

# **Motifs, Themes, and Symbols in the Primeval Cycle (Genesis 1:11-11:32)**

## **Theme of Creation and Work**

- "In the beginning," after Eden
- after the Flood
- in the plains of Shinar

## **Symbolism of Sacred Space and Mountain**

- Eden
- Ararat
- Tower of Shinar

## **Man as Gardener and Maker**

- Adam
- Cain
- Noah
- neighbors of Shinar

## **Issue of Will, Desire, Aggressive Rebellion**

- Eve, Adam, and serpent
- serpentine sin and Cain
- gods and daughters of earth
- evil people of Noah's time
- builders of Babel

## **The Pantheon**

- at creation of man
- at exile from Eden
- with the daughters of the earth
- at the dispersal from Babel

## **Motif of Exile, Destruction, Dispersion**

- after rebellion in Eden
- after murder of Abe
- after evil and violence in generation of Noah
- after challenge of builders of Tower of Babel

### **Geographical Orientation**

- "the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east"
- the exile of man "east of Eden"
- the exile of Cain "eastward of Eden"
- the movement of peoples "from the east" to build the tower

### **Typology of Man and Time**

- 10 generations between Adam and Noah
- 10 generations between Noah and Abram