

THE MAKING AND MEANING OF MYTH

Myth is a literary 'form' (genre) intended by the author to convey deep theological truths about God, and humanity's relationship with God, which history alone cannot convey. History tells 'what' happened, myth explains 'why.' Myth is something that has never happened and is always happening.

GENESIS 1:1-2:4A

Creation

"In the Beginning"
God separates *tohu bohu* (Hbr.): formless void = water(chaos).

God holds back upper and lower waters to create dry land = order.

God saw that it was GOOD.



GENESIS 6:5-9:17

The Flood

God allows the upper and lower waters to return to formless void: except for the Ark: The seed of every living thing, the hope of humanity and all of creation, precariously held in the balance.



EXODUS 14:15-31

The Sea of Reeds

The mythical event of Creation is historicized in the Event of the Exodus: God separates waters of the sea (chaos) to bring his People on dry land (order), out of the political chaos of slavery into the order of the Nation Israel.



JOHN 1:1-2:10

Prologue of John and Wedding at Cana

"In the Beginning"
was the Word; the word that spoke "let there be light," and who saw that it was "Good."

The Word became flesh in Christ: New Creation: the Age of the Messiah.

At Cana, Christ has power over the element of water.



1 PETER 3:18-22

Baptism

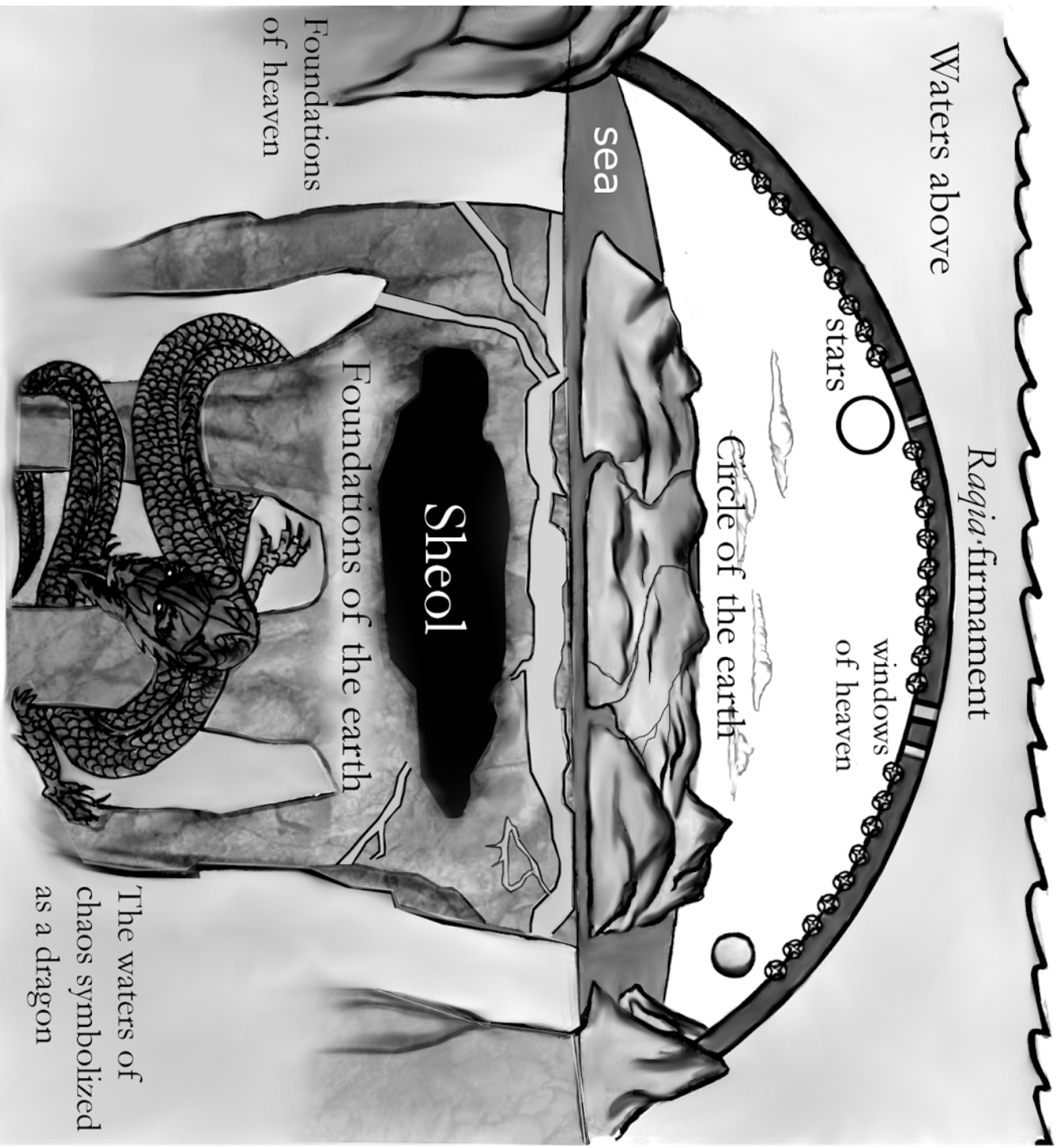
The Flood prefigures Christian baptism; thus, all Christians are New Creations in baptism, partaking in the primeval creation of Adam and Eve and returning to the Original Innocence of Eden.



ANCIENT ISRAELITE COSMOLOGY



Realm of God



THE FIRMAMENT

Gen 1:7-8; Job 37:18;
Ex 24:10; Ezk 1:22-26

WATERS ABOVE

Gen 1:7-8; Ps 148:4-6

CIRCLE OF EARTH

Isa 40:22; Job 26:10;
Prov 8:27

REALM OF GOD

Ps 104:2-3; 29:10;
Job 22:12-14

FOUNDATIONS OF EARTH

Job 9:6; Ps 75:3;
102:25

WINDOWS OF HEAVEN

Gen 7:11; 8:2; Is 24:18

FOUNDATIONS OF HEAVEN

Job 26:11; 2 Sam 22:8

THE CHAOS DRAGON

Ps 74:13-15; Job 7:12;
9:13; 26:12-13