

Preparation Guide for Quiz #1

Short Answer:

1. Describe the structure of the Genealogies of Gen 5 and 11? How are they related to the Sumerian King List?
2. What are the literary grounds for sorting out a "J" and "P" source in the creation and Flood stories?
3. How is the Tower of Babel related to the Gilgamesh Epic?
4. How many nations are there in Gen 10 and what is the relation of this text to Gen 46:8-27?

Longer Essays:

1. How does Deut 21:15-17 related to stories in Genesis about the preference for latter-born sons?
2. How does Levenson resolve the problem of why Cain's sacrifice was not accepted? Is Abel's "humiliation" final in this story?
3. Levenson argues that the election of Abram at the beginning of chapter 12 is both unexpected ("an astonishing bolt out of the blue" p. 83) and, in the way in which the story develops something of an absurdity (p. 84). Explain what he means.
4. Levenson says that Seth, Adam and Eve's third son is "Abel redivivus, the slain son restored to his parents" (p. 78). Explain what he means by that and how does he understand the relationship of the genealogies at the end of chapter four and chapter 5?
5. Lot would seem to be the candidate most fitting at the close of Genesis 11 for God to chose yet by the close of Gen 19 we can see that Abraham had far more merit. Why does Levenson think that Lot would be a fitting choice at the close of Gen 11 and how do we learn otherwise in the course of the narrative?