

Moses vs. Egypt

Egyptian Myth

Why pay attention to myths?

Egyptian myth and worldview

Conservative / preservationist

Heterogeneous / non-reconciled / inconsistent

Consolidationist

Common Worldview

No god(s)
(atheism)

One god
(monotheism)

Many gods
(polytheism)

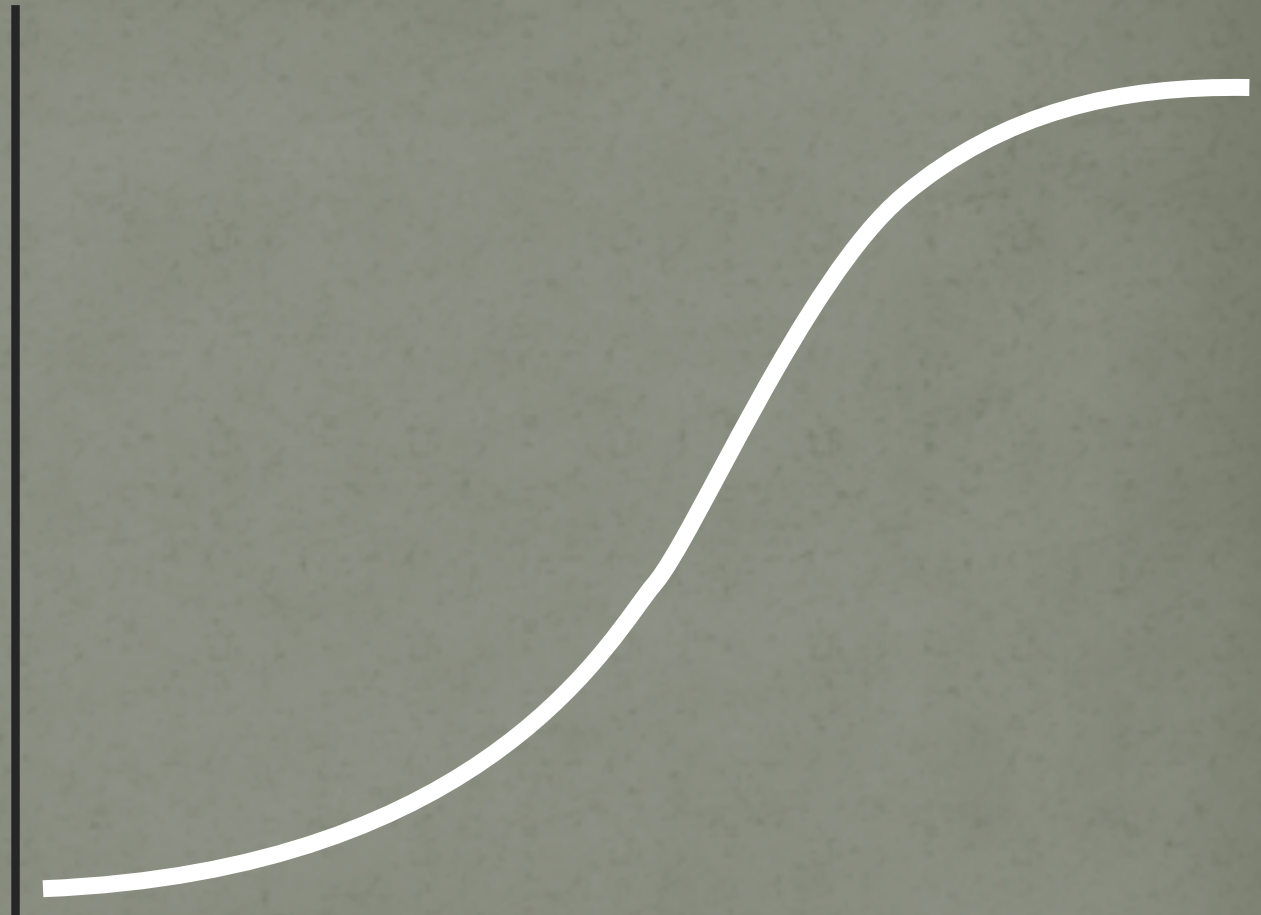
History

Common Worldview

No god(s)
(atheism)

One god
(monotheism)

Many gods
(polytheism)



History

Common Worldview

No god(s)
(atheism)

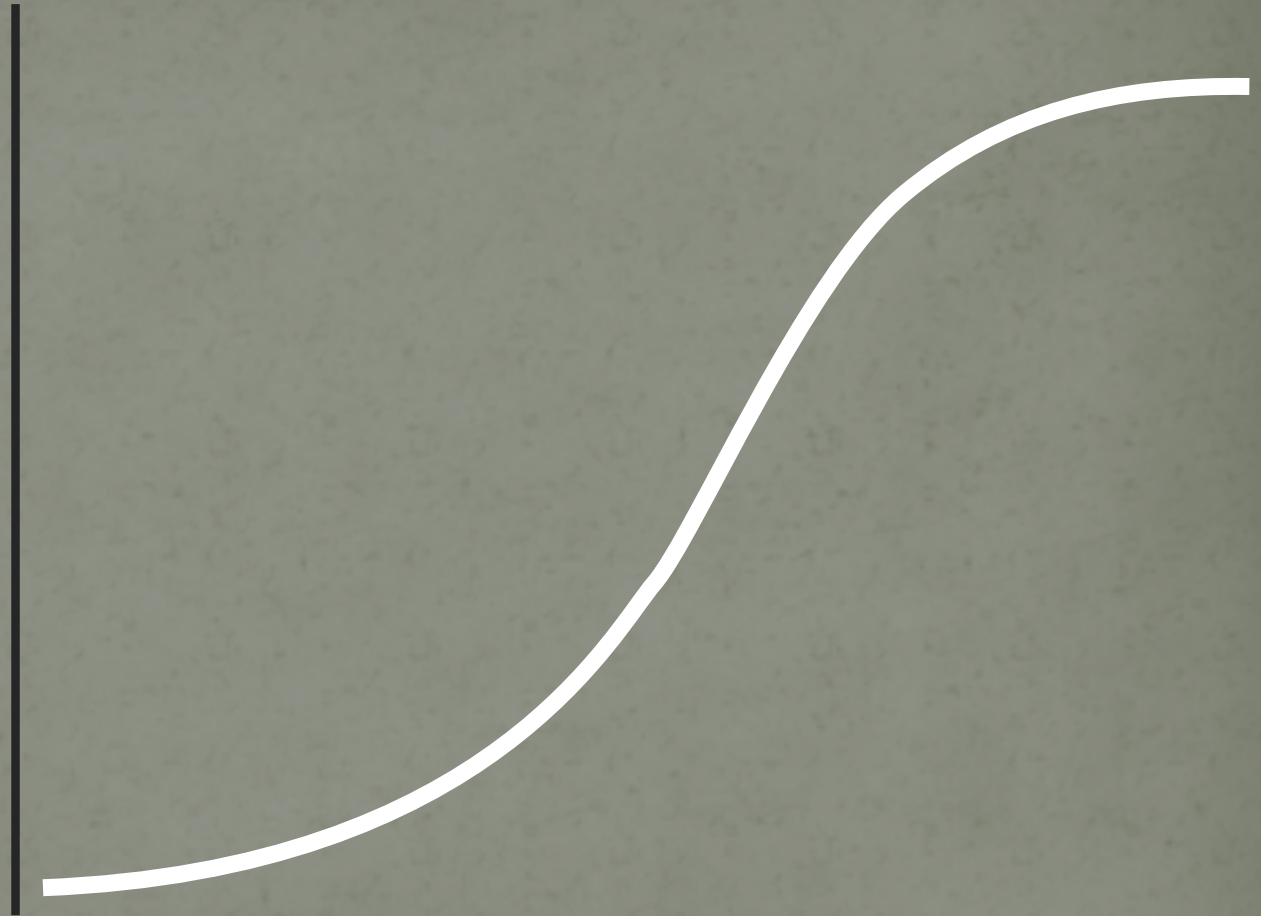
Humanism

One god
(monotheism)

Monolotry

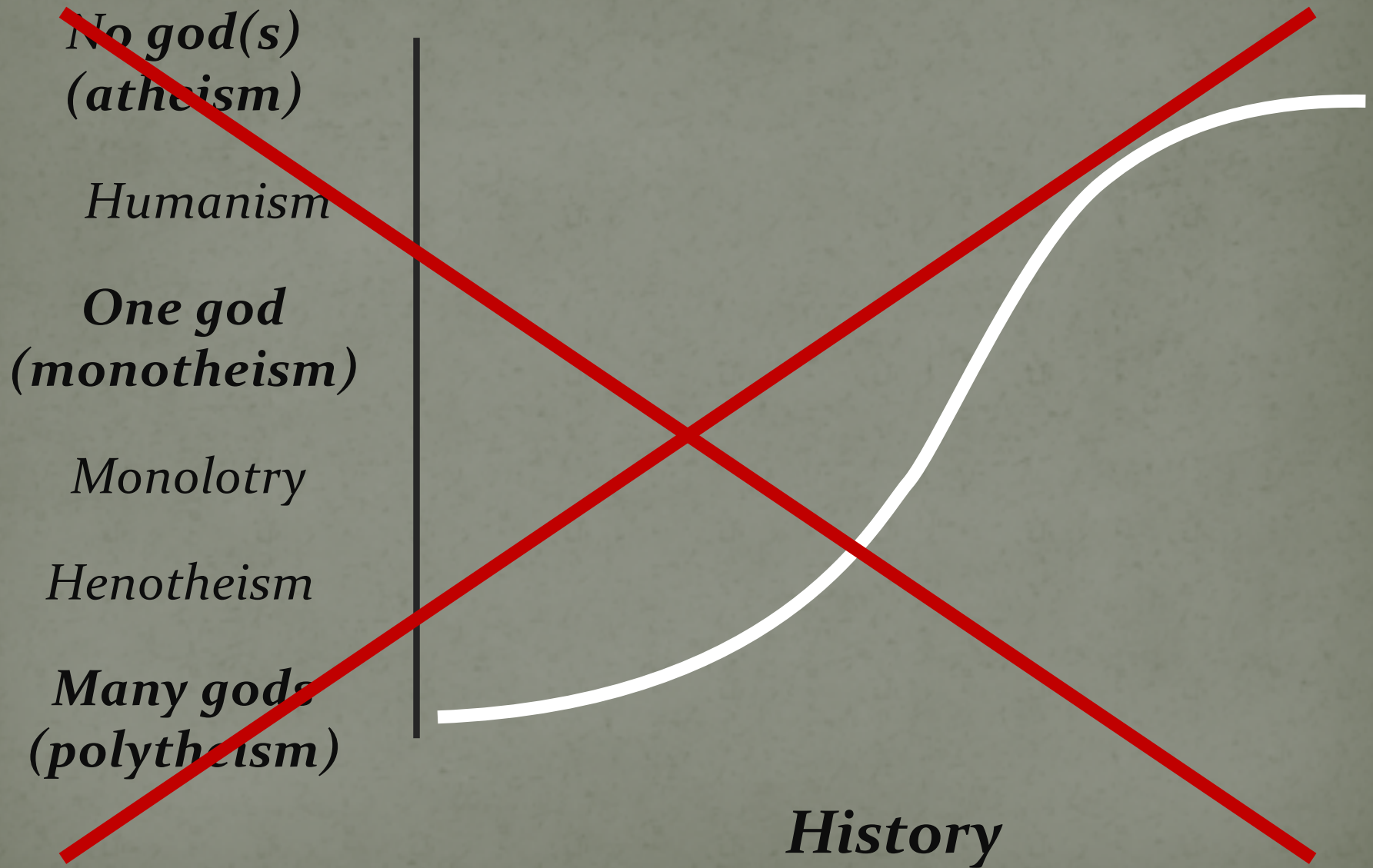
Henotheism

Many gods
(polytheism)



History

Common Worldview

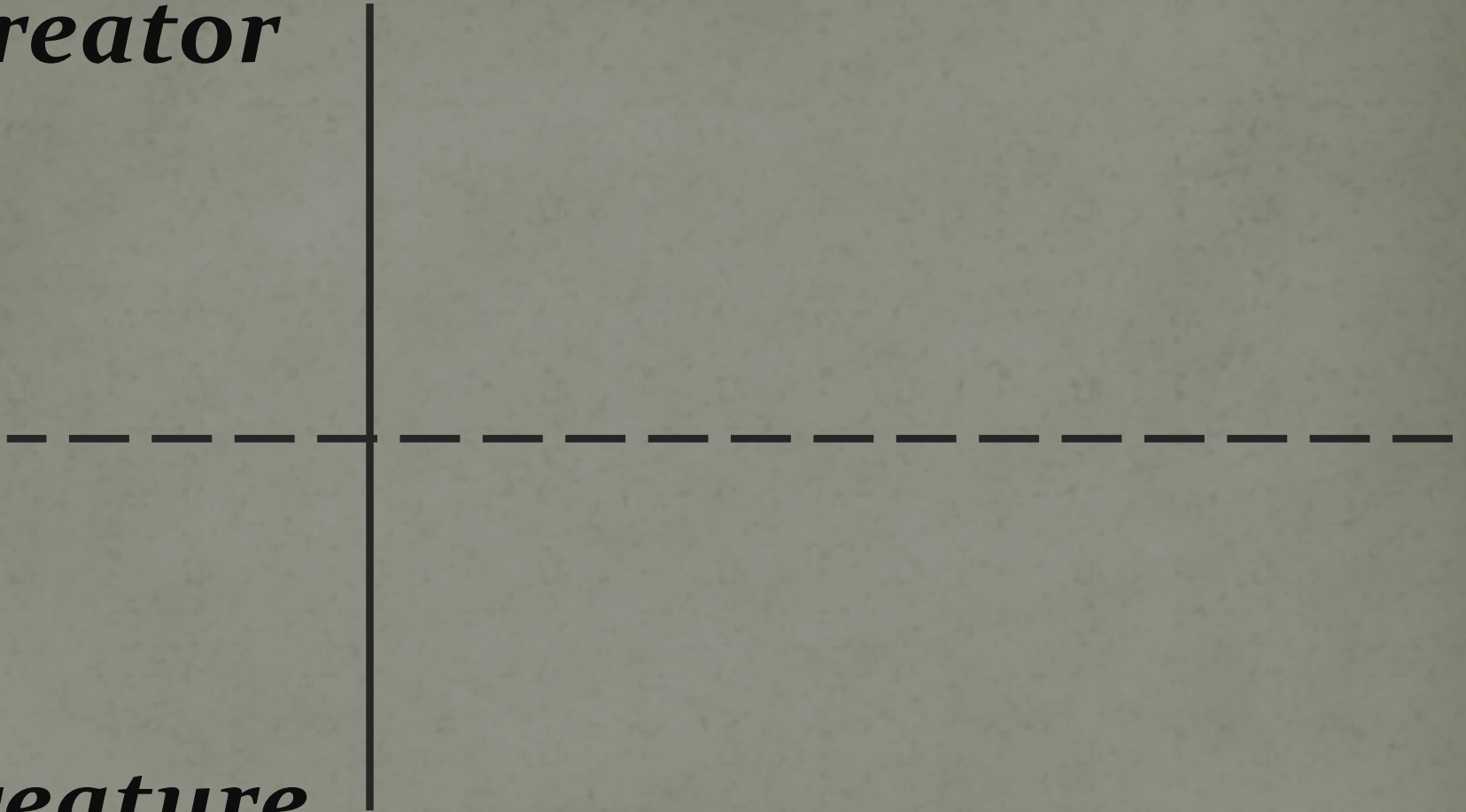


Biblical Worldview

Creator

Creature

History



Netjer, Nature Deified

“The gods were the essence of nature – Egyptian *netjer* – the name the later Nile valley civilization would give to the very concept of godhood. One can only wonder if our word ‘nature’ does not find its origins in the ancient land of Egypt.”

David Rohl, *Legend: The Genesis of Civilization*
(London: Random House, 1998), 404

Romans 1

Professing to be wise they became fools and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and **worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Creation of Light

Day 1: God creates light, Gen. 1:3

Day 4: God creates sun, moon, and stars, Gen. 1:14-19

“The Egyptians believed that light was created by the elemental gods as they stood on the primeval hillock [Benben]... Significantly, it was only after that event that the gods ‘gave birth to the sun-god.’”

John Currid, *Ancient Egypt and the Old Testament*, 66.

Genesis 1:2 – The Ogdoad

The Ogdoad

4 pairs of primordial gods:
Male frogs and female snakes

Huk / Huket = formlessness

Amun / Amunet = hiddenness /
chaos / void

Kuk / Kuket = darkness

Nun / Naunet = the deep,
primordial waters of Nun

The earth was without form and
void; and darkness was on the
face of deep. -Genesis 1:2



Separation of Sky / Earth

Shu: Air, supporter of the heavens, holds up the sky

Tefnut: Moisture, dew, rain (sister-wife of Shu)

They give birth to Nut and Geb, sibling / consorts

Nut: The sky, the vault of heaven

Geb: the earth; *Shu separates and holds Nut above Geb*

Shu holding Nut above Geb



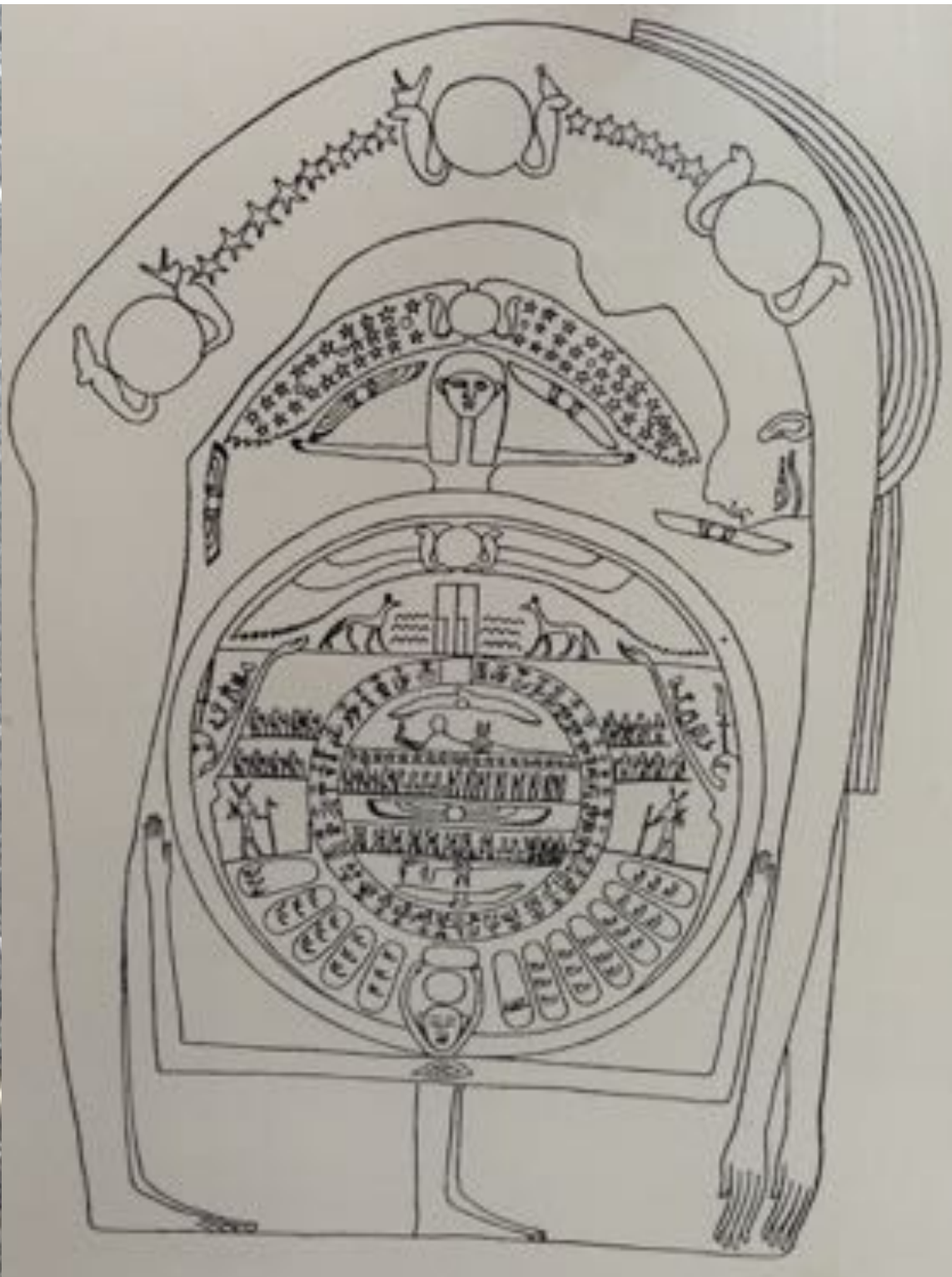
Shu holding up the sky (Tutankhamen's tomb)

Separation of Sky / Earth

Genesis 1:6-8

Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. (NKJV)





Man and Gods

“The Egyptians had no separate or elaborate account of the creation of humans... To the ancient Egyptians a story specifically concerned with the creation of humans would have had no real purpose since humans could not be entirely distinguished from the gods. For creation started with the gods and was thought to continue with humans.”

John Currid, *Ancient Egypt and the Old Testament*, 37.

Ra “made the air to give life to their nostrils. They are his own images proceeding from his flesh.”

(Currid, 71) from Instruction to King Merikare

Osiris, Isis, Horus, Seth



Osiris

Set /
Seth
Creature



Isis



Horus Falcon

Photo by Michael Pixley
NY Metropolitan Museum of Art

Memories of Adam and Eve: Sumerian Links

Red Sea = Adamic Sea

Goddess Ninhursag = “The Mother of All Living”

Genesis 3:20 “Adam named his wife Eve because she was the
mother of all living”

Ninhursag had a daughter goddess named Ninti

Ninti = “Lady of the Rib”

(David Rohl, *Legend: The Genesis of Civilization*, 209-210)

Memories of Adam and Eve: Egyptian Links

- Atum ~ Adam? Ancestor worship of the first man
- Osiris and Isis
 - Chthonic deities: not elemental, distinctly human
 - Perfect husband and wife
 - King and queen of all creation on earth
 - Bringers of agriculture and civilization to humankind
- Seth
 - Opposed and murdered Osiris
 - Osiris was the first man to die, became King of the Dead

Memories of Adam and Eve: Fun with Names

Osiris = Oshir (Egypt) ~ Ashur (Mesopotamia) ~ Ish?

Mitzer (Egypt) ~ M'Oshir = "with Oshir"

Isis = Iset / Iseth (Egypt) ~ Ishtar (Meso.) ~ Ishe?

Seth = Set (Egypt) = Sata the serpent (Egypt)
~ Satan (Hebrew) ~~ Saturn? (Latin)

Horus: Hor of the Horizon, Unitor of the 2 Lands
Horizon, from *horos* in Greek

Proto-Evangelium

Genesis 3:14-15

The Lord God said to the serpent...

“I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his
heel.”

Romans 1

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise they became fools and **changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.** Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who **exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator,** who is blessed forever. Amen. Romans 1:18-25

Man's Heart Is An Idol Factory

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things... they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. -Romans 1:22-25

Osiris



Toth

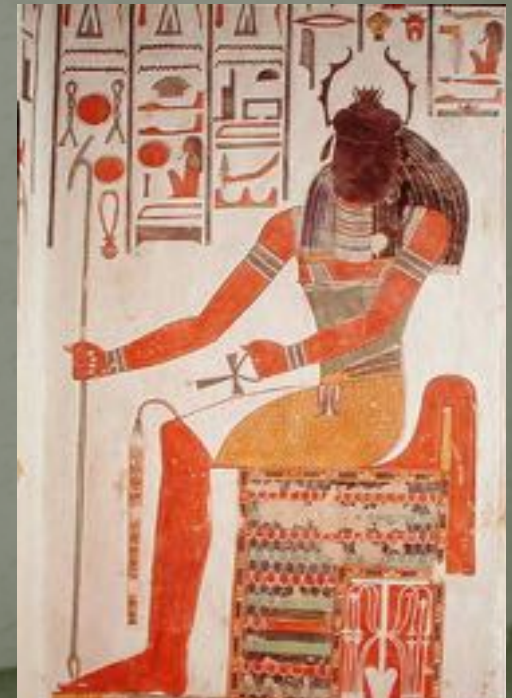


Sekhmet



Metropolitan Museum of Art
photo by Michael Pixley

Khepri



For Further Reading

Ancient Egypt and the Old Testament

John D. Currid

Prof. of Old Testament,
Reformed Theological
Seminary, Charlotte NC
(Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997)

