

The Gods of Sumer

- Nammu—the primeval freshwaters; she always existed
- Anu—the firmament or heavens; this was thought to be solid, like the land
- Ki (Ninmah, Ninhursag)—the land
- **Enlil**—the sky; he became the greatest of the gods
- **Enki** (Ea)—the seas; he was also the god of knowledge and natural order, the creator of people
- Nanna (Sin)—the Moon; Enlil created him to light the firmament
- Utu (Shamash)—the Sun; he was the god of justice, morality, and truth
- Inanna (Ishtar)—Venus; she was the goddess of love, war, and political power
- Ereshkigal—the Underworld; she was the queen of Irkalla and was sometimes called by that name
- **Marduk**—(eventually) Jupiter; he was a minor god in Sumer, but the Babylonians promoted him as their chief god, he became the type for Canaanite Baal

The list of gods goes on. The gods were divided into two groups.

- **The Anunnaki**, the great gods who ruled the cosmos
- **The Igigi**, the lesser gods who served the Anunnaki

The Sumerians also had legends and legendary figures.

- Gilgamesh

Gilgamesh seems to have been a king of Uruk sometime between 2900 and 2700 BCE. Somehow, he became the legendary hero of the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, a series of stories that lead the larger-than-life Gilgamesh to seek the secret to eternal life.