

Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Worldviews

Biblical Worldview	Ancient Near Eastern Worldview
There is only one God.	There are many gods.
God's existence is eternal and presumed at the time of this world's creation.	The gods are not eternal and evolved into being over time.
God is never in error.	The gods are prone to making mistakes.
God is always moral and just in his thoughts and actions.	The gods are frequently immoral and unjust in their thoughts and actions.
God's actions and mood are predictable.	The actions and moods of the gods are erratic.
God's story is revealed in history.	The story of the gods is revealed in mythology.
God created the natural world.	The gods represent components of the natural world.
Mortals are the honored crown of God's creation.	Mortals are an afterthought, created to be the lowly slaves of the gods.
The primary role of mortals is to give glory to God.	The primary role of mortals is to provide for the needs of the gods.
God forbids the manufacture and use of idols.	The gods sponsored and required the use of idols to mediate interaction with mortals.
God is sovereign and cannot be manipulated by the use of sympathetic magic.	The gods are dependent on mortals and subject to the use of sympathetic magic.
God's expectations are clearly communicated in writing.	The expectation of the gods is hidden and must be intuited from personal experience and through the use of omens.
Sacrifices are worship tools that recall the dependence of mortals upon God and model the solution for sin.	Sacrifices provide the gods with food, which they need to survive.