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Paper Proposal

The Biblical text that I want to study is the account of God creating man in Genesis 1:26-31. The ANE text that I will compare this to is Tablet VI of the creation epic *Enuma Elish*. In this paper I will look to compare how there are differences and similarities in how these two texts document the creation of man. I am particularly interested in how the ANE text of *Enuma Elish* portrays their gods and how this compares to God (Yahweh) in Genesis. From this research study I am hoping to portray how the Bible is countercultural of the ANE in how they view their creator.

An initial piece of academic research I have come across that I believe is helpful is in *The Ancient Near East: An Anthology of Texts and Pictures*. In this book, it has a good introduction of the text that gives good background and the book gives a full text translation of the ANE text I have chosen with some biblical references. Another couple pieces of academic research that will be helpful for my paper is information from *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*. In this book it has a helpful appendix of the gods of the ANE world. In *Enuma Elish*, there is a lot of references to the different gods, so it would be helpful to understand the gods' different roles and functions and how this helps in the interpretation of the text. Additionally, in this book there is a chapter that discusses ANE thoughts on human origins and roles that will be helpful in interpretation and the comparison of the two texts. In how the ANE viewed humans and their roles also tells a lot in

how they view their gods. See below for list of resources I am intending on using to study and compare the texts:

Matthews, Victor Harold, and Don C. Benjamin. Old Testament Parallels: Laws and Stories From the Ancient Near East. Vol. Fully revised and Expanded Fourth edition. New York: Paulist Press, 2016.

Ogunlana, Babatunde A. “Inspiration and the Relationship between Genesis 1:1-2:4A and Enuma Elish.” BTSK Insight 13 (October 2016): 87–105.

Pritchard, James B, ed. *The Ancient Near East: An Anthology of Texts and Pictures*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2011.

Seri, Andrea. “The Role of Creation in Enūma Eliš.” *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 12, no. 1 (2012): 4–29.

Walton, John H. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Bake Academic, 2018.