RR #18

Bigger ​ ​Toys

As ​ ​one ​ ​ages ​ ​and ​ ​becomes ​ ​wiser, ​ ​one ​ ​begins ​ ​to ​ ​play ​ ​with ​ ​bigger ​ ​toys. ​ ​Where ​ ​a

child ​ ​starts ​ ​off ​ ​with ​ ​legos ​ ​an ​ ​adult ​ ​will ​ ​finish ​ ​with ​ ​skyscrapers. ​ ​The ​ ​same ​ ​is ​ ​true ​ ​when ​ ​it comes ​ ​to ​ ​God's. ​ ​Where ​ ​adults ​ ​start ​ ​off ​ ​with ​ ​skyscrapers ​ ​a ​ ​God ​ ​will ​ ​finish ​ ​with ​ ​entire

worlds. ​ ​God(s) ​ ​are ​ ​oftentimes ​ ​seen ​ ​as ​ ​omniscient ​ ​beings ​ ​that ​ ​are ​ ​all ​ ​knowing ​ ​and ​ ​all

powerful, ​ ​but ​ ​through ​ ​the ​ ​tales ​ ​of ​ ​​Gilgamesh ​ ​and ​ ​​Genesis ​ ​1-11 ​ ​Gods ​ ​are ​ ​depicted ​ ​in

similar ​ ​manner ​ ​to ​ ​humans ​ ​due ​ ​to ​ ​their ​ ​imperfections ​ ​and ​ ​ability ​ ​to ​ ​make ​ ​mistakes.

Polytheism, ​ ​such ​ ​as ​ ​that ​ ​explored ​ ​in ​ ​​Gilgamesh ​, ​ ​allows ​ ​for ​ ​more ​ ​humanlike

characteristics ​ ​to ​ ​be ​ ​placed ​ ​upon ​ ​the ​ ​gods ​ ​and ​ ​goddesses. ​ ​These ​ ​beings ​ ​of ​ ​unlimited

cosmic ​ ​power ​ ​are ​ ​able ​ ​to ​ ​interact ​ ​with ​ ​not ​ ​only ​ ​humanity, ​ ​but ​ ​one ​ ​another. ​ ​In ​ ​​Gilgamesh

princess ​ ​Ishtar ​ ​pleaded ​ ​with ​ ​her ​ ​father ​ ​Anu ​ ​to ​ ​use ​ ​the ​ ​bull ​ ​of ​ ​heaven ​ ​after ​ ​being

slandered ​ ​by ​ ​Gilgamesh, ​ ​“Please, ​ ​Father, ​ ​I ​ ​beg ​ ​you, ​ ​give ​ ​me ​ ​the ​ ​Bull ​ ​of ​ ​Heaven, ​ ​just ​ ​for a ​ ​little ​ ​while… ​ ​When ​ ​Anu ​ ​heard ​ ​this, ​ ​he ​ ​called ​ ​for ​ ​the ​ ​Bull ​ ​and ​ ​handed ​ ​his ​ ​nose ​ ​rope ​ ​to the ​ ​princess ​ ​Ishtar” ​ ​(136-137). ​ ​This ​ ​quote ​ ​highlights ​ ​the ​ ​somewhat ​ ​childlike ​ ​nature ​ ​of Ishtar ​ ​as ​ ​she ​ ​begs ​ ​her ​ ​father ​ ​for ​ ​a ​ ​means ​ ​by ​ ​which ​ ​to ​ ​kill ​ ​a ​ ​man ​ ​in ​ ​the ​ ​same ​ ​way ​ ​that ​ ​a teenager ​ ​would ​ ​beg ​ ​to ​ ​use ​ ​their ​ ​parents ​ ​car. ​ ​Not ​ ​only ​ ​does ​ ​this ​ ​quote ​ ​do ​ ​as ​ ​previously stated, ​ ​it ​ ​also ​ ​calls ​ ​forth ​ ​the ​ ​idea ​ ​that ​ ​the ​ ​gods ​ ​interact ​ ​with ​ ​things ​ ​on ​ ​a ​ ​higher ​ ​level ​ ​than any ​ ​mere ​ ​mortal. ​ ​While ​ ​in ​ ​polytheism ​ ​no ​ ​one ​ ​god ​ ​can ​ ​destroy ​ ​humanity, ​ ​in ​ ​monotheism the ​ ​fate ​ ​of ​ ​humanity ​ ​is ​ ​held ​ ​in ​ ​the ​ ​hands ​ ​of ​ ​the ​ ​one ​ ​true ​ ​god.

Throughout ​ ​​Genesis ​ ​1-11 ​ ​we ​ ​not ​ ​only ​ ​see ​ ​the ​ ​creation ​ ​of ​ ​man, ​ ​but ​ ​its ​ ​near

annihilation. ​ ​During ​ ​​Genesis ​ ​1-4 ​ ​we ​ ​see ​ ​the ​ ​rise ​ ​of ​ ​mankind ​ ​and ​ ​its ​ ​fall ​ ​from ​ ​grace. ​ ​God created ​ ​the ​ ​world ​ ​and ​ ​following ​ ​suit ​ ​he ​ ​also ​ ​created ​ ​man ​ ​and ​ ​woman. ​ ​God’s

imperfections ​ ​are ​ ​revealed ​ ​in ​ ​​Genesis ​ ​​when ​ ​“...the ​ ​woman ​ ​saw ​ ​that ​ ​the ​ ​tree ​ ​was ​ ​good

for ​ ​eating… ​ ​and ​ ​she ​ ​took ​ ​of ​ ​its ​ ​fruit ​ ​and ​ ​ate…” ​ ​(3) ​ ​​ ​If ​ ​said ​ ​God ​ ​had ​ ​been ​ ​a ​ ​perfect ​ ​being then ​ ​they ​ ​would ​ ​not ​ ​have ​ ​created ​ ​the ​ ​sin ​ ​that ​ ​lead ​ ​humanity ​ ​to ​ ​become ​ ​eat, ​ ​become mortal, ​ ​and ​ ​gain ​ ​sentience. ​ ​It ​ ​was ​ ​God’s ​ ​error ​ ​that ​ ​allowed ​ ​sin ​ ​to ​ ​take ​ ​a ​ ​grasp ​ ​on ​ ​man and ​ ​throw ​ ​a ​ ​wrench ​ ​in ​ ​the ​ ​inner ​ ​workings ​ ​of ​ ​life.

In ​ ​​Genesis ​ ​6-9 ​ ​we ​ ​hear ​ ​about ​ ​Noah ​ ​and ​ ​the ​ ​flood, ​ ​which ​ ​we ​ ​also ​ ​hear ​ ​about ​ ​in

Gilgamesh ​, ​ ​but ​ ​under ​ ​a ​ ​different ​ ​name. ​ ​This ​ ​flood ​ ​highlights ​ ​the ​ ​awesome ​ ​power ​ ​that

the ​ ​god(s) ​ ​wield ​ ​and ​ ​why ​ ​they ​ ​are ​ ​above ​ ​the ​ ​likes ​ ​of ​ ​man. ​ ​The ​ ​difference ​ ​between

Gilgamesh ​ ​and ​ ​​Genesis ​ ​is ​ ​that ​ ​in ​ ​​Gilgamesh ​ ​the ​ ​gods ​ ​had ​ ​regretted ​ ​their ​ ​attempt ​ ​at

wiping ​ ​out ​ ​humanity, ​ ​while ​ ​in ​ ​​Genesis ​ ​the ​ ​flood ​ ​was ​ ​an ​ ​attempt ​ ​at ​ ​returning ​ ​humanity

onto ​ ​a ​ ​path ​ ​back ​ ​towards ​ ​righteousness. ​ ​THe ​ ​polytheistic ​ ​gods ​ ​had ​ ​been ​ ​quoted ​ ​saying

“...be ​ ​merciful, ​ ​do ​ ​not ​ ​allow ​ ​all ​ ​men ​ ​to ​ ​die ​ ​because ​ ​of ​ ​the ​ ​sins ​ ​of ​ ​some” ​ ​(Gilgamesh

190). ​ ​As ​ ​for ​ ​monotheistic ​ ​God ​ ​is ​ ​quoted ​ ​to ​ ​have ​ ​said, ​ ​“I ​ ​will ​ ​not ​ ​again ​ ​damn ​ ​the ​ ​soil ​ ​on humankind’s ​ ​score. ​ ​For ​ ​the ​ ​devisings ​ ​of ​ ​the ​ ​human ​ ​heart ​ ​are ​ ​evil ​ ​from ​ ​youth” ​ ​(Genesis 8). ​ ​THis ​ ​shows ​ ​that ​ ​in ​ ​both ​ ​cases ​ ​the ​ ​God(s) ​ ​had ​ ​decided ​ ​to ​ ​use ​ ​their ​ ​power ​ ​and ​ ​that neither ​ ​were ​ ​able ​ ​to ​ ​foresee ​ ​the ​ ​errors ​ ​underlying ​ ​the ​ ​flood.

Gods ​ ​are ​ ​humans ​ ​with ​ ​more ​ ​power. ​ ​In ​ ​​Gilgamesh ​ ​the ​ ​gods ​ ​interact ​ ​with

one ​ ​another ​ ​in ​ ​a ​ ​way ​ ​similar ​ ​to ​ ​that ​ ​of ​ ​human ​ ​interaction. ​ ​In ​ ​​Genesis ​ ​God ​ ​make ​ ​the

error ​ ​in ​ ​allowing ​ ​their ​ ​to ​ ​be ​ ​sin ​ ​to ​ ​pull ​ ​humans ​ ​away ​ ​from ​ ​Eden ​ ​and ​ ​peace. ​ ​Both ​ ​stories emphasize ​ ​the ​ ​great, ​ ​almighty ​ ​power ​ ​of ​ ​the ​ ​gods ​ ​to ​ ​destroy ​ ​and ​ ​create. ​ ​Gods ​ ​act ​ ​like humans ​ ​with ​ ​bigger ​ ​toys

* Proofreading your paper aloud to yourself is a good way to catch writing mistakes such as missed words, improper verb conjugations, typos, etc. Is there a particular reason why you use two spaces?
* I liked your discussion of how the gods interact with humans in both stories.
* Be careful about making claims that aren’t clearly demonstrated by your evidence. I’m not sure how you showed that the gods play with toys or that the gods in both texts have almighty power.