**Today’s big ideas: Proverbs and *Enuma Elish***

1. Proverbs is a compilation of individual sayings from many sources. In its final form it is typical of second-temple writings (probably not composed by Solomon).
2. The wisdom writings are pragmatic and deal with worldly success (marriage, money making, getting along in the community, gaining status in the community). It is not theological except in a practical way, and it absolutely discourages rebellion.
3. Goddess worship was practiced widely as late as the 400s BCE (Second Temple Period). Asherah was worshipped in the first temple alongside Yahweh, and God’s wife was still worshipped in the 4th century BCE in Jewish communities in Egypt.
4. Wisdom is personified as a goddess-like figure who helped God create the world.
5. The framing story of Proverbs deals with the son’s advice from the father about the ideal wife (eishe chayil) or Wise Woman as opposed to the Strange Woman. Sons should listen to their mothers’ “torah” (law or teaching). Some have argued that the roots of this opposition lie in suppressed goddess worship (ancient Canaanites had a goddess of wisdom and a darker snake goddess like Tiamat).
6. In contrast to Ezra and Nehemiah, Proverbs valorizes female achievement and suggests that women are the glue of second-temple families. It redefines the word Gibbar (Hero) and Chayil (Valor) to remove their military associations.