

聖書の「神」とアッカド語文学の「神々」
— 「洪水説話」におけるその描写の違い

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ABSTRACT Izumi YODA, “‘God’ in the Bible and ‘Gods’ in Akkadian Literature: Differences in Their Features Described in the ‘Flood Narratives’” In Genesis, God alone observes evildoings by people, decides to remove them, and prepares flood to solve the problem. At the same time, he also takes measures to avoid total destruction of human beings. What one finds there is basically firm consistency deriving from one source of judgment. God seems to change his plan, however, when he says that he will never bring another flood to destroy life. This may occur as finite human recognition tries to comprehend infinite divine existence.

In the Akkadian texts, the flood is not planned by one god but by a congregation of gods. The goal has not been accomplished as it was originally intended because the god Ea, a member of the group, takes an action against the will of the leader Enlil, and saves a man from the calamity. One encounters the situation which appears in every human society: the members initiate a project together, oppose to each other in implementing it and make a compromise after all, as we do in our life. The gods’ stories are in parallel with what mankind does.