

1. Message through Ancient Near Eastern (ANE) Eyes:

- Our modern view is through the lens of “Scientific Materialism.”
- ANE would understand the message through the cosmic symbolism

2. Main Points:

- Cosmic battle of “order” v. “chaos.”
- God has authority over the forces of chaos.
- Authority of the Father is passed down to the Son
 - Jesus is the “Son of God”
- As a child of God (son or daughter) – who do we rely upon when the forces of chaos rise up in our own lives?

3. A God of “order” vs. the forces of “chaos” – represented as the Sea:

- Both myths from **ANE cultures** and the **Bible** reflect the cosmic idea of a God who can bring order out of chaos.
- “The Sea” – in both cases, is a representation of the forces of chaos
- Ultimately, God will win the battle, and all will be redeemed.
 - Genesis 1 – creation
 - Genesis 6 – the flood
 - Psalm 89: 9-10 – God rules over the Sea
 - Habakkuk 3:10-13
 - Revelation 21:1 – “and there was no longer any sea.”

4. Reference: *Ancient Myths and Biblical Faith: Scriptural Transformations*, Foster R. McCurley

5. Canaanite ‘sea god’ – Yamm (Yam):¹

- Lost city of Ugarit – discovered in 1928 – tells the story of Yamm v. Baal.²
- Yamm is the adversarial god of chaos to the god of order – Baal.
- Sea hurls storms and disrupts the order that humans enjoy
 - Each fall, the Mediterranean Sea turns stormy
- Also known as “judge of the river,” – the rivers flood and create chaos when the storms come in from the sea.
- In Hebrew, the word for ‘sea’ is Yam.

¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yam_\(god\)#Comparative_mythology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yam_(god)#Comparative_mythology)

² <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ugarit>

6. Authority of the Father passed down to the Son:

- How do we know that Jesus is the “Son” of God?
- The actions of Jesus show the same authority that God has in the Old Testament
- Psalms 89, the authority of God is attributed to David as the ‘son.’
- God’s authority over the chaos/sea – Psalm 89:9-10

“You rule over the surging **sea** (*yam*);
When its waves mount up, you still them.
You crushed **Rahab** (mythical name for the sea or abyss) like one of the slain;
With your strong arm you scattered your enemies.”

- God’s authority attributed to David – Psalm 89:25-27

“I will set his hand over the **sea** (*yam*),
His **right hand** over the **rivers**.
“He will call out to me, ‘You are **my Father**,
My God, the Rock, my Savior.
I will indeed appoint him as My firstborn,
The highest of the kings of the earth.”

7. Who walks on water in the Old Testament?

- Job 9:8

“He (*YHWH*) alone stretches out the heavens
And treads (*darak*) on the waves (*bamote*) of the sea (*yam*)”

darak – “treads” - God is frequently the subject of the verb. The basic concept has to do with setting foot on territory or objects, sometimes trampling them.

Bamote = high places or the place of worship, like the *bema* seat.

- Matthew 14:33
- Why do the disciples respond that way?