

Comparative Studies and Literary Dependency prepared by Jintae Kim, Nyack College on Mar 29, 1998 (OTQ16)

		<i>J. Walton (Conservative; Moderating)</i>	<i>John van Seters (Liberal; biblical dependence)</i>	
<i>Compare</i>	<i>Comparative in method</i>	Use of extra-biblical literature: Important to an understanding of the OT: Same sources (Sumerian King list, Memphite Theology, Atrahasis)		
	<i>World-view</i>	Common world-view of the biblical times between Israel and its neighboring countries.		
	<i>Genre</i>	Importance of genre recognition and identification of the ancient literature for both the composition of the OT and its interpretation.		
	<i>Ancient Historiography</i>	<i>Concept</i>	Concept of ancient historiography is different from that of the modern western idea of recording history for history's sake.	
		<i>Example</i>	No evidence of propaganda. Patriarchs and David. Clear-cut difference in Israel's historiography from that of her neighboring countries	Mesopotamians & Egyptians: Propagandistic nature: Complete omitting of negative.
<i>Against uniform views</i>		Caution for uniform views; Mesopotamian or Egyptian thinking etc.		
<i>Contrast</i>	<i>Range of parallels</i>		ANE plus Ancient West (Greek & Rome)	
	<i>Literary</i>	<i>Dependence?</i>	No direct dependence Possibility of common traditions in the past	Direct dependence: Yahwist as historian writing Genesis as prologue of history.
		<i>Flood</i>	Similarities are conceptual, not specific. They are two literary perspectives on a single actual event.	Direct dependence
	<i>Religion</i>	<i>Dependence?</i>	NO!!! Distinctive	Direct dependence: Return to Delitzsch's view.
		<i>View of deity</i>	Israel: Yahweh the sole God of Israel, the sovereign of history; Creator-creature distinction	ANE: Polytheism. God & human not much different in their attributes
		<i>Covenant</i>	As a foundational theological premise.	
		<i>Law</i>	Nomistic religion– Law as absolute ethical standard revealed by God.	ANE: Just a royal apologia , requires no response by people (Mesopotamia). Even gods are bound by it (Egypt);
		<i>Cosmogeny & Theogeny</i>	They are not linked	ANE: Linked
	<i>Authorship & dating of Genesis</i>		Mosaic	An exilic historian , Yahwist, writing the history of Israel. Direct dependence of its material and historiography upon ANE and Ancient West.
	<i>Confidence of knowledge of the Ancients</i>		Negative; Not even close enough to be certain that there is evidence of direct borrowing between cultures.	Positive enough to construct an elaborate hypothesis of direct borrowing.

