**The Myth of Deucalion and Pyrrha**



DEUCALION and PYRRHA were **ὁ** **πρῶτος**  **βασιλευς**  and **βασιλεια** of Northern Greece. Deucalion was the son of Prometheus, the creator of **ανδρες**, while Pyrrha was the daughter of Pandora, **ἡ** first **γυνη**.

They were born in the time of **ὀ** Bronze **γενος**  of **ανδρες**, a warlike race who succeeded the Silver and the Gold. Of these the Bronze was **ὁ** **πρῶτος**  naturally born generation, and **ὁ** **πρῶτος**  to include both **ανδρες** and **γυναι**. **ὁ**  **πρῶτος**  **γενος**, the Golden, had been moulded of **γη**  in the time of Kronos, and passed away without producing any issue. **ὁ**  second **γενος**, the Silver, was created by Prometheus during **ἡ αρχη** of Zeus, and marrying the Melian nymphs sired **ὁ** Bronze **γενος**.

The Bronze generation, however, was very corrupt. Zeus was angered by their impiety and sent a Great Deluge to the envelop **ἡ γη** and destroy them. Only Deucalion and Pyrrha survived--having been warned of the impending disaster by Prometheus, they mounted **ναυς** and sailed to the dry peaks of Mount Parnassos. Other Greek regions also claimed survivors-- **βασιλευς** Dardanos was said to have sought refuge on Mount Ida in the Troad, Kerambos was carried to the heights of Mount Othrys by the Nymphs, Megaros fled to Mount Gerana, Arkas and Nyktimos were preserved on Mount Kyllene in Arkadia, and **οἱ δεμοι** of Parnassos fled to the heights above Delphoi. Io and her son Epaphos, who lived in Egypt, were also preserved.

Zeus then caused **ἡ θαλασσα** to recede. In Northern Greece Poseidon split the mountains at the Vale of Tempe to release **αἱ θαλασσαι** trapped in the Great Thessalian Plain. Deucalion and Pyrrha then consulted the Delphic oracle to ask how they might repopulate **ἡ γη** and were told to cast the bones of their mother over their shoulders. They answered this riddle by casting **oἱ λιθοι** --the bones of Mother Earth--one producing a tribe of **ανδρες** and the other of **γυναι**.

Deucalion had several sons and daughters. The most famous of these were Hellen, **ὁ βασιλευς**  of the Hellenes (i.e. Greeks), and Pandora. Deucalion's descendants were rulers of most of the kingdoms of mythical Greece.

Vocabulary for the Myth of Deucalion and Pyrrha

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| **θαλασσα** | ‘tha-la-sa’ | sea |
| **δεμος** | ‘dem-os’ | people |
| **ανδρες** | ‘and-res’ | men |
| **γυνη** | ‘gun-e’ | women |
| **λιθος** | ‘lith-os’ | stone |
| **γη** | ‘ge’ | earth |
| **βασιλευς** | ‘bas-i-le-us’ | king |
| **βασιλεια** | ‘bas-i-le-a’ | queen |
| **γενος** | ‘gen-os’ | race |
| **ναυς** | ‘na-us’ | ship |
| **αρχη** | ‘arch-e’ | reign |
| **πρῶτος** | ‘prot-os’ | first |