

MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL is one of the world's major dramatic licensing agencies, specializing in Broadway, Off-Broadway and West End musicals. Since its founding in 1952, MTI has been responsible for supplying scripts and musical materials to theatres worldwide and for protecting the rights and legacy of the authors whom it represents. It has been a driving force in cultivating new work and in extending the production life of some of the classics: *Guys and Dolls*, *West Side Story*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Les Misérables*, *Annie*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Damn Yankees*, *The Music Man*, *Evita*, and the complete musical theatre works of composer/lyricist Stephen Sondheim, among others. Apart from the major Broadway and Off-Broadway shows, MTI is proud to represent youth shows, revues and musicals which began life in regional theatres and have since become worthy additions to the musical theatre canon. MTI shows have been performed by 30,000 amateur and professional theatrical organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada, and in over 60 countries around the world. Whether it's at a high school in Kansas, by an all-female troupe in Japan or the first production of *West Side Story* ever staged in Estonia, productions of MTI musicals involve over 10 million people each year.

Although we value all our clients, the twelve thousand high schools who perform our shows are of particular importance, for it is at these schools that music and drama educators work to keep theatre alive in their community. MTI shares with these educators the goal of raising the next generation of theatre artists and audiences. To help these educators, it has taken a leading role in theatre education by creating MTI THEATRICAL RESOURCES, a "theatrical tool box" designed to help not only ensure the success of each musical production, but also to establish the study of musical theatre as a permanent part of the school curriculum. These resources include: STUDY GUIDES designed to bring the study of specific shows into the classroom; MTI REHEARSCORES® which provide unlimited rehearsal accompaniment via an easy-to-use, fully interactive computer program on disk; professional TV SPOTS allowing companies to affordably advertise on television in local markets; LOGO PACKS to aide in poster and program design; TRANSPOSITIONS-ON-DEMAND to allow flexibility in casting and musical key changes; and VIDEO CONVERSATIONPIECES™ featuring video seminars with artists such as Martin Charnin, Stephen Sondheim and Scott Ellis discussing the creation of their shows from inception to production.

MTI is also a leader in providing materials to meet the increasing demand for symphonic arrangements of popular theatre music. The MTI CONCERT LIBRARY offers arrangements of selected songs, as well as full scores from Broadway shows.

Musicals are America's premiere contribution to the theatre and MTI is firmly committed to supporting and nurturing a musical theatre that will continue to develop and flourish into the next century.



CHILDREN OF EDEN



Music and Lyrics by **Stephen Schwartz**

Music by **John Caird**

Based on a concept by **Charles Lisanby**

Orchestrations by **Bruce Coughlin and Martin Erskine**

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About *Children Of Eden*

CHILDREN OF EDEN, which is based on the Old Testament, translates the first nine chapters of the Book of Genesis into a joyous and enchanting family musical for the 21st century. Book-writer John Caird and composer-lyricist Stephen Schwartz retell the human story from the moment of Creation until just after the Flood bringing vibrant new life to our shared ancient history.

The show traces Adam and Eve's adventures as the first couple to face the delights and heartbreaks of parenthood and journeys with Noah as he valiantly sails his Ark into the unknown. Relating these familiar stories through a melodious, percussive score, CHILDREN OF EDEN reminds us that the oldest of tales are also the most deeply connected to our everyday lives as children and parents and searchers for truth.

CHILDREN OF EDEN causes us to ask important questions about family, love, social responsibility, and religion as it sweeps us along on a tide of music and lyric. The show challenges us as it reaffirms our beliefs. It validates our own daily struggles, comforts us as we try to make sense of sadness, and sustains us as we seek the light that illuminates each of our lives.

Synopsis

CHILDREN OF EDEN is based on the first ten books of Genesis in the Old Testament.

ACT ONE

Act One is the story of Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel.

The musical begins with darkness. Then, candles are lit around the stage by the chorus of STORYTELLERS who describe the beginning of the world when FATHER created the heavens. Father comes on and declares, "Let there be light". In the song, "**Let There Be**", Father builds the world based on his dream. At the end of the song, he creates ADAM and EVE and gives them the Garden of Eden to live in. Eden is a perfect place.

Eve wants to know about the glowing tree on top of the hill. Father tells them that it is the tree of knowledge, and they must never eat its fruit. Eve questions why Father put the tree there if it's not good. Father tells her to have faith in his reasons. To divert their attention away from the tree, Father asks Adam and Eve to help him name all the animals. With the help of the Storytellers pretending to be animals, Adam, Eve, and Father name the animals in the song, "**The Naming**". When that is done, Adam and Eve go to sleep as Father sings them a lullaby ("**Grateful Children**"). In the song, "**Father's Day**", Father reflects on how good his universe turned out. Meanwhile, in the night, Adam and Eve kiss and realize that they are not just brother and sister.

One day, Eve goes up to the tree of knowledge and it enchants her. When she tries to show the tree to Adam, he is not interested and goes back to naming his bugs. However, Eve remains curious about the world beyond and sings about her desire for new experiences in "**The Spark of Creation**". A SNAKE comes up to Eve and asks her questions. Eve does not know the answers, but she is intrigued. In the song, "**In Pursuit of Excellence**", the Snake convinces Eve to pursue knowledge and eat the fruit of the tree. Eve eats the fruit and tricks Adam into eating it by turning it into juice. When Adam realizes that they have eaten from the tree of knowledge, he and Eve hide from Father. Father calls to them, but Adam is ashamed. Unashamed, Eve tells Father that she understands her own potential. Father orders Eve to leave the garden and tells Adam that he will make him a better wife. Adam chooses to stay with Eve instead of staying in Eden in the song, "**A World Without You**". Father exiles Adam and Eve to the wilderness in the song, "**The Expulsion**".

Time passes in the song, "**The Wasteland**", as the Storytellers describe Adam and Eve's desolate new environment. Eve gives birth to two sons: CAIN and ABEL. Adam prays to Father to be let back into paradise. As the boys grow up, Cain becomes more curious about the world while Abel remains obedient to Adam. Eve worries that she has passed her hunger for knowledge onto Cain. In the song, "**Lost in the Wilderness**", Cain convinces Abel to leave their home to seek their own destinies out in the world. Father comes upon Cain and Abel and tells them that he has placed his hope in them. Cain declares that he will find his own destination without Father's help and storms off. Father makes Abel promise that he won't tell Adam about the meeting and tells Abel that he is only hope for the future before he leaves. When Adam learns that Cain is gone, he curses him but also remembers Cain and Abel playing childhood games in the song, "**Close to Home**".

Cain returns and describes what he has found, "**A Ring Of Stones**", which means that Adam's family are not the only people in the world. Adam thinks the other people are barbarians and orders Cain to never speak of them again. However, Cain, wanting to be a part of a larger family, tries to leave, but Adam blocks his way. Abel tries to restrain Cain, but Cain kills him with a rock. Shouting to Adam that he should be dead, Cain runs off as Abel dies in Eve's arms. As Cain is running, Father appears before him and asks where his brother is. Cain asks if he is his brother's keeper. Father marks Cain's forehead and curses him and all his children in the song, "**The Mark of Cain**".

Eve comes out. She is now an old woman. Adam has died. She introduces her third son, Seth, who married and had children. Father returns to Eve and tells her that Cain is alive. Eve tries to ask more questions, but Father disappears. Eve gathers the grandchildren together and tells them that this is her last harvest. In the song, "**Children of Eden**", Eve and the company dream of the day when they will return to their true home, paradise.

ACT TWO

Act Two is the story of Noah and the flood.

Act Two begins with light, a thousand years after Act One. The storytellers come on and sing "**Generations**" which traces the line of Adam to NOAH and his three sons: SHEM, HAM, and JAPHETH. Father wants Noah to quickly finish building the ark, so he can flood the world and destroy the line of Cain.

Meanwhile, Noah has other worries. His youngest son, Japheth, is not married. When Japheth announces that he will present his bride at dinner, Noah and the family eagerly prepare for the feast in the song, "**A Piece of Eight**". At the dinner,

Japheth announces that he wishes to marry YONAH, the servant girl who bears the mark of Cain. Noah declares that it will not be possible because Father would disapprove. Japheth storms off just as animals start appearing on their way to the ark. Noah and his family try to organize the animals, but more keep coming in the dance "**The Return of the Animals**". After everyone is onboard the ark, Noah sees Yonah standing alone and apologizes that he can not take her with him. Left alone, Yonah sings "**Stranger To The Rain**" as she prepares to go on her own journey as the rain starts to fall. Japheth finds Yonah, declares that Father is wrong, and hides Yonah in the ark. They declare their love for each other in the song, "**In Whatever Time We Have**". As Japheth pulls Yonah into the ark, "**The Flood**" begins with Father sending down more rain.

After forty days and forty nights, the rain continues. With food running out, Noah and his family begin to feel cabin fever as they anxiously await the rain to stop in the song, "**What Is He Waiting For?**". Yonah, worried that she is the reason the rains have not stopped, sends a dove away to find land in the song, "**Sailor Of The Skies**". Shem and Ham find Yonah on the ark. Ham fetches Noah who is not happy with that situation. Shem tries to throw Yonah overboard. Japheth runs on to stop him, but Noah blocks his way and pushes him away. A fight ensues. Japheth almost kills Ham, but Yonah stands in his way. Japheth backs off. MAMA NOAH speaks up, and the children leave her alone with Noah. Noah reveals to her that Father no longer speaks to him. Mama Noah tells him that he must be the Father now. Alone, Noah reflects on the difficulty of being a father to a son who makes his own choices in the song, "**The Hardest Part of Love**". Father finishes the song when he realizes that he has to let humanity choose its own destiny.

Noah marries Japheth to Yonah. The dove returns with an olive branch, and the stars come out. Mama Noah celebrates their new hope with the Storytellers in the song, "**Ain't It Good**". The sun shines, and the ark hits land at Mount Ararat. The three sons decide to travel in different directions with different animals. Japheth announces that he will search for Eden. Noah says goodbye to his children. The musical ends with the song, "**In The Beginning**" in which humanity decides to control their own fate, and Father promises to not destroy the earth again.

Themes And Topics To Explore

Our study guide includes a wide-ranging list of themes and topics, which are suggested by the style and content of CHILDREN OF EDEN.

Avenues for exploring each theme and topic are suggested in the form of:

QUESTION AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Designed to prompt in-class discussions before and after viewing or reading the show.

ASSIGNMENTS, RESEARCH, AND WRITING PROMPTS

Designed to be researched and written out of class.

Themes And Topics To Explore

Children Of Eden as Drama

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Tell the story of CHILDREN OF EDEN in one sentence.
- Tell the story in one paragraph, including all of the characters.
- Tell the story as it develops, action by action, through the play.
- Tell the story as a series of causes and effects. List each action taken by a character (causes) and what happens in the story as a result (effect.)
- When did the action of CHILDREN OF EDEN first start to grab your attention? Where did you start to be interested, start to care, start to become excited or delighted?
- Turning-points are key moments in our lives or in the lives of characters in dramas. A turning-point changes the course of our lives forever. What are the key turning points in the plot of CHILDREN OF EDEN?
- What is the theme of CHILDREN OF EDEN? How are theme and plot different?
- How are the plot and theme of CHILDREN OF EDEN connected?

- Exposition is defined in the dictionary as "explaining." We refer to the opening moments of a dramatic work as exposition. List all the things you learn in the first scene in CHILDREN OF EDEN.
- Is CHILDREN OF EDEN a comedy or a tragedy? Why? What is the source of its tragedy? Its humor?

ASSIGNMENT AND WRITING PROMPTS

- Retell the basic story of CHILDREN OF EDEN, setting it in a specific geographical location and time period. What impact does this retelling have on the basic dramatic structure of the plot?
- List the elements of the plot and theme of CHILDREN OF EDEN which you believe to be universal.

The Characters In Children Of Eden

QUESTION AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What is the function of the characters in a musical play? Could you create a musical play without characters? A story? A film?
- What is the difference between a major and minor character? Who are the major characters in CHILDREN OF EDEN? Who are the minor characters?
- Who was your favorite character? Why?
- With which character did you sympathize most? Why?
- Did you recognize anything that reminded you of yourself in any of the characters?
- How do ADAM, EVE, NOAH, and MAMA NOAH change by the time the play ends? Which other characters undergo major changes? Try to identify the specific moments of change.
- What do you think is more important? The musical play as it is written down or the play as it is brought to life by live performers? Which one is the "real" play?
- What does the title of this show tell you about the main characters? If you had to think of a different title for this piece, what would it be?

ASSIGNMENTS/RESEARCH AND WRITING PROMPTS

- Make a list of details about Father, Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Noah, Mama Noah, Yonah, and Japeth. Where did you learn this information; from dialogue, lyric, music, or design elements such as costumes?
- When playwrights create characters, they often invent "character maps" before they begin to write. Character maps list everything about a character from their favorite color to their political beliefs. A character map delves into the history of the character before the play and tells us what is in their pockets and their hearts. Write a biographical character map for Adam, Eve, Father, Cain, Abel, Noah, Mama Noah, Yonah, and Japeth based on details of your own invention. Tell their "back stories." "Back stories" are the histories of characters in a play or film before we meet them.
- Imagine that someone is going to write a play about you. Create a character map about yourself. Write a short story about the character described in your map who wakes up one day to discover that they are now 15 years older than they were when they went to sleep.
- Describe a typical day in Adam and Eve's life in Eden before Eve tasted the forbidden fruit.
- Describe a day in Father's life before he created Adam and Eve.

Storytelling

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

CHILDREN OF EDEN is presented as a story being shared with the audience by a group of storytellers.

- What is a story? What is the function of storytelling in a society? Between generations?
- What is the first story you can ever remember hearing? Reading for yourself?
- What was the role of the storyteller in a primitive society?
- Who are the storytellers in modern life? List all the ways in which stories are transmitted from one person to another in contemporary culture.
- Why do you think the authors of CHILDREN OF EDEN chose to relate their musical through the voices of storytellers? Who do the storytellers represent in the piece?

- What is the role of the internet in conveying stories in contemporary America? In what ways does communicating stories over the internet resemble the way in which our ancestors used to trade tales?

ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITING PROMPTS

Stories that are meant to teach lessons from one generation to another are told in a variety of forms including parables, fables, and allegories.

- What is a parable? Create a parable of your own which addresses one of the aspects of human behavior dealt with in CHILDREN OF EDEN.
- What is a fable? Create a fable of your own which addresses one of the aspects of human behavior dealt with in CHILDREN OF EDEN.
- What is an allegory? Create an allegory of your own which addresses one of the aspects of human behavior dealt with in CHILDREN OF EDEN.
- Orally retell a story from the bible in a compelling and dramatic way. Write the same story down. How are the experiences of telling the story and writing it down different? Which is the more powerful means of expression?
- Read a collection of folk tales from another culture. Write a contemporary folk tale of our own that you can imagine being told several centuries from now to explain man's exploration of space.
- Tell a continuous story. One person begins a tale and tells it for two minutes. Then another person picks up the tale and adds their continuation of the story for two minutes. Then each other person in the group adds their two minutes. What happens to the story as it is passed from one mind and voice to another? Discuss ways in which the story of Creation from Genesis may have been transformed over time in a similar way.
- Two people leave the room. One (Person A) tells the other (Person B) a two-minute story. Person B stays outside and Person A returns to the room. Person C joins Person B. Person B tells the story to Person C. Continue telling the story from one person to another out of the hearing of the group until you get back to Person A. Discuss how the story has changed by the time it gets back to Person A. Why has it changed?

Creation Tales

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Why do individuals seek an explanation for their existence on the earth?
- When was the first time you heard the story of Adam and Eve?
- How has your understanding and appreciation of the story of creation as told in Genesis changed over time?
- In what important ways are the details of the story of Adam and Eve as told in CHILDREN OF EDEN unique?

ASSIGNMENTS AND READING PROMPTS

- Read creation myths from other cultures. How are they like the account of creation in the Book of Genesis? How are they the same?
- Write a short play based on one of the creation myths you read.

Relating The Bible

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What is the value of relating tales from the Bible through the medium of musical theatre? What is added in the process of experiencing the tales in this way?

ASSIGNMENTS AND READING PROMPTS

- Read about the history of the Bible. When were the Old Testament stories first written down? What do we know about the people who wrote them down?
- Compare various editions of the Old Testament to see if there are significant changes in the way the stories of Adam and Eve and Noah are told.
- Read and listen to other musical theatre treatments of literature from the Bible including JOSEPH, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, AND GODSPELL.

- Research major religions of the world other than Christianity and Judaism to learn about their Holy Books. What is the importance of a sacred book such as the Bible to the members of a religion?

Father's First Creation

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Why does Father create light first?
- What does the word "light" mean to you?

ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITING PROMPTS

- Find the translation of the word light in 10 other languages.
- Make a list of the things that would be lost from your life if light disappeared from the world today and you had to live in darkness.
- Light represents more than just the literal opposite of darkness in our language. We often say that certain people and experiences bring light into our lives. Make a list of the things that bring light into your life.
- Candles are lit as part of many religious ceremonies. Describe several candle lighting ceremonies from different religions. What do they represent in terms of man's relation with light and force of Creation?
- Make a list of the other objects and concepts that Father invents in his song "Let There Be." Using the same style of language, add twenty more objects and concepts that Father might have included.

Eden

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Yonah tells us the name of the Garden Father creates for Adam and Eve after they become living souls is "Eden." What are other names for "Eden?"
- Do you believe that such a place as Eden can exist? Why or why not?

- Why was Eden not enough for Eve? Can you think of a similar time in your life when you couldn't let "well enough" alone? What were the consequences?
- What is perfection? Do you believe perfection is possible? Have you ever experienced it? Is it desirable? Why and why not?

ASSIGNMENTS AND READING PROMPTS

- Read the story of Pandora in Greek Mythology. How does Pandora's story compare to Eve's? Write a contemporary version of the story of Pandora.
- Throughout history, man has tried to recreate Eden. Read about the Utopian experiments that have taken place around the world and in America.
- If you had the power to create an "Eden" of your own, where would it be? Write a description of the Eden you would create.

Parents and Children

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Father says something is missing from his life before he invents children. Do you want to have children? What do you think would be missing from your life if you don't have children?
- How would Father's life have been different if he had not invented Adam? Did he make a mistake to invent children?
- When Father tells Eve not to touch the forbidden fruit and Eve asks "why not," he doesn't tell her. Instead he wants her to trust his judgement that his rule is for her own good and the good of the family. Can you think of a similar situation in your own life when you asked "why" and received this kind of an answer? Did you do as you were asked? Why or not? What were the consequences? Have you ever regretted your decision?
- When Father sings "Father's Day," what does he see in his children? What is his vision of what it means to be a father? Do you agree with his vision? How is his disappointment heightened when Eve disobeys him because of the particular way he perceives his relationship to his children?
- After Eve eats the apple, she shares many of Father's perceptions and much knowledge about the world and her place in it that he had chosen to keep to himself. How does this change their relationship to one another?

- Why does Father say Eve has to leave the garden after she eats the apple? What moment in every child's life does this represent?
- Is it truly possible for parents to protect their children from pain?
- When Young Cain starts to ask about what's "beyond," how does Adam respond? How does his response compare to the response Father gave him.

ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITING PROMPTS

- Write about a time when you betrayed your parents' trust. How did your action change your relationship to your parents?
- Imagine that you are unable to have children. Make a list of other ways in which you might contribute to the continuity of humanity.

Adam and Eve versus Adam and Father

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Adam must choose between doing what Eve wants and obeying his father. What decision does he make? Do you think he makes the right decision? Have you ever been torn between a friend and your parent?
- Do you think Father envisioned this struggle with Adam and Eve when he created them?
- Eve asks Father, "didn't you think we were ever going to grow up?" Do you think your parents ever really thought about you as an adult when you were born?
- When father says "Dust you were and dust you are," what is he really saying? Could Adam and Eve have known eternal life if they had obeyed? If that had been their choice, do you think they would have disobeyed Father?
- When Adam and Eve walk out of the garden into the rest of their lives, they are alone, a couple of human beings against a wasteland. What do they have to battle the future with? How do they differ from any young couple just beginning?
- What does Eve see in Cain that terrifies her when she sees Cain looking over the distant mountains?
- Eve asks if the hunger of young people to know more than their parents want them to know and their need to go "beyond" is the "spark of creation." Do you think it is? Why or why not?

ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITING PROMPTS

- Write a story about a parent and their son or daughter are on the verge of coming to a parting of the ways over the person the son or daughter has chosen to love. Create your own resolution.
- Interview your parents about their feelings about their in-laws and times they had to choose between their own parents wishes and their own husband or wife's wishes.

Temptation and Mystery

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What is temptation?
- In the tale of Adam and Eve, temptation is represented by a snake. In what other forms could it have been represented?
- What is mystery? Why are people intrigued by mystery? What attracts Eve to the word and the idea?
- What does the word "beyond" mean? What is its power over Eve?
- The snake tells Eve that "knowledge is power." He suggests that not knowing--remaining mystified is to lack power. Do you agree?

ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITING PROMPTS

- The snake is used as a symbol of temptation in the Bible. What does the snake represent in other world mythologies?
- The snake represents Satan in the tale of Adam and Eve and the beginning of the struggle between Heaven and Hell in mankind's history. Make a list of other great works of literature that are based on the struggle between Satan and mankind.
- Write a story about a time in your life when you gave in to temptation. Write a companion story about a time when you resisted. Would you now reverse your actions in either case if you could?
- Write about a mystery that has been part of your life or your parents' lives. Have you ever tried to solve the mystery?

- Write a story about a world beyond that which you can see or experience that you are tempted to reach.
- The snake asks Eve some mysterious questions --"What happens to the sun after it sets?" Where does the music go after you've listened to it? "What becomes of your dreams when you're not asleep?" Create five similar questions of your own to add to the list.
- After Eve eats the apple, she has gained knowledge but has lost her innocence. What does it mean to lose one's innocence? Write about a moment when you think this happened to you. At what moment did you leave childhood behind?
- Eve says that in spite of the pain of "knowing" or "growing up" she would never go back to her unknowing state. Imagine that you have the chance to give up the life you have now and become eight years old again. Would you? Write about what it would be like to go back knowing what you now know.

Names

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What is a name? What is the purpose of a name? What is the relationship between an object or person and its name?
- Do you like your name? Have you ever wished you could change it? Why? What would you like to change it to? Ask your parents how they chose your name.
- In CHILDREN OF EDEN, Father allows Adam and Eve to help him name the animals. In reality, how do you think animals got their names? Who named your town, your school, and street where you live?

ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITING PROMPTS

- Write about a story about a character who wakes up one day in a world where names do not exist.
- Make a list of 20 familiar objects and give them new names that represent some aspect of them you find important.
- Write several more verses for "The Naming" in which you give names to animals who aren't mentioned in the song now.

Cain and Abel

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What is sibling rivalry? Why does it exist? How do you get along with your own sisters and brothers?
- Describe the ways in which Cain and Abel were different from one another. Were there any ways in they were alike?
- How does Cain feel about parental authority? How does he view Adam's continued allegiance to Father? How does he treat Father when he appears? Does Father anticipate this response from Cain?
- Does Cain respect any law or set of rules?
- Adam, Eve, and their children have achieved some contentment in the wilderness when Cain discovers the circle of standing stones. What impact does his discovery have on the family? What does Cain realize Adam has been doing to the family by keeping the existence of the stones to himself? Can you think of any incident in your family's life to equal this moment?
- What choice does Cain force Abel to make which mirrors a choice Father forced Adam to make?
- Why do you think Cain kills Abel?
- What curse does Father place on Cain? What hope died for Father with the death of Abel?

ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITING PROMPTS

- Write about your personal philosophy regarding following rules and the necessity of laws and rules in society.
- Explore other instances of brother killing brother in literature and myth. What is the special power of such stories?
- Write a contemporary story of your own where two siblings are at odds with each other and one destroys the other.

The Aftermath of Cain's Murder of Abel

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What do we learn happened to Adam and Eve after the death of Abel and the disappearance of Cain?
- Was Father in any way responsible for what happened to Cain and Abel? Do you think that the birth and life of Seth is granted to Adam and Eve as an act of healing between them and Father?
- Describe how Adam and Eve's life changed as Seth grew and fathered his own children. What lessons did Adam seem to have learned?
- How does Adam die? What does Eve beg Father to tell her before she dies?
- How does Eve view her death?

ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITING PROMPTS

- Write an obituary for Adam and one for Eve. In the writing, indicate the degree to you which you feel they succeeded in their lives.
- Write about your view of life after death? What is your vision of the "home" Eve finds after she leaves earth.

The Relationship Between Man and God

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What is the relationship between Adam and Father before Eve eats the apple? What happens to their relationship after "the fall?"
- Why do you think Father refuses to appear to Adam and Eve during their years in the wilderness?
- Why does father decide to reveal himself to Cain and Abel? What is the outcome of that encounter?
- Discuss Abel's choice to keep his pledge to Father instead of telling his own parents the truth.
- What is the source of Cain's resentment towards Father? Do you agree with Cain? Were he and Abel being punished for their own actions or those of their parents?

ASSIGNMENTS AND READING PROMPTS

- One of the characters states that "God's priorities are no longer clear to me." Describe an incident when something happened to someone close to you or someone in the news that made you question God's priorities.
- At the end of Act II, the process of healing the rift between God and Man has begun. Why? What has to happen for healing to take place in such a situation?
- How do you think of yourself in relationship to God? Do you think of God as benevolent? Do you envision God as a physical being? What does he look like in your mind?

The Story Of Noah

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What is the relationship between Adam and Noah?
- What do we learn about the race of Cain?
- What has Father asked Noah to do? Why is he so determined to destroy the rest of mankind?
- Why is Yonah, Japeth's choice, not an acceptable wife according to Noah and the rest of the family?
- What do Yonah and Japeth decide to do in spite of the family's refusal to accept her?
- What does God feel as he watches the flood he has set into motion destroy mankind?
- What kinds of conflicts erupt after the ark has been at sea for forty days and forty nights?
- What does Yonah ask Father from the deck of the ark? What does she offer to do? What do we learn about her character from this exchange?
- What does Yonah do to try to find land?
- What do Japeth's brothers conclude when they see Yonah on board?
- What keeps the encounter between Japeth and his brothers from ending the way Cain's encounter with Abel ended?

- When Noah turns to Father for help in deciding what to do about sacrificing Japeth, Father shares a realization with Noah. What is it?
- Why does Noah ask Yonah for forgiveness?
- Once the family pulls together, what happens?
- What is the significance of the dove's return?
- Where do the children of Noah decide to journey? Why does he give the staff to Japeth and Yonah?
- How has Father decided to deal with humanity in the future? What sign does he send them of his intention to allow them to choose their own direction with interference?
- In what ways have Noah and Mama Noah grown beyond Adam and Eve?
- How is the feud with the race of Cain resolved?

ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITING PROMPTS

- Write an essay entitled "Love Is Letting Go" in which you discuss the need of parents to let go of their children when they are ready to "fly."
- Research the dove in literature and myth. Where else does the dove appear as an important symbol?
- Write about the ways "history repeats itself" in the course of CHILDREN OF EDEN?
- Interview your parents about your family history and write about the ways in which history has repeated itself in your own family.
- Do you think the descendants of Cain still live among us? Write about them.

Adaptation and Music Theatre

- CHILDREN OF EDEN is based on chapters from Genesis in the Old Testament. Musical theatre works are frequently adapted from sources such as films, plays, novels, tales, short stories, and television shows. How many examples of musical theatre works that were adapted from such source materials can you name?
- Name five musical theatre works that were original and not based on any other sources.
- What does a team of musical theatre collaborators add to a work from another medium in the process of adapting it for the musical stage?

ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITING/RESEARCH PROMPTS

- Read the first nine chapters of the Book of Genesis. Think about the important ways in which the show differs from the Old Testament version of the story. What were the qualities of the Book of Genesis that make it a good source for a musical?
- Read other adaptations of the Adam and Eve story such as Mark Twain's The Diary of Adam and Eve and the musical version of Twain's story, THE APPLE TREE by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick. Also read other adaptations of the Noah story such as the musical, TWO BY TWO . Discuss the differences in the same story is told by different adaptors.
- What were the source works on which the following musicals were based:
 - Fiddler on the Roof*
 - Hello Dolly*
 - Sweet Charity*
 - The King and I*
 - Cabaret*
 - Guys and Dolls*
 - A Little Night Music*
 - South Pacific*
- Select a film, non-fiction book, satirical book, play or group of short stories that you think would make a strong musical theatre work.
- Why do you think this piece "sings?" What about it is inherently musical? What can music add to its existing form?
- What elements of the source will be hard to transfer to musical theatre form?
- Write a two-page description of a musical theatre work based on your source.
- What role will music play? Will the work be all sung? Will it include dialogue? What role will dance play in your work? What will the musical style of your adaptation be?

Children of Eden as Musical Theatre

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Would CHILDREN OF EDEN have been as successful as a straight play without music? Why or why not? How does the score heighten the basic storyline? How

does it move the action of CHILDREN OF EDEN forward? What do we know because of the music that we might not know otherwise?

- How does the music contribute to our understanding of the
- larger themes of the show?
- How did the music and lyrics evoke time and place for you?
- In what ways is the music indispensable to the plot?
- Why do some theatre song lyrics rhyme? Write a few verses in prose about something you are wishing would happen and then write it in rhyme. How is the experience of writing in the two forms different?
- Discuss the ways in which music and lyrics can compress and elevate the importance of information.
- What role does music play in your life? If you were to choose moments in your life worthy of being set to music, what would they be?
- Find examples of duets or shared songs in CHILDREN OF EDEN. How do these duets help to define relationships?
- Select two songs from CHILDREN OF EDEN from the following:

Let There Be

Perfect

The Tree of Knowledge

The Naming

Grateful Children

Father's Day

The Spark of Creation

In Pursuit of Excellence

The End of A Perfect Day

Childhood's End

A World Without You

The Expulsion

The Wasteland

The Wilderness Family

Lost In The Wilderness

A Ring of Stones

Clash of the Generations

The Mark of Cain

Children of Eden

The Gathering Storm

A Piece of Eight

Blind Obedience
Noah's Lullaby
Stranger To The Rain
In Whatever Time We Have
The Flood
What Is He Waiting For?
Sailor of the Skies
The Hardest Part of Love
Words of Doom
The Hour of Darkness
Ain't It Good
Precious Children
In The Beginning

Summarize the contents of these songs. Discuss:

- a. What do we learn about the character or characters who sing the songs and their personal philosophies?
 - b. What do we learn about the larger themes of the show from the songs?
 - c. What makes the character or characters sing at these moments? Why do they sing instead of talk? What is the emotional energy of the moments that push them into song?
 - d. What do the songs accomplish in terms of the plot? Where is the action when the song begins and when it ends?
 - e. Every dramatic scene has a "main beat" or central moment of importance. Do the songs you chose become the "main beat" of the scenes in which they appear?
 - f. Do the songs exist in real time, suspended time, or compressed time? In other words, do they represent the amount of time that it would really take to express their contents? Does they magnify the moment? Does they speed up time?
 - g. What is the physical action of the character or characters during the songs?
- Imagine you have been asked to create a new song for the show. Who would sing it? Where in the show would it take place? What would it be about? What kind of music would it involve?

ASSIGNMENTS, RESEARCH AND WRITING PROMPTS

The Creators Of Musical Theatre

The musical CHILDREN OF EDEN was created by two collaborators: John Caird, who wrote the book and Stephen Schwartz who wrote the music and lyrics.

- Read a biography or autobiography of another famous musical theatre collaborator or collaborative team. Report on their creative and/or collaborative process.
- Read and listen to other works by the authors to obtain a broader view of their approach to their craft and a deeper understanding of their artistic sensibilities.

Production Elements

- Design your own sets and costumes for CHILDREN OF EDEN. Explain the reasons for your choices.
- Read about set designers and lighting designers to learn more about their role in creating musical theatre.

Create Your Own Musical

- How do ideas begin? Have you ever begun a project with a simple idea?
- Give examples of great ideas or inventions that have begun with simple thoughts or images.
- Write a story based (as CHILDREN OF EDEN is) on a section of the Old Testament. Use this story as the basis for a musical.
- Outline your musical scene by scene.
- Make a list of the characters.
- Make a list of musical segments you might include.
- Will your work include dance? How will dance be used?
- Try to write the first scene, a turning point scene, and the final scene of your musical.
- Try to write a lyric or melody for one of the musical segments.

Critical Analysis

ASSIGNMENT/WRITING REPORT

- Write a review of a performance of CHILDREN OF EDEN. You may wish to include any combination of the following elements in your review:
 1. Did the show hold your interest and why?
 2. Describe the manner in which the story was presented to the audience. What was the dialogue like?
 3. What was the structure of the story? Was there a simple story or multiple stories? Was anything about the story unexpected? How did the story begin and end?
 4. Describe the way music and lyrics worked in the show.
 5. Describe the sets, costumes, lighting, and musical accompaniment. How did these elements add meaning to the show?
 6. Discuss the effectiveness of the performers.
 7. Discuss the ideas presented in the show. Analyze their importance to your reader.
 8. Explain why your reader should make an effort to see the show.

APPENDIX

About The Authors

Stephen Schwartz was born in New York City on March 6, 1948. He studied piano and composition at the Juilliard School of Music while still in high school and graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 1968 with a B.F.A. in Drama. Upon coming back to live in New York City, he went to work as a producer for RCA Records, but shortly thereafter began to work in the Broadway theatre. His first major credit was the title song for the play *BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE*, the song eventually being used in movie version as well. In 1971, he wrote the music and new lyrics for *GODSPELL*, for which he won several awards including two Grammys. This was followed by the English texts, in collaboration with Leonard Bernstein, for Bernstein's *MASS*, which opened the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The following year, he wrote the music and lyrics for *PIPPIN*, directed by Bob Fosse, and two years later, *THE MAGIC SHOW*. Next were the music and lyrics for *THE BAKER'S WIFE*, which closed before reaching Broadway after a disastrous out-of-town tryout tour. However, the cast album went on to attain cult status, leading to several subsequent productions, culminating in a London revival directed by Trevor Nunn in 1988.

Mr. Schwartz's next Broadway project was a musical version of Studs Terkel's *WORKING*, which he adapted and directed, winning the Drama Desk Award as best director; he also contributed four songs to the score. A television version of *WORKING*, co-directed by Mr. Schwartz and Kirk Browning, was presented as part of PBS-TV's "American Playhouse" series. Next came a one-act musical for children, *THE TRIP*. In 1986, Mr. Schwartz provided lyrics for Charles Strouse's music for *RAGS*, which after flopping in its initial Broadway run, followed the now familiar route of successful cast album and subsequent productions, culminating in a well-received revival at the American Jewish Theatre in New York. He also contributed music to the off-Broadway revues *PERSONALS* and *A ... MY NAME IS STILL ALICE*. Mr. Schwartz's latest work for the theatre is the score for *CHILDREN OF EDEN*, book by John Caird. The cast album of the recent Papermill Playhouse production of *CHILDREN OF EDEN* has been released on RCA Victor records in both double-CD and single-cd "highlights" versions. For films, he has collaborated with composer Alan Menken on the scores for the Disney animated features *POCAHONTAS* (for which he received two Academy Awards); *THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME*, which is currently being adapted as a stage musical; and the DreamWorks SKG animated feature *PRINCE OF EGYPT*, for which Mr. Schwartz has written music and lyrics for six original songs and received another Academy

Award. He is writing music and lyrics for an original television musical, *GEPPETTO*, to be seen on The Wonderful World of Disney.

John Caird: Honorary Associate Director of the RSC, where he has directed over 20 productions. Recent productions include: *THE SEAGULL*, *OF THE WELLS*, *STANLEY* and *PETER PAN* at the Royal National Theatre, *STANLEY* at the Circle in the Square on Broadway, both parts of *HENRY IV* for BBC television, and *JANE EYRE* at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto. John wrote and directed *THE SIEGFRIED & ROY SHOW* at the Mirage in Las Vegas and with Stephen Schwartz, *CHILDREN OF EDEN*. He has Tony Awards for *LES MISERABLES* and *NICHOLAS NICKLEBY*.

About The Source Material For Children Of Eden

There is no universal agreement regarding who actually wrote the story of the creation of the world in the Bible. Although most scholars seem to agree that Moses was one of the authors. The books of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) were the result of the work of many creators. The word pentateuch comes from a Greek word which means "five-volume-work." The five books of the Pentateuch are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Genesis is the mostly narrative first book of the Jewish and Christian scriptures. Genesis is a Greek word for "coming into being." Like other parts of the Bible Genesis is based on ancient sources and seems to have received its final shape about 500 B.C.

About The Creation

Creation has been defined at "the act of bringing the world into ordered existence." The Bible creation story which follows is thought by many to be based on Hebrew versions of even earlier Babylonian creation myths. The following is from Genesis (1:1.31; 2:1-3).

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above

the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day.

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth . So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and

every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. A God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

On the seventh day He rested from his great endeavor. The seventh day he blessed and made holy, resting from his labors of creation.

About Adam and Eve

The word "Adam" is the Hebrew word for "man" or "man-kind" and is understood to refer to both male and female. The name "Eve" is derived from the Hebrew word meaning "life-giving." The word "Eden" is the Hebrew for "delight" or "pleasure." It is generally agreed that Eden was located in Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in the part of the world known as the "cradle of civilization." Scholars have speculated that Eden and the existence of Adam and Eve in Eden represented a mythological time when food was in such bountiful supply and climate so moderate that man had no unmet needs. Life was simple, easy, and comfortable. Adam and Eve are created in the passage cited above. Later in Genesis (2:1-9, 15-18 and 21-25) more details of the creation of Adam and Eve are supplied:

(but) the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

About the Temptation and Fall

The culprit in the temptation is the snake. Snakes have long been symbolic of subtlety and cunning. The serpent is often equated with Satan. "Satan" translates

from the Hebrew as "adversary." The story of the temptation of Adam and Eve and their subsequent fall into sin is simply and movingly related in the Biblical story in Genesis 3:1.24.

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity

between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever.

Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

About Cain and Abel

Until the incidence with the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil Adam and Eve existed in perfect balance with God. There was no need for or use for altars, rites, ceremonies, or prayers. However, after the defiance of the instructions of God begins a long and arduous search for atonement.

It appears that God prefers Abel's sacrifice over that of Cain largely because Abel is living a righteous life. Prior to the violation of the Tree in Eden there would have been no such concept. Even though he protests that his punishment is too severe Cain apparently lives a long and by most standards a productive and "good" life. His people the Canaanites were deeply involved in developing farming, husbandry, metal working and the arts. But by forbidding anyone to kill Cain God may indeed have condemned Cain to a life of self punishment which was more severe than any which could be administered by an outside force. Here is the story of Cain and Abel from Genesis 4:1.16).

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel.

And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof.

And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

But Cain rose against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.

And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him. And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

About Noah and the Flood

The story of a "great flood" is one of the most universal myths of man. There are stories of floods as old as the ancient Sumerians. The Egyptian mythology includes the "flood." The story also appears among the Chinese, the Greek, and the Native American peoples. Indeed, there is some evidence of cataclysmic floodings about 3000 B.C. (about the time of Noah, according to some scholars). And various thinkers have speculated about certain natural calamities such as meteorites falling in landlocked bodies of water which might cause severe flooding. In a world which was "smaller" and in which peoples were more isolated the concept of "universal"

doubtless would be different from the space-age concept. In any event an apparent “universal” flood would be a terrifying event to contemplate. Here is the Judeo-Christian version from Genesis (6:15-22; 7:1-24; and 8:1-22).

There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it. And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them. Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he. And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two,

the male and his female. Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him. And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth, there went in two and two into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.

And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth. And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.

And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered. And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Creation Myths

American Indian Genesis: The Story of Creation by Percy Bullchild 1998.

The Hero with a Thousand Faces by Joseph Campbell 1996.

Myths from Mesopotamia: Creation, the Flood, Gilgamesh, and Others by Stephanie Dalley 1998.

Mythology by Edith Hamilton.

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