Classical Mythology

Hesiod *Works and Days*: *Prometheus and Pandora*; Genesis, *Garden of Eden*

1. (6 pts.) Think like a mythologist. State three very specific ways in which the two stories are similar and three very specific ways in which they are different. For the things you choose focus on items that you think have significance.
   * Both stories talk about the beginning of something, in the garden of Eden there are two main people in the story, Adam and Eve. In the story of Prometheus and Pandora there are two brothers, Prometheus and Epimetheus who are the beginning topic of this reading much like in the garden of Eden.
   * Another big similarity is that Both God and Zeus put temptation in front of man to test them. God gave Adam all the gifts that came with living in the garden but told him of one tree he may not eat from. Zeus forbid human from getting fire, but when Prometheus gave human fire anyway, Zeus was angry with him for disobeying but intrigued with what man has done with fire on earth. Zeus still choose to test man by making Pandoras box as his temptation for man on earth.
   * Within both stories, Man is made and is given all the treasures of life. With this both men from the stories were almost gifted women. In creation, Adam is given Eve to be his help to care for the garden and to be together. In the story of pandora, the Zeus saw what man was and chose to give them temptation due to the disobedience of Prometheus. Zeus created a woman with the best of the best qualities and sent her to earth with a box that’s continents were unknown by Pandora. Eve ate of the forbidden apple that God had forbidden. Pandora opened the box of which that was forbidden.
   * A significant difference from the stories it that Adam and Eve are a creation of the almighty God and live in a place created by him, he made all the animals, and he made man himself. In Hesiod’s reading, the brothers begin making humans themselves in the image of the gods. Zeus being one that speaks to the brothers often is they while the brothers are the ones who form animals and humans out of clay to fill the earth.
   * The difference of opinion of humans in the beginning of each story I believe is significant due to that God believed man to be good and created him out of his own image and gave the garden and animal to be with Adam. Zeus was very displeased with what human represented when observing everything that the brothers had built. He did not believe they were worth anything because they were not as strong or has good as other animals he had observed.
   * The end of the story I also believe is significantly different. By the end after temptation has made Eve and Pandora to curious for their own good. God outcasts Adam and Eve for disobeying him and makes them go from the garden of Eden, giving them clothes, but sending them away from his great Garden. Zues loaded the box that pandora was given and when it was opened, the worst of the worst for earth flew out of the box due to Pandora disobeying, but the difference I believe is the speaking of one thing left In the box left for man for opening the box. Hope was given to man, hope to id say get through all the new evils in the world that were just released. I do not believe I the creation story in Genesis that anything is given to man in terms of hope. My guess is that just the knowledge of god and the faith in him to forgive us because we are all sinners from Adam and eve is what was given from the forbidden fruit temptation that Eve succumbed both herself and Adam too.
2. (4 pts.) Offer an interpretation of the two stories that focuses on what you think is the main point that the stories reveal to their audience.
   * I think the stories are more similar than different. They both have a high power that creates man and is given opportunity to be good but still is tempted. When temptation is met with defeat man has to deal with the repercussions that disobedience entails. I think that the main focus should be on all the good we have around us, there will still be temptation and we are the only ones that control that temptation and if it will win or if we can resist and live a good. I believe that we all have a responsibility to resist our own temptations and if we give in to ours, do not be like eve and bring people in to the temptation with you, learn from your own faults and help others on their path, get back up and keep going and keep hope because without hope there is a lot of darkness around us.