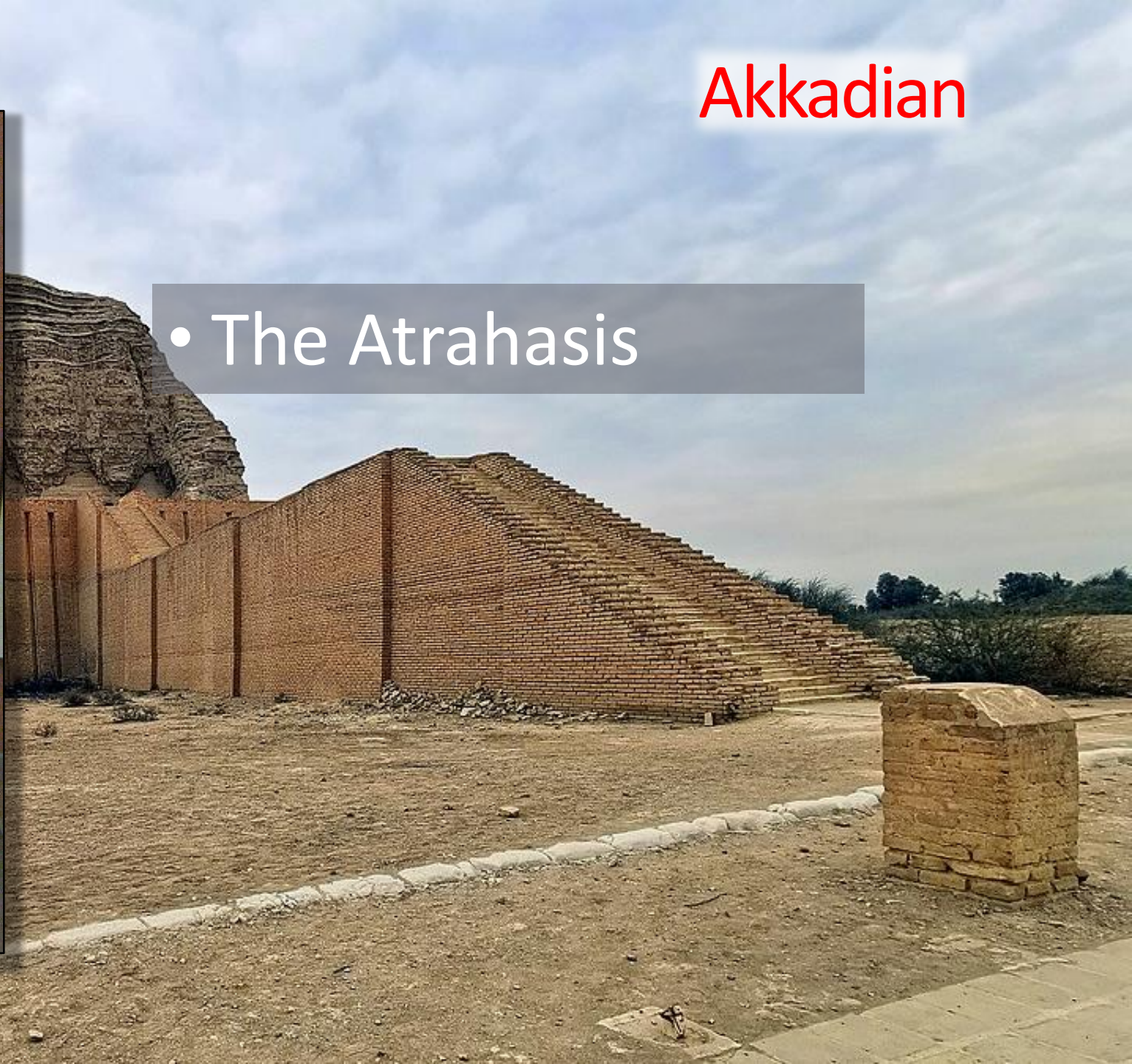
- Even the gods need their sleep!
- Thank goodness for Marduk!





Akkadian

- The Atrahasis





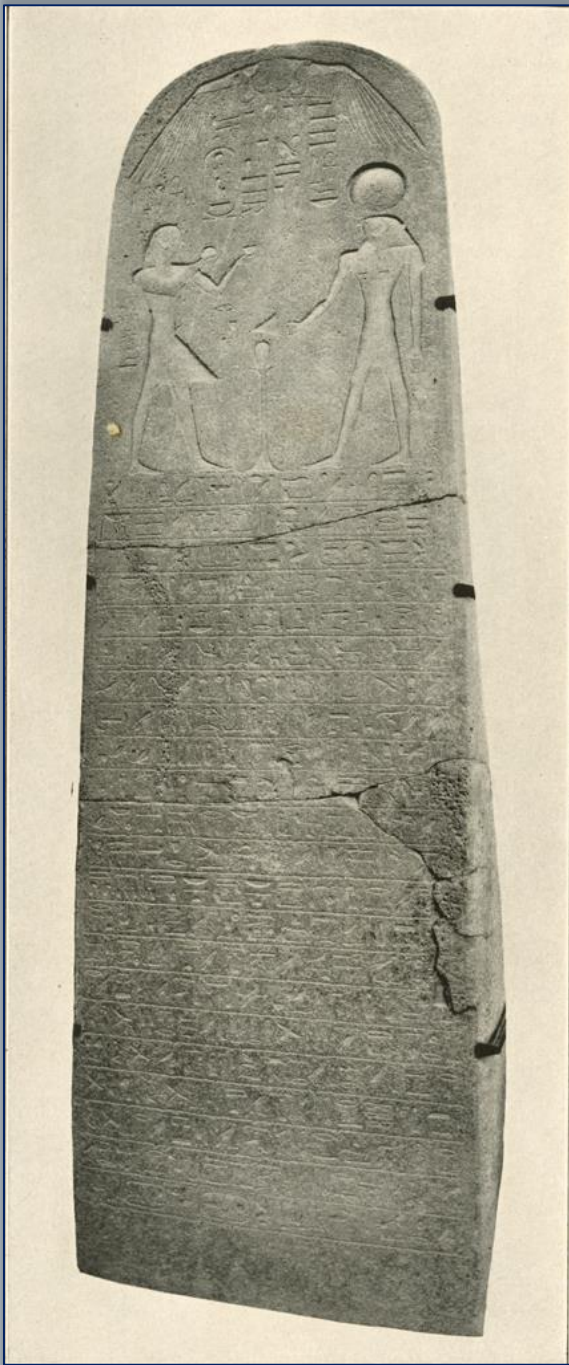
Tigris
Euphrates

The Atrahasis

- Humans are created to assume the drudgery of the gods

Atrahasis Tablet 1: When the gods, instead of man
Did the work, bore the loads
The god's load was too great,
the work too hard, the trouble too much.

The Stela (first) found at Beth Shan



Horace

Ra

Pharaoh Seti

The Hadad-yith'ī monument



The Setting:

Cultures of the Levant

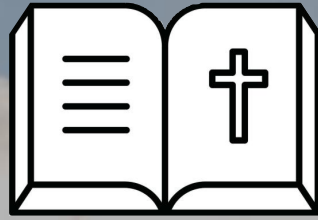
Mount Sinai
± 1240BC





Bizarre Story

What Moses and the people heard was
massively different and hugely revealing



Text in Context

What does it say?
What are the options?

God is revealing information to Israel
Uphold Scripture and Theology



We best read it in context



God used ancient cosmology,
but gave **an entirely different message!**



Egypt

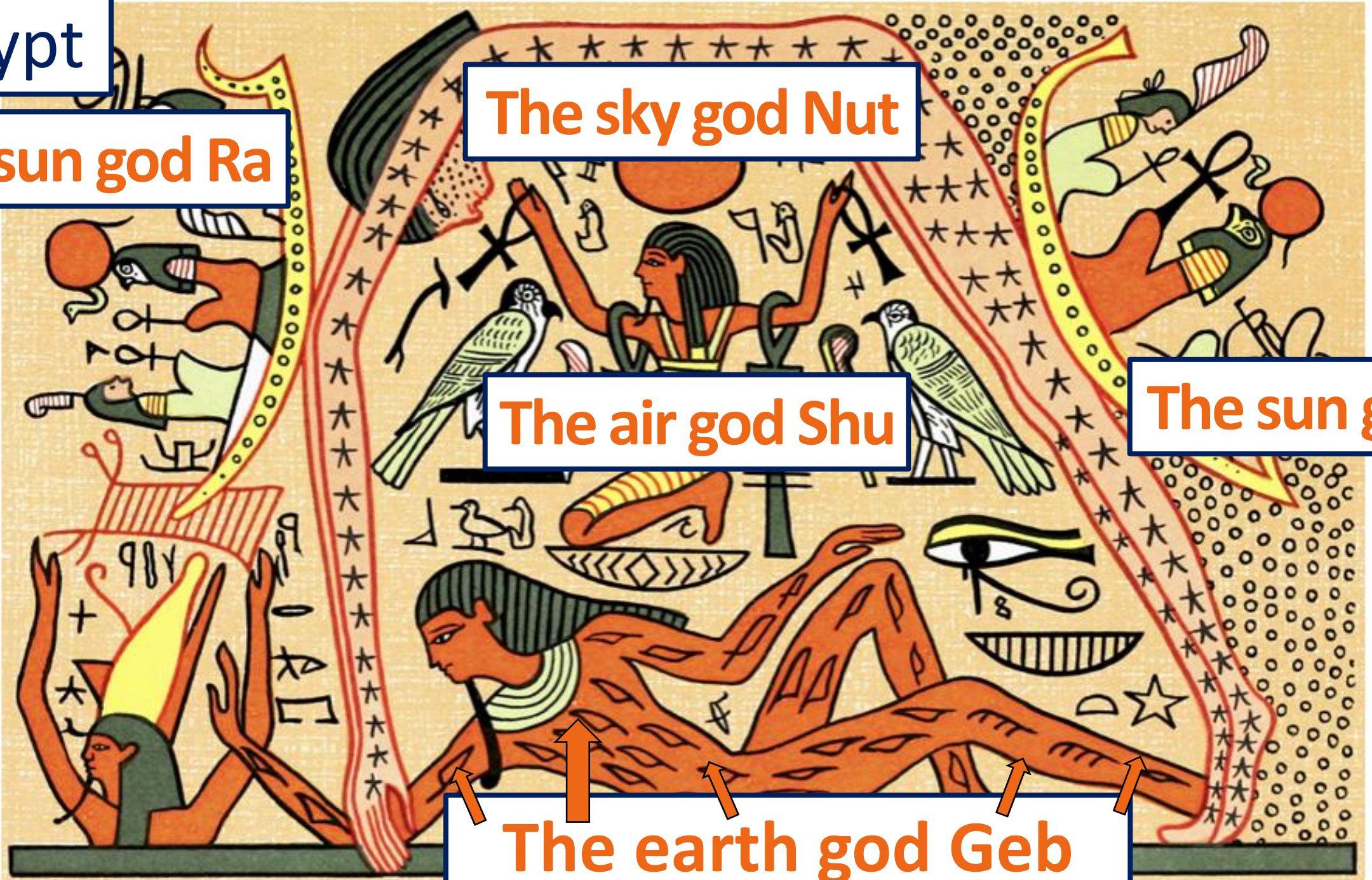
The sun god Ra

The sky god Nut

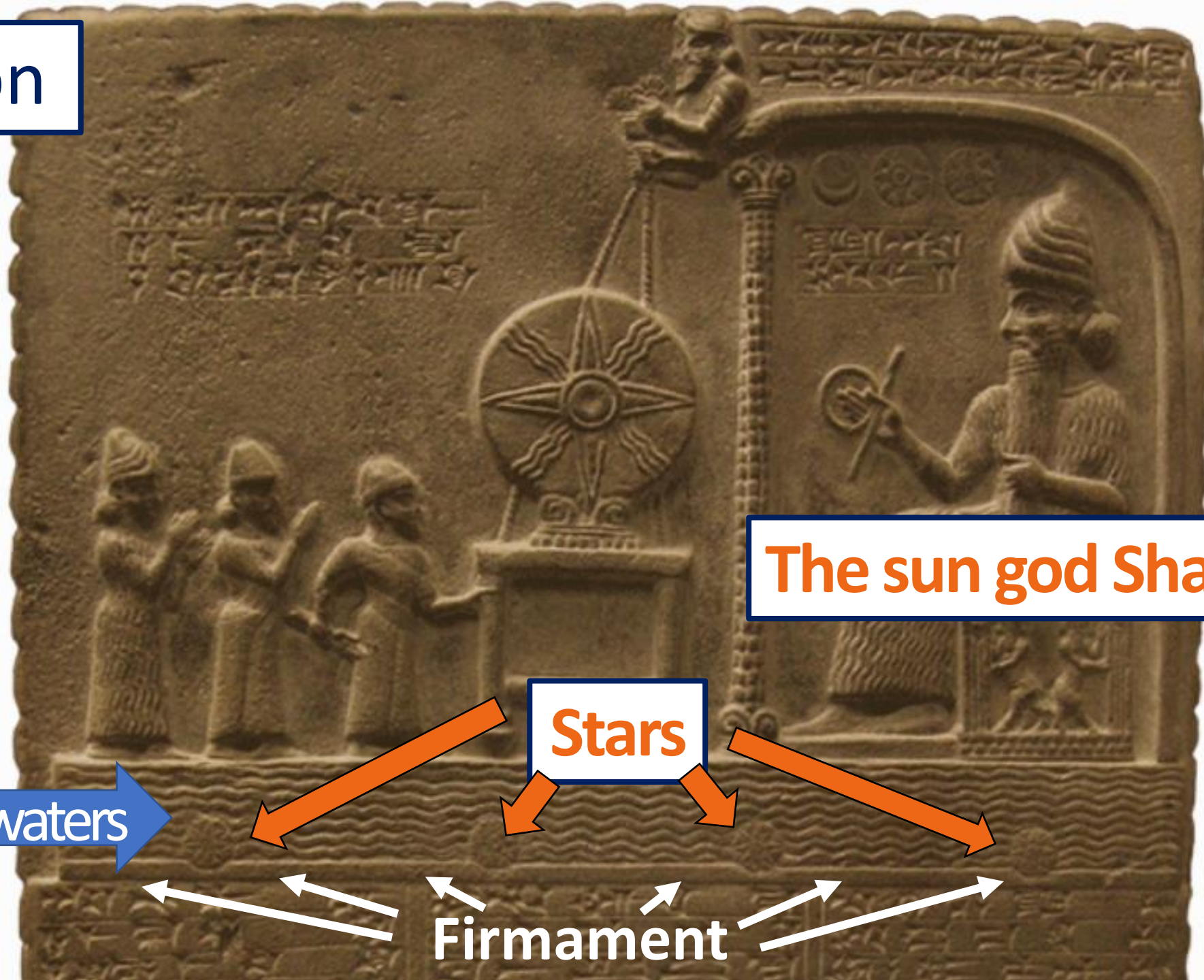
The air god Shu

The sun god Ra

The earth god Geb



Babylon



The sun god Shamash

Stars

Heavenly waters

Firmament

“The earth was without **form** and **void**”

Forming

1  Light/darkness

2  The “firmament”
(heavens from waters)

3  Land

Filling

4  Sun; moon/stars

5  Fish – sea;
birds - heavens

6  Animals, bugs,
people

One God apart from nature.
Not many gods as part of nature.



God is above creation.
Not captive to creation.



God makes nature,
he isn't tied to it.

God is outside space/time.
Not captive to space/time.



God makes time,
he isn't tied to it.

God is not a sexual being.
Gods are gendered.



God is not a super-sized human.

Gods are s/s'ed humans w/ human limitations.



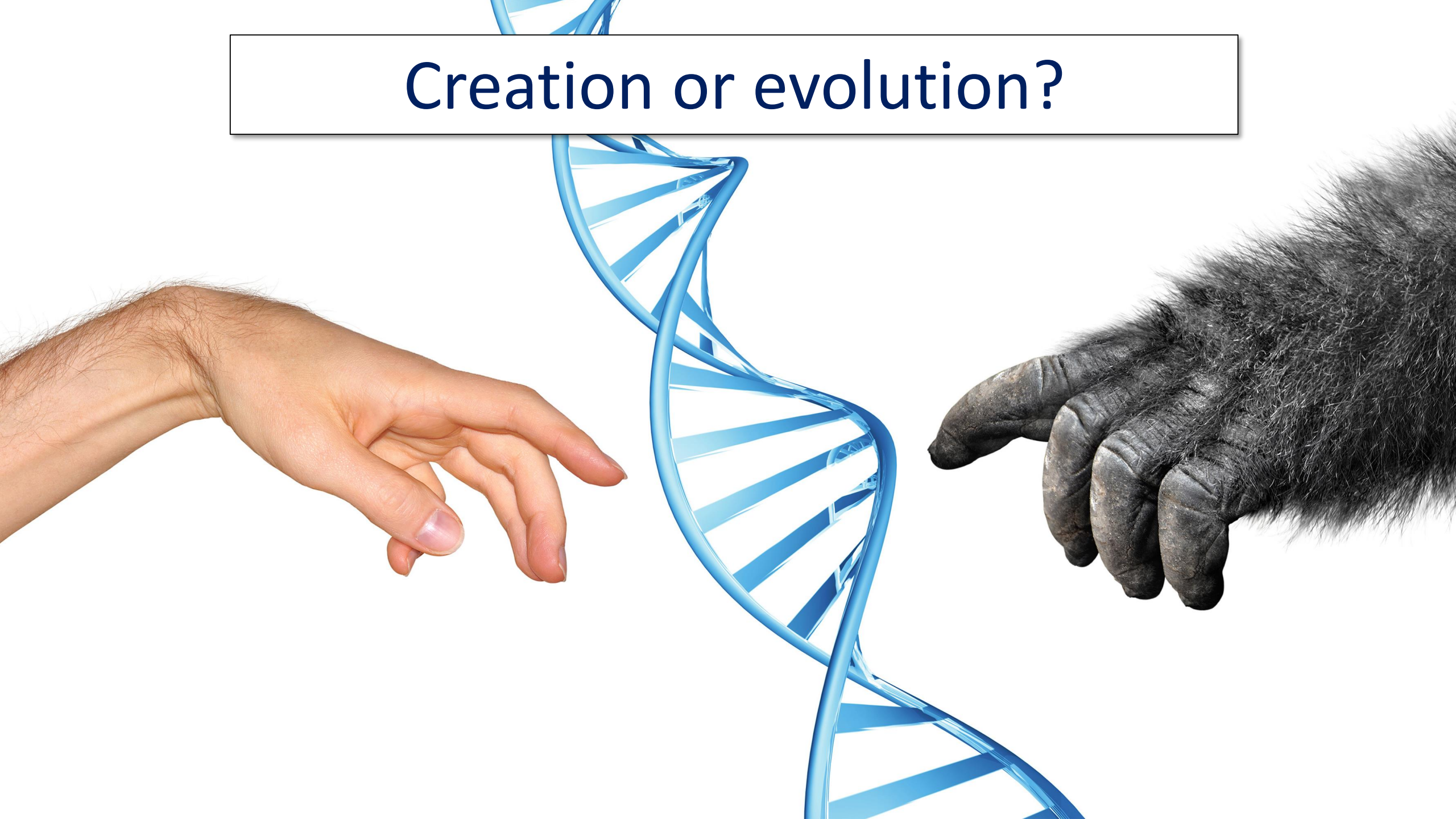
God makes humans for fellowship.
Gods make humans for ease of life.



God makes nature for humans.
Gods tame nature for the gods uses.



Creation or evolution?



Do you ever feel you walk a tightrope in your faith
regarding science and reading Genesis?



Science

Genesis 1

Genesis 1

Faith

7-day;
24 hour-ish process

No comment
beyond theology

Theistic evolution

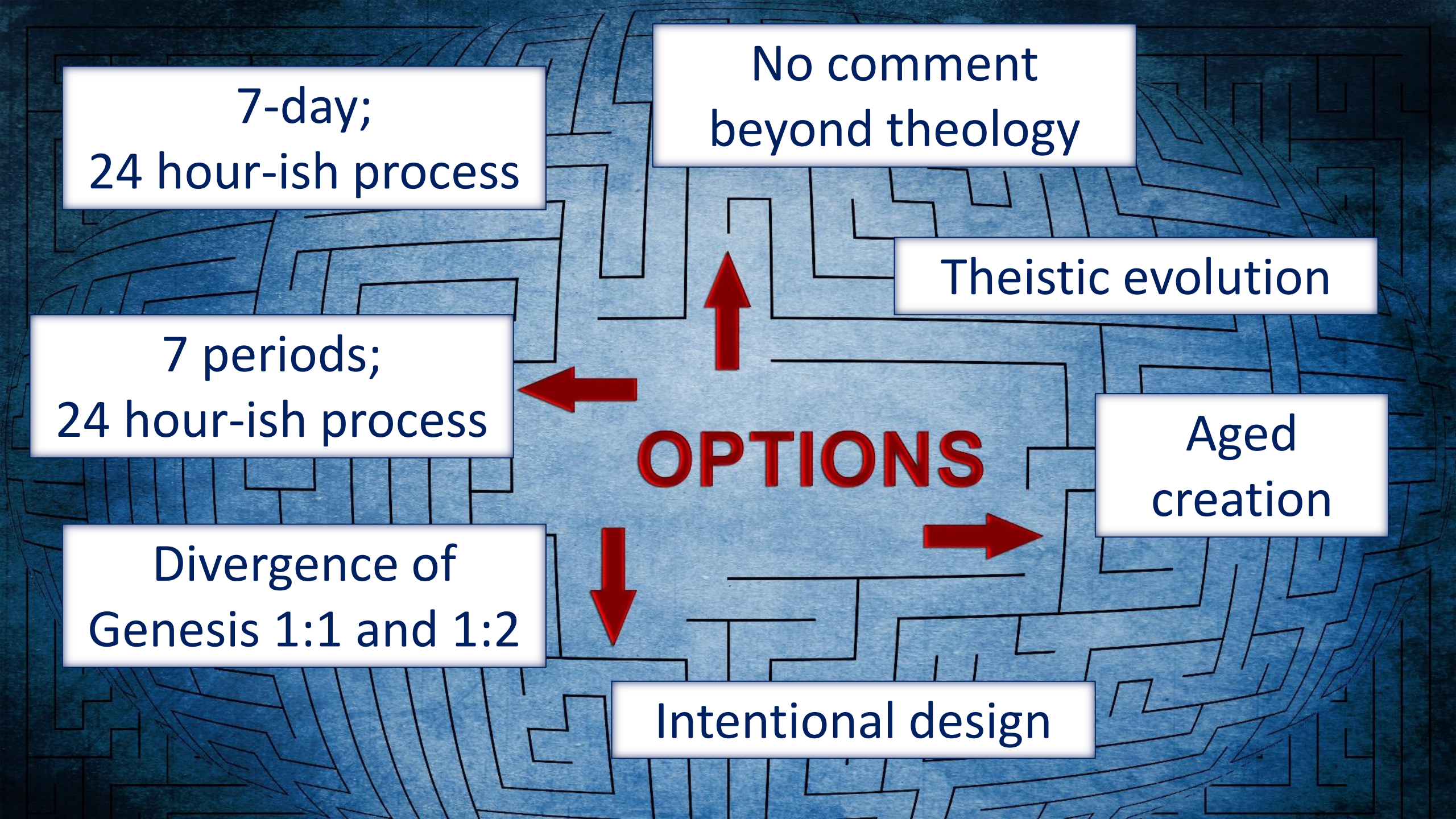
7 periods;
24 hour-ish process

Aged
creation

Divergence of
Genesis 1:1 and 1:2

OPTIONS

Intentional design

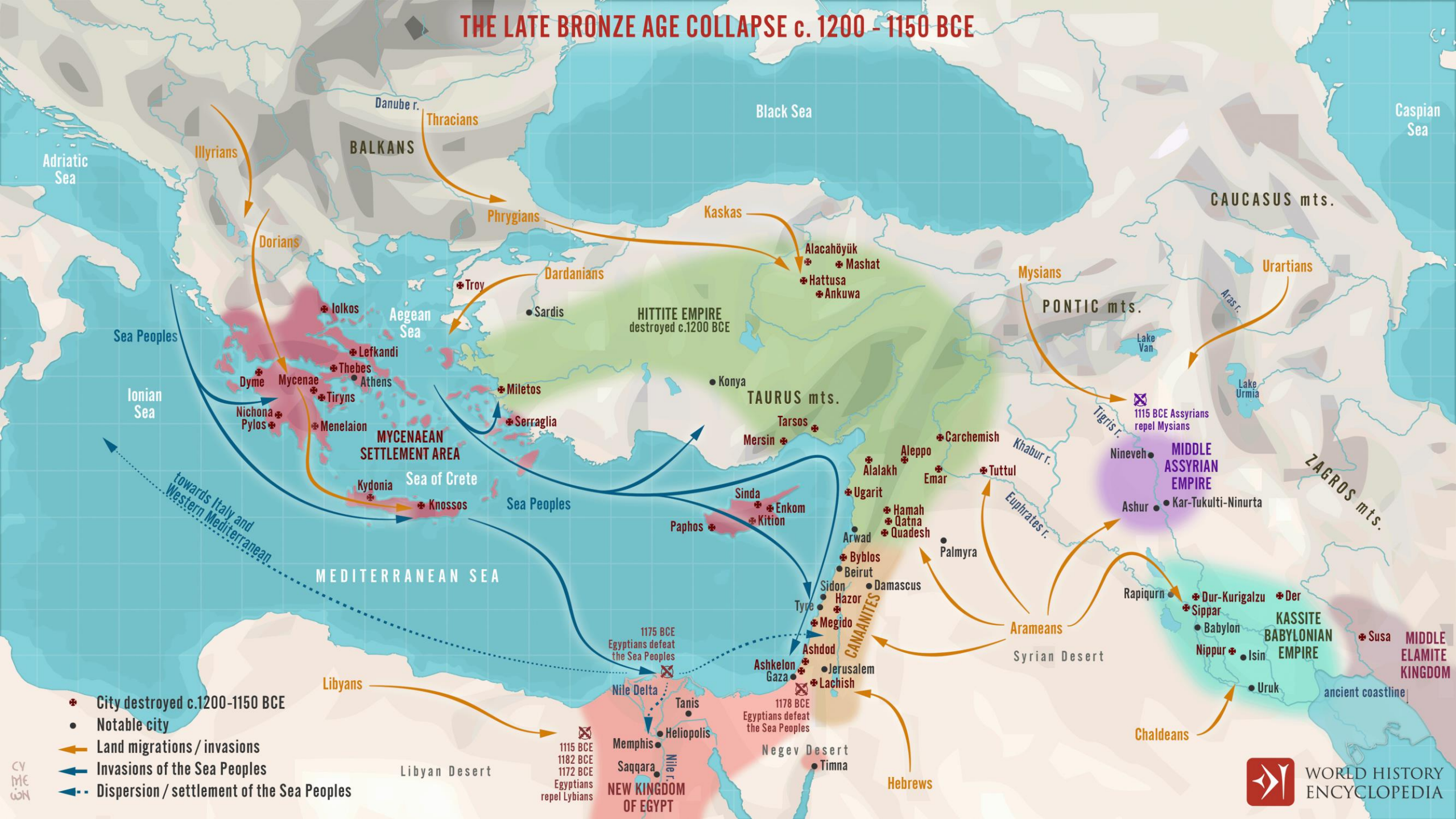


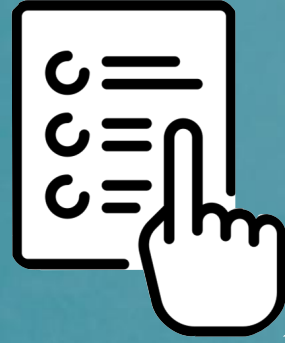


A top-down photograph of various metal hardware items scattered on a dark, textured wooden surface. In the center is a bright blue rectangular sign with a black border and hand-drawn corner brackets. The sign features the words "COME BACK" in large, white, hand-drawn capital letters. Surrounding the sign are numerous silver-colored metal bolts of different lengths and sizes, several hexagonal nuts, and a single open-end wrench positioned horizontally above the sign. The wrench has the number "13" engraved on both sides of its handle. The lighting is soft, creating subtle shadows and highlights on the metallic surfaces.

COME
BACK

THE LATE BRONZE AGE COLLAPSE c. 1200 - 1150 BCE





Points for home

Take home points for ancient Israel
and modern humanity



**T
A
K
E**

**A
W
A
Y**



An aerial photograph of a vast, dense forest covering a mountain slope. The trees are mostly evergreens, with some deciduous trees showing early autumn colors of yellow and orange. A white rectangular box is centered in the middle of the image, containing the text "Don't miss the forest for the trees" in a dark blue, sans-serif font. The background shows a hazy, distant mountain range under a clear sky.

Don't miss the
forest for the trees

The unique awesomeness of God in his revelation



For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords,
the great, the mighty, and the awesome God

- Moses (Deuteronomy 10:17)

The unique awesomeness
of God in his creation



O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the
earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...

- David (Psalm 8)

Your importance to God



...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him?

Your importance to God



Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands.

Genesis

