

GOOD
HATES
YOU

MAKING
SENSE OF
THE BIBLE

Making
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The Bible

HATE THEM BACK
CJ WERLEMAN

God Hates You, Hate Him Back

Making Sense of The Bible

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Introducing The Bible

“The characters and events depicted in the damn bible are fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.”

Penn and Teller

The Bible is a collection of 66 different books, the writings of at least 40 different authors over a period of time that spanned at least 1,500 years. The Bible, however, is not a singular catalogue of these books as the sixty-six books are each respectively assigned to either the Old or New Testament. To illustrate this, the Old Testament comprises of thirty-nine of the sixty six, Genesis to Malachi, whilst the New Testament includes the balance of twenty-seven books, the Gospel of Matthew through the Book of Revelation. Now it is important for non-Jewish audiences to understand that the New Testament is not ‘new’, in the sense that it is a modernized or an updated version of the Old Testament, as an alarming number of Christians that I have spoken with incorrectly believe. Jews, for example, don’t call it the Old Testament, as for them, there is no ‘new’. The Old Testament is the Hebrew Bible, starting there and ending there. Whereas the New Testament is a Christian ‘addendum’ or add on, so that their belief may allow for the introduction of their messianic hero – Jesus.

The Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible, is the catalogue of Judaism belief. The Hebrew Bible ends where the New Testament begins. For these reasons the Jewish religion is relatively straightforward and uncomplicated. In contrast, the basis for Christianity is highly problematic and confusing because they introduced a special new character, somewhat like writing a new super-hero into a script after filming had already begun. Christopher Hitchens, author of *God is Not Great*, eloquently makes his punchy position on this:

“[New Testament] is a work of crude carpentry, hammered together long after its purported events and full of attempts to make things come out right.”

The new Christian addendum for reasons of brand positioning became the New Testament, and the Jews, of which Jesus and his disciples were, laugh and scoff at the Christian story in the same manner that most of us laugh at the idea that seventy-two virgins await in heaven for those that fall aircraft into buildings. But, much to their chagrin, Christians cannot divorce themselves from the Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible, because Jesus’ biography is hammered and nailed together (bad pun) from Old Testament prophecy and genealogy, i.e. no Old Testament – no Jesus!

Further convoluting the whole mono-theistic party punch is the fact that the Koran, the Islamic Bible, has its roots in the Old Testament too, but at the risk of upsetting the unshaven Muslim guy seated next to me on this Trans-Pacific flight, I will dispense with any Islamic observations because I have seen what these guys are capable of when they get ‘pissed’!

As you process the stories of the Bible, it is important to remember that the respective authors were not men of modern enlightenment. To put that statement into some kind of context, if we could somehow build a time-travel device and transport Moses from 2000 BC to 2009 AD, his knowledge of the universe would embarrass that of even a 3rd grader. This suggests that religious believers today spend their years on earth in worship of enlightenment and understanding that an eight year old could provide.

~~The books of the Bible were crafted together by ancient man to explain how his universe and his surroundings came to be. These were books that provided comfort to man, as he feared the dark, death in battle, the sound of thunder, or illness and disease. Within all civilizations, within all societies, throughout human existence has demonstrated its proclivity to create gods for when we cannot find meaning or understanding. For example, we knew the sun was good because it made our crops grow. No sun, no crops, no food. Therefore we created the Sun God. Similarly, gods for water, fertility, healing, etc.~~

The earliest books of the Bible, Genesis in particular, were written by ancient Hebrews in an effort to explain how their existence and the things in their environment came about. All civilizations have their roots in folklore, mythology and legend. The ancient Romans believed their existence was founded by the twins Romulus and Remus, both orphaned and raised by a wolf. The ancient Hebrews believed a sky-god placed a man named Adam, created from dust, and a woman, created by Adam from a rib, on earth to be the first family of their existence.

There is little doubt the Bible, due to its wordiness, size and often incomprehensible translations, is an intimidating book. This explains, in large, why people don't read it. This assertion is corroborated by my own anecdotal experiences, in which I am utterly flabbergasted as to how little my Christian friends actually know of the Bible's claims, commands, assertions, dictums and history. Interestingly, my personal findings seem to be in synch with the findings published in an editorial titled *The Greatest Story Never Read: Recovering Biblical Literacy in the Church*. The author's findings include a swathe of statistical data that literally would blow the socks off any Baptist preacher or the trousers off a tele-evangelist in a gay brothel. The research showed that 93% of American households own at least one copy of the Bible, but this is what is known of the 'Good Book':

More than 35% of college attending Christians could not put the following in order: Abraham, the Old Testament prophets, the death of Christ and Pentecost.

One-third could also not identify Matthew as an apostle from a list of New Testament names.

The above findings corroborated by an editorial published in *Politics Daily* titled, *Why a 'Year of the Bible' Would Horrify its Sponsors* showed:

More than 50% don't know that Genesis is the first book of the Bible.

More than 50% can't name even one of the Gospels.

More than 60% can't name at least 5 of the 10 commandments.

More than 20% think Moses was one of Jesus' disciples.

More than 50% of High School seniors think Sodom and Gomorrah was a married couple.

Putting the above data in context of a recent Rasmussen poll, which showed that 44% of Americans believe in the literal translation of the Bible, meaning 140 million Americans believe that a talking snake encouraged a woman to eat an apple; that a 900 year old man built an Arc to replenish humanity; that the sun revolves around the earth; and Jonah lived inside a whale for three days. It is the majority of these 140 million that enabled, by their votes, arguably the worst President in American history to inflict his Crusades paradigm upon the world. So I suggest the next time you see a guy step out of a car with a Bush-Cheney 04 sticker please be sure to kick him in the shins and tell

him I sent you.

To offer your life in servitude of an unseen sky-god based on the writings included in a book you have never read, seems to me to be the far limit of irrationality. This irrationality seemed to be all around me, however, from my conversations with my dearest friends, the idiocy of evangelical Christianity right through to the President of the United States, who said, when asked if English should be made the national language, 'If English was good enough for the Bible it is good enough for me.' President who had either never read the Bible himself, or at the least did not understand what it was that he was reading, and who once said on live television that 'faith in Christ was part of his foreign policy.' Put another way, The Bible is the blueprint for living a Judaist or Christian life, but the believers are simply choosing not to read said blueprint. Funny logic, huh?

Is it possible believers choose not to read it because Isaac Asimov's famous quote, in regards to the Bible, is a truism?

"Properly read, the bible is the most potent force for atheism ever conceived." – Isaac Asimov

Therefore, it is my objective in writing this book, *God Hates You, Hate Him Back*, to demystify the Bible for the layman. And I don't use 'layman' as some kind of elitist derogatory term, I use it because I consider myself a layman. I prefer simple explanations to things that I do not understand rather than a 'know it all' lecturing me in how clever they are, and my Tea Party therapist told me smart people are bad for my self-esteem. But I digress. Therefore, with that in mind I hope this book demonstrates the absurdity of religion in a modern context without me preaching from a theological philosophical soap-box. If this book enables you to win a dinner table argument against one of your 'happy-clapper' Christian fundamentalist friends, then this book has achieved what I set out to do writing it.

The God I refer to in the title is the God of The Bible, and it's important to make this distinction, as we in the western world mistakenly assume that God is God. God, as we know in The Bible, is not everyone's god today, nor was he everyone's god 4,000 years ago. The God you know through the 'good book' was purely the god of the Hebrew tribes in ancient Middle Eastern times. The Egyptians had their own gods. The Greeks had their own gods. The Romans had theirs, as did the Assyrians and Babylonians. All of these hundreds, maybe thousands, of gods hold equal evidence for their claim of being the one true god. NONE! The Godderooni you are familiar with is only so because historic events approximately 1,500 years ago, and more recently, shaped it so.

The Bible

The Bible begins with a story of how the Hebrew God, whom we shall just refer to as 'God' from now forth, created the earth and all living things. It explains how God revealed himself to Abraham in 2100BC, and how Abraham took his descendents to Egypt, involuntarily due to famine, and where they would ultimately become slaves of the Pharaoh. Subsequently, God made a covenant with Abraham and promised not to forget his people, the Israelites, and in 1400BC he summoned Moses to lead them out of Egyptian captivity to go directly to the 'promised land'. However, their bickering, whining and continual questioning of God led to a 40-year wait in the Sinai desert.

Under the leadership of Joshua, they established the nation of Israel, grouped into 12 tribes or clans. In approximately 1050BC the nation of Israel asked for a human king. In turn, Saul was appointed by the

prophet Samuel, who turned out to be a complete flop and thus was followed by David and then Solomon who built the Temple in Jerusalem as the center of Israelite worship.

Israel was then conquered and destroyed by Assyria in 722BC and then Babylon in 586BC. Its people were taken as captives to Babylon, but after 40 or 50 years were allowed to return to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah. This, in effect, ends the Old Testament story at approximately 430BC.

Israel continually fell under the control of other powers and at the time of Roman control, Jesus was born, allegedly. He was recognized by a handful of eccentric Jews as the Messiah, or God in human form, and his teachings lasted only for a period of three years. Thus commencing the stories of the New Testament, which has its origins nearly a full century after the supposed death of Jesus Christ.

“The great unquestionable evil at the center of our culture is monotheism. From a barbaric Bronze Age text known as the Old Testament, three anti-human religions have evolved – Judaism, Christianity and Islam. These are the sky-god religions. They are, literally, patriarchal – God is the Omnipotent Father – hence the loathing of women for 2,000 years in those countries afflicted by the sky-god and his earthly male delegates.” – Gore Vidal

With the Old Testament laying the foundation for the respective Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths, one can assert that the Bible is the written, or inspired word of God in the minds of more than 4 billion people alive today. But what does the ‘inspired word of God’ actually mean? This is not an easy question to answer because the texts of the Bible are, unarguably, written by human hands. As a matter of fact, not a single word of the ‘Good Book’ was penned by the Lord Almighty. Surprise! Allegedly, and without any empirical supporting evidence, the more than 40 various authors who contributed to the texts claim that God spoke to them alone on a mountain top, or via someone else (a medium) through that person personally knew. This always befuddled me as a child, the fact that God only spoke to Middle Eastern men one-to-one, with the risk of the message being lost in translation, rather than just sit us all down for a chat, collectively. Thus believers must believe it is the ‘inspired’ word of God or the book has no meaning at all; and if it has no meaning then you have no religion. Therefore, the belief is based on the fact that the Bible says it is the word of God. Nothing more.

If you ever get into a religious discussion with a Christian, for example, a circular rationale usually ensues, something like this: “The Bible is true because it is the word of God and I know it is the word of God because the Bible says so. And if the Bible says so, then it must be true, because I know the Bible is true because it is the word of God and God wouldn’t lie. I know that because the Bible says so.” Are you dizzy yet?

At the risk of further extending the circular roundabout, the theological conundrum is that the onus is now on the believer to prove the existence of the Biblical God, because if he isn’t real then the book isn’t inspired! And because we know that there were no Xerox machines or Kinkos on the Arabian Peninsula four millennia ago, we can conclude that the words were passed down orally from generation to generation, from one copy to another copy, each producing a slightly different version of the same story. Therefore, for the Bible to be truly inspired by a Heavenly creator, it would require that all the hundreds and thousands of men that took part in the copying and translating were ‘inspired’ by God. I now need to get off this merry-go-round.

But if we grant the believers their faith and be gracious enough to offer our humor, then shouldn’t we expect the Bible to be brim-filled with wisdom, wonder, enlightenment and beauty? Shouldn’t the book, co-authored by the supreme-being, the creator of all, be the most marvellous thing ever written standing side by side with progressive scientific discovery and not starkly against it? Is this too much?

to ask? Because having read the Bible back to front, front to back, right to left, left to right, I think is one of the most uninspiring books ever written. God's greatest preaching to mankind, his creation counts for little more than who I can and can't shag; what I can and can't eat; when I can and can't work; how I should treat my slaves; under what terms I can annihilate my neighbors; and how slaughter an animal as a token of my gratitude to him. Seems a little trivial, doesn't it? Furthermore this God has some bizarre and brutish methods for getting his point across, including forcing his prophet Ezekiel to eat nothing but bread smeared with human shit for 430 consecutive days; vaporizing people into salt for innocuous errors; and of course, seeing to the slaughter of entire civilizations because they may happen to be in the way of an Israelite land grab.

Really? Is this his best effort? My god, I can literally walk into any Borders bookstore blindfolded and march directly to the self-help section and find more wisdom in 'Awaken the Giant within' and 'Chicken soup for the soul' and these respective books are just full of pseudo pop-psychology at best and utter meaningless bullshit at worst!

To borrow Lewis Black's comedic wisdom:

"...even if the Bible is a dead-on accurate transcription of God's words, it's rather shocking that God only had two books to read to him, the Old and the New Testament. I've actually written two books and I am sure God would have written more than me. Two books? That was all he had to say to us? You think he would have put at least a pamphlet in response to the Holocaust. And not, a pamphlet, a couple of well placed fire-balls, for crying out loud. This is the Supreme Being we're talking about, who whacks Sodom and Gomorrah and turns Lot's wife to salt and Hitler doesn't get so much as a twisted ankle? It seems a little suspicious to me."

It becomes obvious, then, that the Bible is far from the writings of an omniscient, super-intellectual being, but rather the often incoherent rants of a few violent, self-serving, nomadic Middle Eastern yokels, who created these writings, with not only the intention of explaining the inexplicable but also for the moral justifications of slavery, subjugation of women and domination of neighboring societies to steal their land, rape their women and plunder their treasures.

Who better to put this all into some realm of reality than the great late comedian Mr. George Carlin?

"When it comes to bullshit, big-time, major league bullshit, you have to stand in awe of the all-time champion of false promises and exaggerated claims, religion. No contest. No contest. Religion. Religion easily has the greatest bullshit story ever told. Think about it. Religion has actually convinced people that there's an invisible man living in the sky who watches everything you do, every minute of every day. And the invisible man has a special list of ten things he does not want you to do. And if you do any of these ten things, he has a special place, full of fire and smoke and burning and torture and anguish, where he will send you to live and suffer and burn and choke and scream and cry forever and ever 'til the end of time! But He loves you."

If the God of the Bible is all-powerful and therefore omnipotent, then his wickedness is second to none. To be omnipotent means that not only did he create evil but he does nothing to prevent it. When small children were being thrown alive into burning furnaces during the Second World War, God did nothing to prevent their agonizing deaths, therefore permitting evil to take its course. Or put another way still, by the time you have completed reading this page, another few hundred children will die of thirst or starvation. Epicurus, the Greek Philosopher, had the common sense to write way back in 300 BC:

Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able?

Then he is not omnipotent.

Is he able, but not willing?

Then he is malevolent.

Is he both able and willing?

Then whence cometh evil?

Is he neither able nor willing?

Then why call him God?

‘God’ and ‘evil’ in the one sentence surely challenges the public relations spin of God being a loving, just, peace-endorsing heavenly father. With ‘spoiler alert’ disclaimer up front, this examination will ultimately lead you to one of the following two conclusions, that either:

God is just a creation of man’s imagination or,

God is an evil bastard.

Be assured that my caricature of the celestial cloud merchant is not just something that I have grasped on my own, as much smarter men than I contend similar. Take Richard Dawkins’, biologist and author of *God Delusion*, depiction of God from chapter two of his book:

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction. Jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak; a vindictive blood thirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, megalomaniacal, capriciously malevolent bully.”

And don’t be fooled into thinking that anti-God rhetoric is confined solely to nerdy looking 21st century scientists. To the eternal surprise of American Christians, Thomas Jefferson, one of the founding fathers of America, shared his biographical portrayal of God with Dawkins more than 200 years earlier when he wrote:

“The Christian God is a being of terrific character — cruel, vindictive, capricious and unjust.”

Now, if your knowledge of the Bible is confined to the religious preacher sound bites, then I am sure the aforementioned quotations from Messrs. Dawkins and Jefferson come as a bit of a shock. But I dare anyone to come up with a better personality profile of the God of Abraham having read the Bible from Genesis right through to Revelations. This God created by the Hebrews is far removed from the propaganda spun by priests, pastors and popes, who use these pithy sound bites of ‘love thy neighbor’ and ‘do unto others’, or ‘turn the other cheek’ as means of packaging Christianity for sale. The Biblical reality is that this particular God will smote you for working on the wrong day; wearing the wrong clothes; sex with the wrong person; thought crimes such as wanting a new car, a new boat, or a holiday; complaining about a lack of food; complaining about the quality of the food; eating the wrong food; occupying land allotted for his ‘chosen’ people; talking back to your parents; questioning authority; looking back to see his destruction of a city; breaking the rules for owning or buying slaves and ultimately hates you for not being an Israelite, to name but a few. He truly punctuates the air with far more reasons to hate the human condition than love it.

Henceforth, for every ‘love thy enemy’ there are dozens of God’s commands endorsing the rape and killing of thy neighbor. The sprinkles of self-evident moral ideals are well and truly outnumbered by some truly wicked ideas, barbaric rituals and genocidal endorsements. The God of hate is revealed within the Bible and therefore my intent is to demonstrate that assertion throughout my summary of the ‘Bad Book’.

So, the claim that God is a tyrannical monster has been made – let’s find the proof of such a contrarian assertion within the passages of the Bible. But before we do I just want to tackle the issue of religion and morality. The argument of morality is the tip of the sword that Christians use in defence of their beliefs.

So, what about morality? A question often posed to atheists and agnostics. Where do we get our morality from if not the Bible? This is a daft question that many free thinkers take utter umbrage to. Especially so when one considers that morality is older than religion itself. As human beings with higher consciousness to our fellow mammals in the animal kingdom we have an innate sense that what is good for our society is also good for us. Gene survival in social animals depends on the principle of looking after one's peers. The 'I'll scratch your back if you scratch mine' ideal is law of nature. This is a nice segue for introducing our cousins the chimpanzees.

Consider that chimpanzees are socially evolved enough to take care of their young and elderly, perform roles in social teams; and are able to compete for social promotion for what zoologists label the principle of social service. They are able to do all of this without a sky-god to watch over them without the benefit of a book written 4000 years ago by other chimpanzees. With this in mind, why do Christians, Muslims and Jews continue the self-loathing and self-doubting assertion that the Bible forms the framework for human morality? Laughable isn't it? Like the chimps, we have a mutual investment and moral empathy in ensuring that perpetrators of deeds that cause harm to us are ultimately isolated from us, whether by imprisonment or ostracization. The reality-show 'Survivor' makes a dim-witted case in point for this dynamic. Watch any elimination episode and it is primarily those individuals that offer no altruistic value to the tribe, whether physically or politically, who are sent home for an early shower.

To defend the Bible as an argument for morality places one on a very slippery slope. By what standards or framework do we cherry-pick the Bible? What do we leave in and what do we omit? And who decides? Do we stone our daughters to death for working part-time at Burger King on the Sabbath? Or do we remove the law that demands we take our sons to the edge of the city limits and execute them for calling their fathers, "A cranky old bastard", in a heated teen-angst moment? And if we are picking and choosing the laws worthy of following, then aren't we playing God ourselves? Furthermore, if we accept that it is barbaric in the 21st century to sell our daughters into slavery, then it is evident that morals, like everything else in the human experience, *evolve*. Resulting in the conclusion that moral evolution is at the behest of man and not by God.

Further, if belief in God were inextricably tied to morality then it would be fair to assume that statistical, analytical or anecdotal data would demonstrate that societies with a higher degree of religiosity would be safer places to live, as those citizens abided by the moral code prescribed by their respective religion. What we find, however, is the opposite. This data is best described by Sam Harris in his '*Letter to a Christian Nation*':

"While political party affiliation in the United States is not a perfect indicator of religiosity, it is no secret that the 'red' (Republican) states' are primarily red due to the overwhelming political influence of conservative Christians. If there were a strong correlation between Christian conservatism and societal health, we might expect to see some sign of it in red-state America. We don't. Of the twenty-five cities with the lowest rates of violent crime, 62 percent are in 'blue' (Democrat) states and 38 percent are in 'red' (Republican) states. Of the twenty-five most dangerous cities, 76 percent are in red states and 24 percent are in blue states. In fact, three of the five most dangerous cities in the U.S. are in the most pious state of Texas. The twelve states with the highest rate of burglary are red. Twenty-four of the twenty-nine states with the highest rates of theft are red. Of the twenty-two states with highest rates of murder, seventeen are red."

Harris' social data is consistent with a paper published in July 2009 on the online journal *Evolutionary Psychology* by Gregory Paul. Paul finds that countries with the lowest rates of social dysfunction based on more than 20 indicators, including rates for poverty, unemployment, crime and sexually transmitted disease – have become the most secular or anti-religious. Whereas those nations listed

the most socially dysfunctional including the US, are listed as the most religious. Hasn't history taught us well enough that when you oppress or prohibit a certain behavior the 'blowback' is double? So, with the continual decline of religion and with a collective awakening around the world that there is a God then surely there can't be just one path to him, the question becomes what part will religion play in the future? I will let you ponder that as you read this book, but in the interim you may want to consider Harris' brilliant hypothesis, included in 'End of Faith':

“What if all our knowledge about the world were suddenly to disappear? Imagine that six billion of us wake up tomorrow morning in a state of utter ignorance and confusion. Our books and computers are still here, but we can't make heads or tails of their contents. We have even forgotten how to drive our cars and brush our teeth. What knowledge would we want to reclaim first? Well, there's that business about getting food and building shelter that we would want to get acquainted with. We would want to relearn how to use and repair many of our machines. Learning to understand spoken and written languages would also be a top priority, given that these skills are necessary for acquiring most others. When in this process of reclaiming our humanity will it be important to know that Jesus was born of a virgin? Or that he was resurrected? And how would we relearn these truths, if they are indeed true? By reading the Bible? Our tour of the shelves will deliver similar pearls from antiquity – like the 'fact' that Isis, the goddess of fertility, sports an impressive pair of cow horns. Reading further, we will learn that Thor carries a hammer and that Marduk's sacred animals are horses, dogs and a dragon with a forked tongue... and when we will want to relearn that premarital sex is a sin? Or that adulteresses should be stoned to death?”

Harris further contends that if the above all-humanity memory loss were to occur, then our relearning of all things of relevance would place the Bible and Qur'an on the shelf next to Ovid's 'Metamorphoses' and the 'Egyptian Book of the Dead'.

Alright, enough with the Theology 101 lesson, let's have some fun in exploring the ancient Biblical world of murder, barbarism, bestiality, rape and plunder.

PS: God doesn't know you are reading this book, so don't be scared.

The Books of The Pentateuch

Chapter One - The Book of Genesis

“Do you think that, if you were granted omnipotence and omniscience and millions of years in which to perfect your world, you could produce nothing better than the Ku Klux Klan or the Fascists?”

Bertand Russell (London, 1927)

Genesis is the first book of the Bible of Judaism and Christianity, and the first of five books of the Pentateuch or Torah. It recounts Judeo-Christian beliefs regarding the world, from creation to the descent of the children of Israel into Egypt, and contains some of the best-known stories of the Old Testament, including Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah’s Ark, the Tower of Babel and the biblical Patriarchs.

For Jews the theological importance of Genesis centers on the covenants linking God to his Chosen People and the people to the Promised Land. Christianity has reinterpreted Genesis as the prefiguration of Christian beliefs, notably the Christian view of Christ as the new Adam and the New Testament as the culmination of the covenants.

The Creation

The very first sentence of Genesis and therefore the Bible states:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1 NIV)

That’s it! Doesn’t tell us how he made it; what building materials were used; if any of the work was outsourced to India; or from where he sourced the materials. The Bible’s explanation of the creation of the universe is paramount to the smart-ass kid in the classroom telling you, “It just is and you wouldn’t understand it even if I told you anyway!” Imagine how confusing the creation of the universe by the Hebrew God 6,000 years ago must have been to the Sumerians as they watched on from their huts drinking beer, and using glue. Wait. What?

The next time someone says there is still a debate between our modern cosmological understanding of the universe versus the Biblical creation, know that on one hand we have a library full of hundreds of years of scientific research cataloguing our galaxy, the relationship between stars and planets; and the wondrous beauty of evolutionary development, and on the other hand, that being the Bible, the good book has compressed all that natural world wonderment into a single pithy sentence. Magic! Scientists are the first to admit that there are still some missing links in understanding the finer details as to the creation of the universe, but any ‘gap’ that we currently have today is not logically resolved by the Bible’s explanation of ‘wham here it is’!

The remainder of the opening sentence of Genesis continues:

“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” (Genesis 1:2 NIV)

So, the question becomes what was God doing with himself leading up to that time? Sitting idle in the formless empty darkness? How long was he sitting on his ass flicking between channels waiting for

something interesting to watch? Did he create us out of sheer boredom, in between inventing the dinosaurs 350 million years ago and then man 7,000 years ago? It's reasonable to ask what he was doing during this extraordinarily lengthy hiatus. Evidently, he was indeed content with floating around in the dark until, all of a sudden, he says to himself, "Fuck it, I want to create a planet, a heaven, some people and sit back and watch them destroy each other in my honor because Monday Night Football is still 6,000 years away."

This Genesis explanation for the origins of our universe is based on less rationality than the Hindu belief - the universe is a cosmic egg that cycles between expansion and total collapse. Sure, evolution may not have all the answers and there are a few gaps in the evolutionary timeline that science is still figuring out the answers to, but to argue that an invisible man floating around in the cosmos just decided on a whim one day to wave his hands and *bang* everything familiar to our natural physical environment appeared out of literal thin air - is too far a stretch even for the most deluded individuals, many of whom are sadly confined to a life in a padded cell, and should be.

From a scientific point of view, and I am armed only with a 5th grade scientific mind (the kids on 'Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader' routinely kick my ass), the errors, follies and fables of the Bible begin with that very first sentence of Genesis, "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*". This is completely untrue and unequivocally at odds with what we know of our universe today. The truth is that in the beginning a natural event created the universe as we know it and the earth did not form until billions of years later, thus an immediate booboo on behalf of the desert nomads who wrote this. For example, the Bible says that light and darkness are created after the water but before the sun. Discovery and Discovery Channel, have proven that the sun came first, then the planet and its rotation which gives us light and darkness and day and night, and then the water, and this all happened over millions of years.

Put into a more humorous way, there is an interesting observation included in a pocket-sized book of quotations titled *The Atheist's Bible*. A quote that is not attributed to anyone, but for a citation of an anonymous author, it reads:

"Geology shows that fossils are of different ages. Palaeontology shows a fossil sequence, the list of species representing changes through time. Taxonomy shows biological relationships among species. Evolution is the explanation that threads it all together. Creationism is the practice of squeezing your eyes shut and wailing 'DOES NOT!'"

I find it excessively humorous that God made light out of nothing, on the second day, which means he made the heavens and the earth in the dark! Now, if creating everything we know out of nothing wasn't a challenge enough, he did it in complete darkness. Pretty impressive, isn't it? I can't even write my own name in the dark, let alone create a fucking great big shark.

God Messes Up The Order

Irrefutably, the total balls up of the Genesis order of events is the smoking gun for demonstrating that God is the figure of 2000 BC man's imagination, but in keeping with the spirit of things let's preterite he did create all of this. Then we must ask, "How?"

God created light and darkness on day one and the sun and the planets didn't appear until day four according to the scripture. So where did the light come from? No sun, no light. Oops!

On day three he creates all the earth's vegetation, the plants and the trees, but we now know God

didn't create the sun until the following day, so how can there be plant life without photosynthesis?
Oops!

Now we run into our very first contradiction, and we are only on page one of the Bible mind you, God says that on day five he created the birds and animals from nothing more than the water from the oceans, but then in the very next chapter, as he is doing a summary of these heady seven days, it is written:

“Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the land and all the birds of the air.” (Genesis 2:19 NIV)

God stays on message for less time than President Obama without a teleprompter. I've met goldfish with longer short-term memories. Sorry, I've flushed goldfish with longer memories. But don't tell my daughter. She thinks Goldy swam to heaven.

God Creates Man

Moving onto the sixth day of his celestial architectural program, God decides to create a human being.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him.” (Genesis 1:27 NIV)

Think about this for a moment: made in his own image? If we are truly made in his own image then why aren't we invisible? But clearly I can see you and you can see me, so I think this is another fallacy straight off the bat. And if we do look like him, which of us does he most resemble? Is he Asian? Is he black? Is he an NRA card-carrying member of the Texas branch of the Young Republicans? Or is he somewhat Tokyo metro-sexual in appearance? Does he stand naked in front of the mirror and wish he gave himself an extra inch or two, not that I do that, I'm just saying, ok! And what if he were anything like Bill O'Reilly? Because if he is anything like the white angry men on FOX News then I will violate all of the 10 Commandments right now, grab a gun, shoot myself, assuring myself a place in the sulphur fires of Hell. Ahh, peace at last!

Ok, let's imagine that God is more like Morgan Freeman's portrayal in *God Almighty*, and imagine for a moment that, *bam!* man is made out of thin air in God's own image. Right? Wrong! Well, wrong according to the next contradiction, which follows alongside the birds foul up:

“The Lord God formed the man from the dust on the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7 NIV)

So, which one is it? Air or dust? Admittedly, I am easily confused but now I am fully flummoxed. We have only travelled a page or two into the Bible and, already, God is contradicting himself. You would think his preamble would be the easy part! Once God has to remember names and locations after receiving all those prayer-mails and knee-mails, it's bound to get more difficult. At the start of the second chapter, where it is said that God made man before all the plants and trees, we are led into confusion again. This is in complete contradiction to the first chapter's claim that wildlife was made on day three and man on day six. Here is the incriminating passage:

“When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens – and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up – The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground.” (Genesis 2:4-7 NIV)

It is now at this point that we can see that religion truly was man's first attempt to explain the natural world. An explanation constrained by the absence of crucial information to explain, what was 4,000 years ago, the inexplicable:

“Let man rule over the fish and the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all of earth and over all creatures that move along the ground.”

This evidently demonstrates that man falsely believed that he had dominion over all living things. A excusable false assumption one might make without what we know today about bacteria, microbes and germs, which undoubtedly hold dominion over us. Consider that in thousands of years of medical science, man has only had one success in defeating a solitary virus, small pox, which is certainly humbling if not a terrifying fact. This is even more daunting when you consider the rapid spread of new pandemics of bird flu and swine flu; illuminating the fragile hold we have as a species on this planet. Furthermore, isn't it deliciously curious that creationists doubt evolution's claims but accept without question, that viruses such as H1N1 display adaptive traits including mutation? To further underscore this point, ask yourself what is providing you comfort at night in relation to combating these viruses: science or religion? Yes, interesting isn't it? Religion has never proven any scientific discovery wrong, but the same can't be said the other way around, can it?

A further mistruth is the Genesis claim that all animals and man were made on the same day; the sixth. We now know this simply to be utterly false through evidence and understanding of palaeontology, carbon dating and radiation dating. 97% of the world's leading scientists concur that dinosaurs became extinct at least 65 million years before man inhabited the earth. And before you run off into the living room to clutch the 'Good Book' as a means of solace, carbon dating is real, just as my friend Lewis Black:

“And while we're on the subject, I'd like to point out – for the benefit of the religious naysayers out there – carbon dating is real. It can help us tell how old something is. It can place things in time. THIS SHIT ISN'T MADE UP! You can carbon-date an object and it gives you a sense of how it is because of the carbon in it. No one is making these numbers up. It's not mumbo jumbo. THE EARTH IS OLDER THAN SIX THOUSAND YEARS, SO TOUGHSKI SHITSKI!”

Lewis adds further to his take, as a Jew, on the Genesis claim for the creation of the earth, in his typical acidic style:

“Jews know that earth was not created in seven days, because as Jews we know what we are good at. And what we are really good at is – bullshit! This is a wonderful story told to the Jewish people in the desert to distract them from the fact that they do not have air-conditioning. I would love to have the faith to believe it took place in seven days BUT I have thoughts and they can really fuck up the faith thing.”

The human arrogance of Genesis is further evident in the fact that it assumes that we, humans on planet earth, are the only occupants of the universe. There are 70,000 million million million stars within our universe (7 followed by 22 zeroes) and our sun is just one of those. Without getting all sci-fi on you, to live with the presumption that we are 'it' and that ours is the only civilization among galaxies 4 billion years older than ours, is not only childish naivety but wilful arrogance.

A former US President had no difficulty in closing his eyes to all scientific evidence, however, when he said:

“On the issue of evolution, the verdict is still out on how God created the Earth.” – George W. Bush

I am optimistic that by the time we get to the next book of the Old Testament, however, you will conclude that it is glaringly obvious we created God in our own image complete with human qualities such as anger, jealousy, vengeance and remorse rather than the other way around.

Introducing Adam and Eve

Oh the boyhood sexual fantasies this story provoked in my pre-pubescent childhood, with thoughts frolicking naked in a garden of paradise with a super hot chick. Not a care in the world except for the precautionary methods in ensuring I didn't suffer sunburn to the roof of my pecker. Other than the penile concern, the last remaining stress would be to adhere to God's only command, that being simply, to avoid the temptation of eating from just one apple tree. But returning for a moment to the creation of man, Adam, I find it utterly, scratch that, *fucking* incredible that believers are so quick to make their dim-witted assertion that evolution is only a theory and thus cannot be believed with any certitude. However, the Judeo-Christian 'theory' that man was formed from the breath of God into the nostrils of Adam is accepted with arrogant certitude is too hilarious to justify serious debate. The comedy of this belief lies in the fact that Christians feel aggrieved whenever scientists say that humans evolved from other life forms, but have no problem with the Bible's claim that we were created from dirt. So ludicrous that it amuses my little mind to recall comedian Bill Hicks' observation of happy-clapper Christians, when he said, "Why is it that those who believe in creation appear, themselves, not to be fully evolved?"

Another question I have is, if God really did create Adam out of thin air or dust and thus not born from a mother, did Adam have a belly button? All jokes aside, I think of Adam as the luckiest man ever made for one reason only, he didn't have a mother-in-law. Mine is standing right behind me, isn't she?

So, there is Adam the sole human being on earth, surrounded by vegetation, an abundance of wildlife and rivers of beer. Eden was truly paradise on earth! But God notices that Adam, with his testosterone-fuelled penile urges, is attempting to mate with the animals (puppy fiddler!) God thinks to himself, 'This shit don't look right, I need to get him something with less hair and nicer boobies.' Thus we find the source of God's inspiration to create woman. Check it for yourself...

"Adam rejected the animals." (Genesis 2:18)

Now, in case you were wondering, the creation of woman doesn't get any less ridiculous. God recognizing that he needs to provide a playmate for Adam, so that he does not end up fathering Taurus, comes up with the design blueprint for woman:

"So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man and he brought her to the man." (Genesis 2:21-22 NIV)

Whilst Adam was sleeping, God snuck down to the garden, tip-toed up to him, careful not to break any twigs, obviously not wearing clogs, then slices Adam open with a pen-knife, snaps off one of his ribs and whammo, a woman. How delightfully simplistic is the origin of our species. Amen.

God Is Resting... Still

The last verse of chapter one is worth a chuckle, too. Imagine God with his arms folded, leaning back in his rocking chair overlooking all that he had created in just six days with a broad smile of satisfactory accomplishment:

"God saw all that he had made and it was very good." (Genesis 1: 31 NIV)

He sounds funnier with a German accent. "Das ist gut, ja?" After that, the very next day, he rested. The day after that he rested, and the next day and the next. Fuck, he was still resting yesterday, and today of this morning. When is he ever getting back on the tools? Unemployment is approaching 10%

Surely he can't be satisfied with the planet he has created, considering that four-fifths of it is uninhabitable and most parts are either too hot or too cold to sustain life and the polar bears are drowning. This guy works less than a Melbourne wharfie on strike. C'mon you lazy sod, do us all a favor and get back to work for Christ's sake! There are 26,000 children dying of thirst and starvation every single day whilst you continue to sit around and pat yourself on the back for a job half-done.

For these reasons, my god is Thor, because he has a hammer. And if he is handy with the tools, he is more likely to get shit done.

The Talking Snake

“Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat it you will surely die.’” (Genesis 2:15-17 NIV)

Are you kidding me? What a wicked sense of humor God doth possess! His very first dialogue with his created humans is a rule. How about, “Welcome to Eden, guys. Enjoy yourselves. Have wild outdoor sex to your heart's content. Make yourself comfortable and later I will be back to you with one or two rules of the house.” But no, he introduces himself with a mind-fuck technique, the power of negative suggestion, “Don't eat from *that* tree!” If God had said nothing of the tree, I am sure Adam and Eve would have never come within several orchard fields of it, but because he said ‘that’ tree, it is a human instinct to enquire. If you repeatedly tell a child to stay away from the cookie jar, what do you think he will do the next time you turn your back away from the kitchen? Cookies will be gone. Mummy! Thus, God either commanded this edict for his own humorous benefit, or he is an extremely poor child psychologist.

I mean, why go to the effort of creating man from dust, woman from man's rib and all the planet just to play a trick of entrapment that completely fucks everything up for every man or woman ever since? Talk about a joke that backfired!

Thus a serpent, with demonstratively superior psychoanalytical skills made its way to Eve in the garden, tempting her with the words, “Did God really say, ‘you must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” Where did this talking snake come from? Yes, you guessed it - God. He made the snake and he put the snake there. The snake is Satan, and Satan is the root of evil, therefore *God created evil*. Did that just blow your mind? I am smoking an imaginary cigarette as I ponder this personal logic discovery!

Ok, before we examine this interchange between talking snake and Eve, let me make this clear from my own perspective: if I'm walking through the bush and accidentally stumble across a snake, I run for dear life in the opposite direction. The mere sight of a snake makes me shit my pants, so imagine what a *talking* one would do to me?

However, Eve is seemingly much braver than I and she continues to engage in carefree casual dialogue with the serpent and answers:

“We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden and you must not touch it or you will surely die.’” (Genesis 3:2-3 NIV)

To which the mouthy snake responds,

“You will not surely die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing

We all know that the talking snake succeeded in ‘selling’ the apple appetizer to Eve, who in turn sold the idea to Adam. How she sold the idea we will never know, but I assume she offered the apple in one hand whilst stroking her naked ass with the other, “If you don’t take a piece of *that*, then you don’t get a piece of *this!*” Like any red-blooded male, the sexualized version of the car salesman’s alternative close sealed an event that Bible believers refer to as the moment of the ‘original sin’ and, shamelessly, the justification of man (gender) to treat women as sub-equals had begun. A theme we will continually revisit throughout this book.

This part of the Bible also provides our first glimpse into the malevolent, brutish, vindictive, uncompromising and unforgiving character traits of God. As God says to Eve:

“I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you.” (Genesis 3:16 NIV)

What a wonderfully chauvinistic command, “He will rule over you”. I have repeatedly tried unsuccessfully to point to this passage whenever my wife has forbidden me to join my mates on a night trolling strip clubs. I still haven’t given up. Even now.

Ok, that’s Adam and Eve punished. Of note is the fact that God promised Adam that he would “surely die” upon eating the apple, but God has proved already that he is not a man of his word, as Adam went on to live for another 900 years.

And what of the snake, you ask, the instigator of fucking things up for all of us? Well, here is the punitive measure God dishes out to the snake. Are you ready for this?

“You shall crawl along your belly for the rest of your life.” (Genesis 3:14 NIV)

Are you serious? Well, call me stupid, but that hardly seems much of a punishment for a snake, that had no legs in the first place! And I’m sure the snake made a big sounding sigh of relief before slithering off to wherever it came from. Which poses an interesting question doesn’t it? The snake came from God and God put him there in the first place, whether intentionally as a ploy to tempt Eve or not. So, why punish the snake if God *created* him and used him for that purpose? Oh well, it seems Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the Serpent and the Serpent didn’t have a leg to stand on!

Adam & Eve – The Aftermath

Adam and Eve, now mere mortals like you and I, were also shouldered with the punishment of knowing they would now no longer live for eternity. God says to Adam, that because of his error, human beings will live only to a maximum age of 120 years.

Adam and Eve married and kept their clothes on at all times because they were now ashamed of their nakedness, due to the awakening as a result of eating the forbidden fruit, which meant that outdoor sex in broad daylight was no longer kosher but lights-off coitus would be the sex du jour. Shortly after formalizing their union as man and wife, Eve gave birth to two sons named Cain and Abel.

Cain, Abel and Noah

On the surface this appears to be a story of an insecure son and a God who played favorites.

“Abel kept flocks and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry and his face was downcast.”
(Genesis 4:2-5 NIV)

It seems highly suspicious to a moron like me that God would play the favorites game with the very first family he ever created, and for reasons given that hardly warrant so. That reason being that Abel offered a more worthy sacrifice, animals, in worship of the Lord. But Cain grew vegetables, thus offering a less worthy sacrifice. Would it hardly make any sense to offer your first carrot as a sacrifice to the Lord, would it?

This passage provides us with our first insight into God's insecurity complex, in that he plays favorites to those that worship or praise him better. And more importantly doesn't it seem somewhat 'human' to show partiality towards one over another?

Over time, Cain gets the shits, his jealousy consumes him and in a remote field he murders his brother, Abel. But since God is subjected to the human emotion of jealousy too, he opts not to punish Cain, and leaves the judicial process to his parents who decide to banish Cain to an undisclosed location.

What of Adam and Eve? God helped Eve, at 130 years of age, to become pregnant with another son to replace Abel, his name Seth. Adam died in his prime at a whopping 930 years of age. The death of Eve is not mentioned, but needless to say both lived more than 800 years past what God had said was man's expiry date. Which poses the question, when do we obey God with certainty or when do we second-guess his bluffs? He is one mean poker player.

We learn that Cain survives his banishment and lives a prosperous life. He finds a girl, marries her and together with his new wife produces a son named Enoch. Enoch had two children and more grandchildren, until approximately 600 or more years later one of Adam and Cain's descendents gave birth to Noah.

Now, just in case you missed the flaw in the above story, like I did on the first go around, where the hell did Cain's wife come from? As it is written quite clearly that God created first Adam and then later Eve. The two hook up and produce two sons of their own. The start of the human race! Abel is killed and Cain is banished but marries some broad. Who created her? I guess the author of Genesis doesn't include any mention of her lineage or creation because to do so would either discredit his original Genesis story, or make it one of incestuous beginnings, like Mississippi.

At the grand old age of 500 years (and In case you didn't notice, I just made that coughing sound there intentionally, feebly conceals the sound of 'bullshit') Noah became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

The Flood

God didn't stay happy with his creation for very long and in his heavenly loneliness he became irate that all of mankind seemed to be having too much of a good time enjoying guilt-free sex, drinking wine and smoking whatever they could get their hands on:

“The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth and his heart was filled with pain.”
(Genesis 6:5 NIV)

And judging by the proceeding words of God, this pain must have been a little more uncomfortable than a slight burning sensation of reflux:

“I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth – men and animals and creatures that move along the ground and birds of the air – for I am grieved that I have made them.” (Genesis 6:7 NIV)

So, he wants to start all over again? This is the intelligent designer we are talking about and he wants to get rid of the entire human race on day one of the honeymoon.

Now, notwithstanding the obvious human blunder of applying human emotions to a celestial spirit, we are now witnesses to the fact that God is a genocidal maniac.

Is this not mass-murder on the grandest level? Does it not beget the obvious question: Why do believers worship a mass murderer? Surely, if God, the all-knowing creator, created man, would not he have foreseen this so-called evil coming? This is nothing short of a senseless atrocity of the highest order, to destroy millions of people because he was displeased at the moral performance of ‘some’ of those that he created in his own image. If we are the mirror of God, as the Bible claims, does that mean that he too has a natural, instinctual urge to participate in drunken orgies? And if not, why did he fail to program us without these so called wicked desires? And more significantly, God hadn't prescribed any rules or commandments at this stage, so why were we being punished for breaking the rules when there weren't any yet to follow? To punish by death for violating invisible rules seems a little harsh, doesn't it? This is certainly not the act of a God of love, peace and mercy. And so much for free will, huh? Free will must come with a honesty donation basket. I hate those!

If this event were true, then this is a violent, unforgiving, celestial dictator who requires unquestioning obedience, to not only follow his rules, but to guess what he is thinking too.

Fortunately, the rationalists amongst us can be thankful that not only is God a character of wicked fiction but we can also take comfort that our ancestral forefathers did not meet a watery grave, there is no evidence that Mt Everest was ever covered in flood water, nor do indigenous civilizations such as the Australian Aboriginals have a pause in their history that would denote such a catastrophe. Thus another bogus fable, and a fable with similar tenets told in almost every religion since the dawn of time.

Furthermore, the credibility that all species of animal, insects (of which there are more than 1 million species of beetles alone) and man alive today are a result of the miraculous efforts of a 900 year old man, Noah, corralling two of every living thing onto his 450 foot long boat, and then successfully encouraging all these species to mate with one another after spending 150 days trapped on a timber barge, is too stupid to imagine. The comical improbability of this story can be pictured with the mind's eye - a man that is nearly a millennia in age, wearing nothing but a flimsy sheep wool robe and a pair of ancient thongs probably held together by no more than a couple pieces of leather hide prancing around the world trying to collect two of every species. Imagine his difficulty in getting a male and female Sumatran tiger. He had to clip clop his way all the way down to Indonesia, set traps in the Sumatran jungle then catch two of these powerful cats that could kill you with a playful swipe of their paws. Not only catch them but also imagine Noah carrying them all the way back to the Middle East, only to discover that both tigers had a set of testicles.

Or picture Noah, there standing proudly before the completed Ark with most of the animals on board including the dinosaurs, asking his sons, “Alright lads, are we sure we have got all the animals of

God's list?" His sons reply, "No Dad, there's a small problem. None of us have heard of a kangaroo nor have we heard of a place called Australia." Noah then replied, "Must be one of God's typos. Oh what is next on the list?" "A Koala." "Shit!"

As a teenager I recall looking at a picture of an Aardvark and thinking that if ever there was an animal that named itself then it must have been this mammal. There's Noah standing in front of the Ark, the rain pouring down, he's holding a clipboard and asking that all animals assemble in alphabetical order. Noah looks down at this strange looking creature and asks, "What is it that you are?" "I am an Aardvark," came the reply. "Ok well go stand behind the antelope?" To which Noah is hastily informed by the four legged critter that his species is spelt with two a's. As in a double stroke animal genius!

American columnist Judith Hayes also pondered these kind of comical questions in relation to the childish story that frighteningly more than 60% of Americans believe to be literal truth when she wrote:

"The biblical account of Noah's Ark and the Flood is perhaps the most implausible story for fundamentalists to defend. When, for example, while loading his ark did Noah find penguins and polar bears in Palestine?"

Not only do we know that it would have been impossible to house all the millions and billions of living species on this boat, but we also know there is no DNA evidence to show that all animals on earth came from single breeding pairs just a few thousand years ago.

Final thoughts on this, where would Noah have kept the woodpeckers and the termites? With all these millions of animals, reptiles and insects on board this boat for months how big was the poo-room? How much poop!

God's Covenant with Noah

As the floodwaters receded Noah set forth to ensure all the animals were busy mating. He also encouraged his sons to mate with their wives so that mankind could begin to multiply once more. God made the following promise to Noah:

"Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: 'I now establish my covenant with you and your descendents after you and with every living creature that is with you...Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.'" (Genesis 9:8-11 NIV)

This promise was sealed with a rainbow:

"Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." (Genesis 9:16 NIV)

Once more, the Biblical explanation of the rainbow, as God's covenant with Noah, demonstrates that the Bible was indeed written by 2000BC man, without crucial information we know to be true today to explain things that were inexplicable to man 7,000 years ago. We now know, thanks to Isaac Newton in 1665, that the scientific explanation for a rainbow is a result of the passing of light from air into water, or water into air, where the different colors are refracted. Thus, the colors are separated into a spectrum, or rainbow.

A further question worth pondering in relation to this chapter of Genesis and its claim that all of mankind are in effect descendents of Noah and his sons, is how does this explain from where Asian

and Blacks descend? And if you argue that they too came from Noah and their features adjusted to their respective climatic locales, then aren't you now arguing the case for evolution?

Once more this chapter raises more questions than the zero answers it provides.

The Tower of Babel

As the authoring committee were piecing together the story for the genesis of civilization they quickly realized they would have to deal with the question of explaining how it was that different cultures spoke different languages. You had the Egyptians speaking Egyptian, and the Greeks speaking Greek. For example, all the while God was speaking only in fluent Hebrew. So, they pondered an explanation for this whilst sitting around the campfire in the middle of the Canaan Desert. The Bible reconciled this in a manner that is arguably the most ridiculous of all.

The Bible has it written that the entire world, post-flood, spoke a single language. The world's inhabitants gathered together on a flood plain in the land of Shinar, presumably somewhere in what we now know to be Israel today. All citizens of the world united to build a new city, with what would be an iconic tower, being so magnificent that its pinnacle would seem to touch the heavens. Working together in solidarity and with a common purpose, the 'world' built this impressive tower made of brick and mortar, and indeed, according to Bible lore, it reached into Heaven.

Was God happy with this engineering feat of human endeavour? Was he happy that man had united after the virtual elimination of his species as a result of God's flood? The answer is no, he wasn't. In fact, God was furious that man would do such a thing without it being, specifically, a monument in his honor. God travelled down to Babel, and this is what he said:

“Behold, the people is one and they have all one language; and this they begin to do; and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.’ So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.” (Genesis 11:1-9 NIV)

The inference being, that the Tower of Babel was not built for the worship and praise, but was dedicated to the glory of man, with the motive of making a 'name' for the builders. God, seeing what the people were trying to achieve by working together, was not only pissed but also evidently concerned that if man could create such an impressive structure without his input, then man could achieve any number of things via human solidarity. I wonder what man could pull together by collaboration? Science or medicine, maybe? Rational thinking? Anyway, in his fear and fury he confounded their languages and scattered the people of Babel throughout all “four corners of the earth.” Hello, flat earth!

This being the Genesis explanation of the diversity of languages we know today. What nincompoop really believes this to be true? I can't go on, but I must!

Wouldn't you think it a little insightful if God kept all of mankind to a single language so that the Bible could've been written in a single language rather than have to be translated from Hebrew or Aramaic to Greek to English? I guess the principle of 'lost in translation' never occurred to the 'Great One'.

Introducing Abraham

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