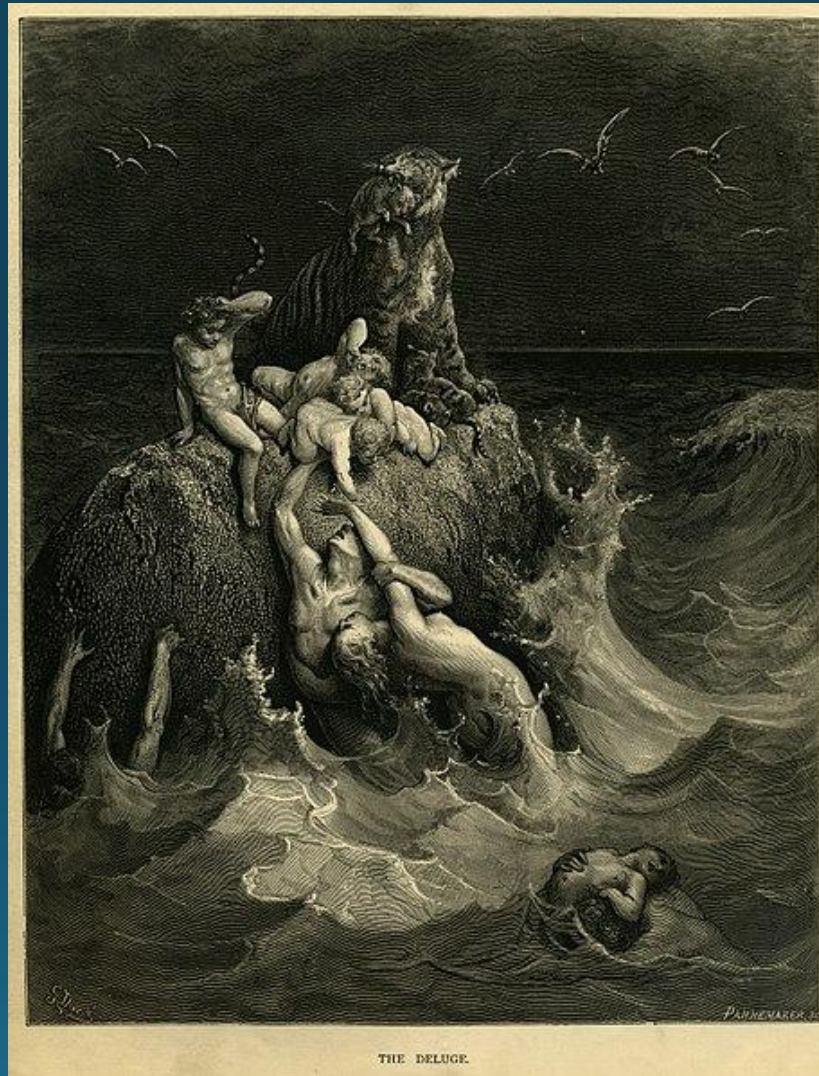


# Mythical Ogyges, the Greek Flood and the Sumerian King List

Mieszek Jagiello

Adam Mickiewicz University  
Institute of Classical Philology  
[mj17669@amu.edu.pl](mailto:mj17669@amu.edu.pl)

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Gustave Doré 1866: „The Deluge”

# Mythical Ogyges

## 1. The adjective ὠγύγιος „primeval; lasting from the beginning of time“

Hes. *Th.* 805–806: „eternal (ἄφθιτος) and primeval (ὠγύγιος) water of Styx “  
Aes. *Hepta* 321, *Pers.* 37–38, *Pers.* 974–975: Thebes, Waset, Athens

→ ὠγύγιος < \*ὠγύγος or Ὠγύγης

## 2. The proper name Ὠγύγης

- a. in Caria: Panyas. F 24 GEF = Steph. Byz. τ 178 (cf. Steph. Byz. κ 199)
- b. in Attica: Philochoros of Athens (BNJ 328 F92a–b), Kastor of Rhodes (BNJ 250 F4, F7); Strab. VIII 7, 1  
(cf. Akusilaos (BNJ 2 F23), Hellanikos (BNJ 3 F47a) ?)
- c. in Boiotia: Lykoph. *Alex.* 1209, (Pseudo(?)-)Korinna (PMG F671), Varro *Rust.* III 1, 2–4.

→ established order of Attic kings, including Ogyges

# Greek Floods

## 1. The Flood of Deukalion

Hes. F*16 Hirschberger:	Deukalion as (founding) father of „People“ (λαός)
Pind. <i>O.</i> IX 41–56:	Deukalion & Pyrrha survive the Flood (cf. Epicharm. F113–120 PCG)
<i>Marmor Parium</i> (BNJ 239 A6):	Hellen, founding father of the Hellenes, as son of Deukalion

→ Deukalion: Greek founding figure, survives the flood

## 2. The Theban Flood of Ogyges

PMG 671:	Ogyges, son of Boiotos
Lykoph. <i>Alex.</i> 1209:	Ogyges, (founding) father of the Spartoi
Varro <i>Rust.</i> III 1, 2–4:	Thebes, founded by Ogyges 2100 years ago <u>before</u> the Flood (of Ogyges)

→ Ogyges: Theban founding figure, survives the flood

# Sumerian King List

## The Flood of Ziusudra

- SKL* 26–31: Reference to the Flood, Ziusudra as antedeluvian king (cf. MS 3175 i 34–41)
- SI* 1, 5–13: Shuruppak instructs Ziusudra in antedeluvian times (cf. Atrahasis)
- Ziu.* VI 258–259, V 205–210: Ziusudra survives the Floods & is granted immortality (cf. *GE* XI)
- Ziusudra: survives the flood, keeps antedeluvian knowledge & human life (force)

# Comparison

## 1. Fixing chronology:

Sumerian King List → known until Hellenistic period  
(cf. Berossos, BNJ 680 F1b, 3b, 4a–c, 5a–b, 6, 8d, 21)

*Ehoiai*, Marmor Parium → apparent already in Archaic period

(Ogyges on Attic king lists in Hellenistic period (at the latest); *vide* Castor, BNJ 250 F4, F7)

## 2. The Flood as mythical turning point:

Ziusudra, Atrahasis → from Isin-Larsa period onwards (cf. Noah – Gen 5: 32,  
9: 1–8, 9: 18–10: 32)

Deukalion → from late Archaic period (at the latest) onwards

Ogyges → from I century BCE (at the latest) (*vide* Varro *Rust.* III 1, 2–4)

# Interpretation: vectors of transmission

## 1. Association:

- a. Mesopotamian Flood
- b. Deukalion's name: δέωω, δέομαι „to wet, moisten, drench; to make smth. flow“

## 2. Etiology:

- a. Ziusudra/Atrahasis in Isin-Larsa period
- b. Deukalion in early Archaic period
- c. Ogyges in late Archaic period

## 3. Etymology:

- a. *zi-u<sub>4</sub>-sud-rá*, lit. „life of days that are distant“  
= \*Umnapishtim Requim → „Life going back to distant (ancient) days“  
(cf. *Instructions of Shurruk* 1–5)
- b. Ὠγύγης, lit. „the Primeval / Ever-Lasting (One)“  
(cf. Hsch. ω 27, *Suda* ω 13)

# Literature (selected)

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