**Titanomachy: Zeus defeats his father, Cronus**

* Zeus maturity 🡪 Cronus tricked into throwing up his children that he swallowed
  + Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Hades, Poseidon
* Zeus from Mt. Olympus:
  + His siblings, the Hecatonchires, and the Cyclopes
  + Themis + son Prometheus
    - According to Hesiod, Clymene is the mother of Prometheus
* Cronus from Mt. Othrys:
  + The rest of the Titans
  + Atlas, brother of Prometheus, an important leader
* War for 10 years (major war)
  + Hecatonchires guarded Titans in Tartarus
  + Atlas punished with task of holding up the sky
  + In some accounts, Zeus frees Titans after securing his power

**Gigantomachy: Zeus defeats the Giants (not by Hesiod)**

* Gegenesis (earthborn) from blood of mutilation of Uranus falling on the ground
  + Ended with giants imprisoned under the earth, usually in volcanic regions
    - E.g. Enceladus under Mt Aetna in Sicily
* Also Birth of Athena from Zeus’ head, after mating with/eating Metis (thought/intelligence)
  + Female; not ‘fit to rule’, becomes Zeus’ greatest asset, very masculine though; positive
  + Goddess of wisdom and war
* Then married Themis (order/right) who bore Peace and Justice

**Typhonomachy (by Hesiod)**

* Typhoeus (or Typhaon or Typhon) youngest child of Gaea with Tartarus; hundred dragon heads
  + Cast down to Tartarus, arose the winds that blow mighty rains (not Notus, Boreas, Zephyr which bring good weather)
* [Typhon] would have become king of mortals/immortals, had the father of gods/men not taken sharp notice
  + World would have returned to chaos
* Later versions have it that Heracles was an ally of Zeus in the battle; giants can only be defeated only if gods had a mortal ally
* Attempt­­­­­­­­­­ of giants Otus and Ephialtes to storm heaven by piling the mountains Olympus, Ossa, and Pelion upon one another sometimes linked to the battle of giants, or trated as separate attacks on Zeus
* General confusion about details in Gigantomachy and Titanomachy
  + May be interpreted as benign powers of nature triumph over wild powers; or civilization over savagery
  + Historically: conquest/amalgamation when 2000 BC Greek-speaking invaders brought Zeus based gods, triumphed over peninsula

**The Creation of Mortals**

* Often from Zeus alone or Zeus + other gods
* Sometimes immortals and mortals come from the same source
* Dominant tradition: Prometheus created man; sometimes woman created later by Zeus
* Ovid: after creation of universe and animal life out of elements of chaos, mortals born with superiority and ambition as highest creature in order of things
  + Either creator of universe fashioned him from divine seed
  + Or Earth retained seeds from the sky and mixed with rain water by Prometheus fashioned into likeness of the gods
    - From Hesiod, Athena breathed life into the clay
    - At Panopea in Boeotia, stones identified in historical times as solidified remains of clay used by Prometheus

**The Four or Five Ages**

* Ovid: gold, silver, bronze, iron ages (4)
* Hesiod: The Five Ages of Man, compelled to include historical age of heroes

**Age of Gold**

* Immortals of Olympus made a golden race of mortal humans
* Existed at the time Cronus was king in heaven, lived as gods, carefree, without trouble
* No old age, vigor in hands, joy in banquets removed from evils
* Died in their sleep, all good things were theirs: fertile land, abundance
* Then Earth covered this race, inhabit earth; called **holy spirits**
  + Are good, ward off evil, protect mortal beings, provide wealth
  + Watch over judgements and cruel deeds, wandering earth wrapped in air

**Age of Silver**

* Immortals of Olympus made second race, worse than gold, unlike physically and mentally
* A child grew up by his mother for 100 yrs, playing as a baby; but lived only a short time in prime because of senselessness
* Did not restrain arrogance, did not worship blessed immortals or sacrifice at holy altars
* In anger, Zeus hid them away because they did not give the gods their due
* Also covered by Earth, still called blessed by mortals, second but still honored

**Age of Bronze**

* Zeus made 3rd race, of bronze, not like silver, terrible and mighty with spears of ash
* Pursued terrible/violent deeds of Ares
* Did not eat bread; were terrifying, had dauntless hearts of adamant
* Bronze weapons, homes, tools; destroyed by war, went to Hades without leaving a name
* Earth also covered this race

**Age of Heroes**

* Zeus made 4th race, valiant in war and more just; a godlike race of heroic men (demigods)
* The heroes of Thebes, Oedipus, Troy, etc; some died in battle/war, some sent to dwell at ends of earth where they live their lives 🡪 Islands of the Blessed with carefree hearts by Ocean with Cronus

**Age of Iron**

* 5th race, current race of man; envious, fighting, no respect for gods/family
* Pessimistic picture of age of iron, typical to Hesiod
* Deterioration of the human race

**Prometheus against Zeus**

In Hesiod’s Theogony: Iapetus + Clymene (Oceanid) 🡪 Atlas, Menoetius, Prometheus, Epimethius

* Menoetius: arrogant, struck down by Zeus into Erebus because of presumption/pride
* Atlas holds up heaven with head/hands
* Prometheus bound by Zeus, eagle eats immortal liver
  + Heracles killed it and released him from suffering against will of Zeus
  + Zeus gave up anger because Prometheus had matched his wits against him
* Gods and mortals quarrel at Mecone
* Prometheus divided ox, set pieces out to deceive Zeus
  + Rich flesh/fat in stomach, and bones in white fat
  + Took the white fat with bones 🡪 humans now sacrifice bones at altars
* Angered, Zeus did not give power of fire to mortals
  + But Prometheus stole the fire and gave it to mortals

**Creation of Pandora**

As consequence of Prometheus stealing the fire:

* Haphaestus made a woman, Athena made her beautiful/clothed her 🡪 considered a beautiful evil, ‘ruinous tribe of woman’
  + ‘helpmates not in ruinous poverty but in excessive wealth’
  + Fleeing from women 🡪 die old and lonely
  + Even if good wife, bad children will bring sorrow; can’t escape Zeus
* Hesiod: dominant note = despair in Theogony
* Pandora in Works and Days
  + Haphaestus made a beautiful maiden, Athena taught weaving, Aphrodite gave grace and painful longing/sorrows, Hermes put mind of a bitch and character of a thief
  + Gave Pandora to Epimetheus, forgot that Prometheus said not to receive gift from Zeus
  + Humans used to live free of evil/hard work/disease 🡪 old age and the Fates
  + Pandora opens the jar, scattering all evils within, leaving hope inside

**Interpretations of Prometheus and Pandora:**

* Prometheus: procedure of ritual of sacrifice, origin of fire (Promethean fire, symbol of defiant progress)
  + Archetype of culture god/hero responsible for arts/sciences
  + Also divine/herois trickster (cf. hermes and odysseus
* Pandora: existence of evil and pain in the world
  + Also allegory: woman+jar symbols of drive/lure of procreation (womb, birth, life), source of woes
* Creation of woman 🡪 attitudes common in early society e.g. Eve
  + Woman created after man and responsible for troubles
* Some contradictions:
  + Pandora as first woman into a world of only men? Men and women held responsible for evil or just women?
  + Why is hope in a jar of evils? Prometheus gives hope with fire?
    - Hope is both blind and a blessing
* In both Hesiod and Aeschylus: Zeus as oppressor, Prometheus as benefactor

**Aeschylus’ Prometheus Bound**

Begins: Strength (Kratos) and Force (Bia) brings Prometheus to remote, uninhabited Scythia with Haphaestus

* Reluctantly binds Prometheus with steel and pinned with stake through chest to rocks
  + Error, must learn to bear sovereignty of Zeus and abandon love/championship of mortals
* Harsh, young, angry Zeus against defiant determination of glorious, philanthropic Prometheus
* Haphaestus, contrast to Strength/Force is sensitive and humane, hates his job, pities Prom.
  + Zeus seized supreme rule of gods/mortals; high off his shit
  + Foreshadows learning benevolence through experience, wisdom, maturity
  + Uneasy/afraid will suffer same fate as Uranus/Cronos; Prometheus knows that and son of Zeus+Thetis will be mightier than him
* Prometheus bitter bc his mother and he fought with Zeus, but tyrant forgets/turns on allies
* Prometheus refuses to bow to Zeus’ threats, plunged beneath earth in cataclysm, plagued by eagle daily

**Io, Zeus, and Prometheus**

* Io loved by Zeus, priestess of Hera; Zeus fails to deceive Hera, Hera turns Io into white cow
  + Guarded by Argus the all-seeing (4 eyes Aeschylus, 100 eyes Ovid)
  + Zeus sends Hermes to rescue her; told stories to sleep, cut off his head
  + Hera sets Argus’ eyes in peacock tail
  + Still jealous, Hera sends gadfly to torment Io, wandered world until Egypt, Zeus restores her to human by the Nile, gives birth to son Epaphus
* Io’s sufferings illustrate ultimate wisdom, justice and mercy of all-powerful Zeus
* Aeschylus’ conception of Epaphus = religious; not from rape, but by gentle touch of god; after suffering from Hera for fulfillment of a destiny
  + Prom. Sees Io’s descendents 🡪 Heracles, helps Zeus in final release of Prom 🡪 Zeus’ absolute power achieved, without fear of being overthrown
* Hesiod: Heracles through Zeus was responsible for killing the eagle and releasing Prom. After Prom revealed fatal secret about mating w/ Thetis

**Zeus and Lycaon and the wickedness of mortals**

Prometheus’ son Deucalion + Epimetheus’ daughter Pyrrha: from Ovid’s Metamorphses

Jupiter’s great flood to punish mortals for wickedness; disguised as a man to confirm rumours of wickedness of Age of Iron

* Lycaon wanted to test: tried to kill Zeus in his sleep, But also killed a hostage and cooked the limbs to eat
* Zeus brought down the home, Lycaon fled in terror, became a werewolf
* Gods generally approved of the punishment of man, but worried about who will take their place to give offerings; Zeus promises a new/better race

**The Flood**

* Scared thunderbolts would cause great conflagration that would overwhelm universe, decided to send rain/flood instead
* Neptune gave waves, commanded rivers to open wide; streams spread, swept away everything

**Deucalion and Pyrrha**

**Eastern Influence**

Cf. Enuma Elish (Mesopotamia, 18th c.); Kingship of Heaven (Hittite, pre-12th c., inf. mesopotamians)

* Similar to Hesiod’s stories; seem influenced by these Eastern mythologies
* Originally matriarchal society (early myths were female goddess based)
* Patriarchal society from north, conquers this society, later myths are male god based