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Global Literature I

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Week Two Summary

Chapters 6-11 of the Epic of Gilgamesh are known as "The Story of the Flood". In these chapters, the gods send a great flood to wipe out all humankind due to their noisy and disruptive behaviour. The only man to survive the flood is Utnapishtim, who was warned of the disaster by the god Ea and instructed to build a large boat to save himself, his family, and the seeds of all plant life. After the flood, Utnapishtim is granted immortality by the gods as a reward for his piety and obedience. This story is one of the earliest known flood myths and has similarities with the biblical story of Noah and the flood.

The main plot points of the Epic of Gilgamesh in books 6-11 are:

The gods decide to send a flood to wipe out all of humankind because of their noisy and disruptive behaviour.

The god Ea warns Utnapishtim about the impending flood and instructs him to build a large boat to save himself, his family, and all plant life.

Utnapishtim follows Ea's instructions and survives the flood, becoming the only human to do so.

The gods reward Utnapishtim's piety and obedience by granting him immortality.

These books depict the ancient Mesopotamian flood myth, its themes of divine punishment and salvation, and the idea of a reward for obedience to the gods.