The Babylonian flood story told by the epic of Atra Hasis is recorded in various versions on clay tablets. The Atra Hasis tablets include both a creation myth and a flood account, which is one of three Babylonian versions of the flood. The epic of Atra Hasis differs in content from the biblical account of the flood, but it shares some similarities. The story begins with the gods creating humans to be their slave laborers, but they were being too noisy, which disturbed the gods. The god Enlil decreed that humans should be destroyed in a flood. Atrahasis, the human hero named exceedingly wise, was warned by the god Ea of the impending disaster. He was advised to build a large boat in which to save humanity. The story of the flood is the final part of the epic, which starts with the Eridu Genesis. The flood episode of the Atra Hasis epic has been known for a long time but the literary structure of the epic and the context of the flood story were not understood. The Babylonian flood story of Atra Hasis is important to ancient Near Eastern and biblical scholars as well as students of history anthropology and parative religion. Professors Lambert and Millard provide the reader with a detailed introduction, transliterated Akkadian with English translation, critical notes, and line drawings of the cuneiform tablets.

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