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Myths of Mankind

This documentary series looks at some of the world's great legends. Mystical and mythical stories were first told thousands of years ago, and many have survived to the present day. They remain the stuff of scholarly research and popular interest. The documentaries explore some of these **Myths of Mankind**, ranging from Atlantis and Troy to the Flying Dutchman and Dracula.

01 To the Edge of the World

During the Middle Ages, Santiago de Compostela was one of the most important destinations for Christian pilgrims, then it fell into obscurity. But in recent decades interest in Santiago de Compostela has revived, not only among Christians but also among people on a quest for self-discovery.

02 Between Heaven and Earth

The stars have fascinated mankind since prehistoric times. Our search for the origins of astronomy and astrology takes us back to ancient Ireland, Egypt, Japan, China and Peru.

03 The War against Time

The Spanish conquerors had barely set foot in South America when the Incas predicted the invasion heralded the end of their civilization. But how were just 175 adventurers able to overcome a seven-million-strong population of extraordinary engineers and brave warriors?

04 The Quest for the Holy Grail

One of the most mysterious religious symbols is the Holy Grail, the wooden chalice used by Christ at the Last Supper. It later became a key element in mediaeval tales about King Arthur.

05 The Quest for the Ark of the Covenant

According to the Bible, the stone tablets bearing the Ten Commandments given to Moses by God were later kept in the Temple in Jerusalem in a wooden chest known as the Ark of the Covenant. We try to find out what became of it.

06 The Flying Dutchman

A fearless seaman is condemned to sail the seas for all eternity. But why and what does it mean?

07 The Truth about Troy

The myth of Troy fascinated German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann. Could it be that the ruins he excavated were not those of the city that figures in Homer's Iliad at all? Was Homer's Troy just a product of the imagination?

08 Dracula

The bloodsucking Transylvanian count who sleeps in a coffin and only rises during the hours of darkness has thrilled the modern imagination. That fascination has to do with fear of death.

09 The Golem

The golem is an effigy of clay brought to life by a charm or sacred word. In some versions of the tale, he was meant to help protect against enemies but got out of hand!

10 Christianity before Christ?

Some scholars believe the Dead Sea Scrolls cast interesting light on the early history of Christianity.

11 Osiris and Freemasonry

All kinds of myths and tales are associated with Freemasonry. Practitioners don't tell outsiders about their beliefs and practices. Still, it is clear that Egyptian mythology has influenced the movement.

12 The Son of God

Who was Jesus Christ? Does the Bible offer a true account of his life and actions? Was he the son of God?

13 The Flood... or Looking for Atlantis

Did the Flood recounted in the Bible really occur? And if so, was it the result of a tsunami? Did Atlantis exist and was it too destroyed by a huge wave?