

Righteous Indignation

Who wrote these Bible stories?

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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
The Story of Abraham & Isaac.....	5
The Story of The Creation.....	11
The Story of Adam and Eve	15
Evolution vs. Creation	21
The Story of Cain & Abel	23
The Story of Noah and the Ark	26
The Story of Moses	35
Moses Parts the Red Sea	51
The Story of Lot, Sodom and Gomorra.....	58
The Story of Jonah and the Whale	62
The Story of Samson & Delilah	66
Conclusion.....	75

Introduction

I am often accused of being an atheist, a heretic, an apostate, a blaspheme, or a son of perdition because of my views and the graphic way I express them. I can tend to curdle the blood of a mainstream Christian with my comments, and I may offend many who choose to accept blindly what mere men have arbitrarily appointed as the word of god. I don't claim that none of it is true, but I find humor in pointing out the blatantly stupid, absurd and moronic Byzantine contradictions to what true Christianity is about in the very book they tout and so vehemently cling to as if no other truth could possibly exist.

My purpose in writing any of this is to give a different, unconventional but very logical point of view to subjects that have been taken for granted or accepted out of religious inertia or domestication and programming. My intent is not to offend, but to give options to re-think in a humorous, irreverent way, what we have allowed ourselves to believe blindly, without really thinking it through.

However, I truly, sincerely and unequivocally believe in a loving, kind, and positive God or supreme force that provides abundance and love for ALL of its children and creatures regardless of their domestication, culture, lifestyle, choices, and beliefs. I sincerely believe that God is indeed love and perfection and I love and believe in that God and not the one in my favorite Bible stories. So, if I am irreverent to that god, I am NOT irreverent to God, because I do not believe they are the same. In fact, I differentiate the god of the stories I cannot bring myself to respect from God, by the capitalization of God's title or name throughout my writing.

The Holy Bible is an amazing compendium abridged in the 4th century to assist in unifying the many teachings of the new Christian philosophy. Replete with stories of prophets and miracles that have been studied by scholars and morons alike with zealous fervor and dedication to understand the "word of god" more clearly for centuries. This book has molded our society, our worldview and our basic beliefs pertaining to who we are, why we are here and where we are going after we die. We unquestioningly accept it as the word of God because someone said it was, and yet we just don't seem to understand what the hell god meant to say when he "inspired" the council of Nicea to abridge and select from the vast apocrypha they had to draw from. We struggle with the contradictory teachings, the violence, the fear, the fire and brimstone, and the guilt from not meeting the standards of perfection as set out by this great book; and yet we find comfort in the promises of redemption, glory and exaltation it holds. Like a carrot tied to a horse in front of its face, we are compelled to prod onward without question or argument on the quest for the unattainable carrot. How can we not poke some harmless fun at that?

I recall the hours of Sunday school service where the Bible was read and dissected by some of the sharpest minds – at least in the neighborhood – complemented with study guides and

the always inspired guidance of the local “theologians” that couldn’t help but share their wisdom and mastery of the holy script. These admirable people spent hours studying the depths of the Bible to learn and understand the attributes of god and understand his teachings to humanity.

Ah, the rush of satisfaction as the mysteries of god were consumed and regurgitated in as many ways as there were participants clinging to the delusion that somehow by being able to “make sense” of the words they were reading, they would become better people. The thrill of the sense of mastery of verses that seem so esoteric and vague is intoxicating. To be able to state clearly, what god wanted his children to extract from the ramblings of very strange men was the pinnacle of any churchgoers Sunday experience.

I often felt so out of place and frankly somewhat stupid because I just didn’t get it. I somehow was able to pull straight A’s in school (when I wanted to), but Ill be god damned if I could make heads or tails of what god was trying to tell me in the Bible. Could it be that I am closed off spiritually from the word? Could I be living such a wicked life that the Holy Spirit every one said was out there teaching and testifying is offended in some way by my life so he just passed me by? Maybe I needed to pray more for understanding – and I did. I prayed and I read, I pondered and I prayed. I prayed and I studied and I prayed some more – and suddenly it came to me many years later.

One cold day in the shower as I prepared for work, I was pondering the story of Abraham and Isaac and I saw the light! The Bible stories flooded my mind and the surge of emotions was impossible to contain. My wife came in to see why I was laughing so hard in the shower. “I got it, I see the light and I will share my vision of the Holy Bible stories with the world! I will cite book chapter and verse from the King James Version of the Bible and I will add my commentary to help clarify it all! It’s a matter of logic and simplicity, it’s as clear as we have courage to see! It’s a matter of asking - What the F% @k?”

With that, I sat down and started with the story that inspired it all.

The Story of Abraham & Isaac

The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It is the first book of the Old Testament and the first book of the Hebrew Torah. Besides the story of the creation, Adam & Eve, Noah and the Ark, The tower of Babel (pretty much in that order) there is a story that many believe to exemplify how god tests humans by throwing trials and hardships their way and then blessing them if they pass the test. Like we don't have enough tests in school and life to need a supreme being throwing in a pop quiz like this one...

Abram is a prophet or a guy that talks to God. Fortunately for Abram he lived a long ass time ago because these days he would be locked up with the likes of Charles Manson, Warren Jeffs, Jim Jones and a multitude of others that are or have been isolated from the bulk of society for carrying out "gods will" in somewhat troubling ways.

In Genesis chapter 12:2-3 God makes a promise to Abram that he will be the father of a great nation. Now this is perplexing to Abram who is not exactly a spring chicken and does not have any children of his own (Gen 15:2-3). But, being a prophet and all, Abram figures god has some insight that may just give him some credibility, so he trusts in this promise.

Now Abram came about a sizeable amount of worldly possessions for his time during his travels. The good book says his wife Sarai was fairly easy on the eyes and Egyptians of the time had this nasty habit of killing people for their wives. Abram, not wanting to die, tells Sarai to lie to the Egyptians and say she is his sister. (Apparently, the whole thou shalt not bear false witness does not apply to a prophet or his wife.) The pharaoh sees her, has a thing for her, Abram not willing to piss the Pharaoh, settles up financially for the going rate for a sister, and she moves in with Pharaoh to his kingly love nest as his wife.

16 And he dealt well with Abram for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he-asses, and men-servants, and maid-servants, and she-asses, and camels.

God, for screwing Abrams wife in turn plagues poor unsuspecting Pharaoh "exceedingly". In time, Pharaoh figures out she was married to Abram in the first place and freaks out saying "why the hell didn't you tell me she was your wife?" It seems even the Pharaoh was in disbelief of Abrams cowardice or avarice – it is unclear which or if a combination of both. Pharaoh pretty much divorces Sarai and sends them both on their way a whole lot richer while he recovers from the almighty smiter's smite. (Gen 12:11-20)

So, Abram and Sarai obviously work through the whole sleeping with the Pharaoh episode and move on. Supposedly, Moses wrote the book of Genesis and one can only assume he did after the whole burning bush fiasco, the 10 commandments and all, but it seems god hadn't come up with the "thou shalt not commit adultery" thing yet.

Now, Sarai has some major fertility issues, which is a good thing for Pharaoh since the last thing he needs to worry about is child support, visitation and inheritance issues after being “smitten” by god for doing her in the first place. Nobody addresses the reason god saw fit to smite Pharaoh when he was just doing what Pharaohs do. Hell, he was downright fair about it; he gave Abram the going rate for what he thought was a sister and went into the deal in good faith. It seems a just god would smite the hell out of Abram for being such a chicken-shit whiney-ass little excuse of a man, but as we will see, it appears this god has a thing for men like that. Anyway, Sarai’s infertility really put a wrench in the gears of god’s promise to Abram that he will have descendents “like the dust of the earth” not to mention the fact that she is 90 years old. (Gen 13:16). Sarai figures what the hell, Abram was pretty cool with the whole Pharaoh thing, so she says to him that he should hook up with Hagar, Sarai’s handmaiden (that was politically correct jargon of the time for slave) so she could be a surrogate mother so to speak and Abram could have some kids.

- 2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, Jehovah hath restrained me from bearing; go in, I pray thee, unto my handmaid; it may be that I shall obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.
- 3 And Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her handmaid, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to Abram her husband to be his wife.

Now that is any guy’s dream – I don’t care who you are. Your wife says here, have my handmaiden as a wife so we can have some kids. Prophet or not, you know Abram was dancing a jig in his head but to Maurice Ravel’s Bolero in Hebrew music –whatever the hell that would be, but you get the gist.

Being the god-fearing man he was, enhanced by the fact that Hagar was not exactly ugly, Abram slips the maid the old prophetic kosher sausage and knocks her up. Hagar gets cocky with Sarai because she got pregnant when Sarai could not. Sarai goes to Abram and says “hey, I give you my hand maiden, you knock her up and now she is all cocky with me – what the hell?” And Abram true to his cowardly form (remember the Pharaoh incident.) does a “hey she’s just a slave do what you want with the bitch” thing. Gallant guy our Abram.

- 6 But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thy hand; do to her that which is good in thine eyes. And Sarai dealt hardly with her, and she fled from her face.

So while Hagar is looking down her nose at her boss/owner/sister wife, Sarai pulls rank and runs Hagar out of town in a very mean way.

Hagar is on her way out of Dodge when this angel of god shows up and says whoa there, you need to get back and submit to Sarai and chill out because you are pregnant with the boss man’s kid. To make a long story short, Hagar squeezes out Ishmael, Abrams first son when Abram is four score and six years old. (Apparently, they could only count to “score” back then.) (Gen 16:1-16)

So, god tells Abram that while Ishmael may actually have this birthright thing going for him being the first-born and all, he is after all his somewhat illegitimate love child so he isn't going to be part of this upcoming "covenant". God goes on to tell Abram that because he is such a stud and will father this huge nation, he is now going to be called Abraham and he is going to have a kid with his wife Sarai who will now be called Sarah from here out. Apparently, if your name is not just right, you can't get pregnant. So, while they get used to calling each other new names, god informs them that they will have a kid and his name will be Isaac.

For a prophet, old Abram a.k.a. Abraham must not have talked to god a whole hell of a lot or he would have known that god's plan was for Isaac to be the child of the covenant. Then he would not have had to "take Hagar to his bosom" and could have spared Ishmael a lot of childhood trauma associated with being a bastard and all. But, history does indicate that every prophet has had his human side and there is a rash of short sightedness among prophets when it comes to getting some nooky on the side.

Anyway, back to the story –

Bible god gives Sarah some divine fertility treatment, and she at the age of 90 and Abraham at the age of 100 have a bouncy baby boy named Isaac. (Gen 21:1-5)

Now, god also tells Abraham that a sign of this covenant between him and god will be ... well here is what he had to say:

Gen 17:11 And ye shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of a covenant betwixt me and you. 12. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every male throughout your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any foreigner that is not of thy seed.

Now if we are to extrapolate the nature of god from his holy text ... - Holy shit! I mean what was he thinking? Obviously, this god never found himself in a hurry while taking a leak and got his dick caught in his zipper, or there is no way a "loving father" would ask anyone to do what he did in that verse.

In a day, long before local anesthetics, he wants every guy and every kid at the age of 8 days old to have their foreskin lopped off as a token? A TOKEN?! That my friends, is a blood sacrifice not a token, and a less than loving request at best. So what exactly does one do with a foreskin token anyway? Dry it out, put it on a string and wear it as a necklace like a catholic with a cross? A cross – now that is a token. The skin off your dick without anesthesia – that is just barbaric.

14 And the uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

But as we see in verse 14, he takes it a step further and elaborates on the importance of this wrinkled token ring, saying that any chicken-shit among you that isn't willing to put his

dick in a cigar trimmer or whatever rusty-ass contraption they used back then to tokenize one's unit, would be basically cast out. Lovely!

But it seems the covenant pinking of the Johnson took root in Judeo-Christian culture, because Jewish or not, most of us guys had it done –but for medical reasons, in a sterile setting and we were anesthetized for Christ sake!

Now lets look back at that last disturbing sentence god uttered to Abraham in chapter 17 verse 11 as well as the many references to “man-servants, she-servants” and any human being “bought with money of any foreigner that is not of thy seed”.

Clearly, god at least at this point in the evolution of his “word and will” is OK with slavery and the buying and selling of human beings as servants. Personally, I cannot come to terms with that being OK in any way shape, or form because I believe we are all God's creatures and equal in importance and status before his whateverness regardless of color, religion, lifestyle, or any other factor imaginable. In fact, I personally denounce any attempt to subjugate anyone or even any thing – animals included.

But, I have to say, based on the holy word of god as contained in his Holy Bible, anyone of African-American descent that happens to subscribe of his or her own free will and choice to the Judeo-Christian faith of any denomination whatsoever that believes in the Bible as the word of god ... shut the hell up about slavery already! Get over it! You endorse it by worshiping the main enabler, the man himself, the master of masters, the holy slave trader, the divine inquisitor of those dark of skin. Hey, like I say, I don't believe it, but if you do – get over it, shut up and be glad god flip- flops his biblical policy more than a self serving politician in an election year.

Anyway, back to the story...

Abrahams being a prophet isn't quite good enough for god, and while god is all-knowing and all-powerful, omni this and omni that, he apparently has a slight glitch that doesn't allow him to assess character through omniscience. So, one day while they are chatting as prophets and god do, god tells Abraham (Gen 22)

2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son, whom thou lovest, even Isaac, and get thee into the land of Moriah. And offer him there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Prophet or not, any sane person is going to respond with “I'm sorry - what?!!” You want me to take my son and lay his guts open on a pile of wood, set the wood on fire and burn him as an offering to your omnipotently insecure ass to prove what!?

But not our man Abraham; He not only gets Isaac, but makes him carry the damn wood, (that's just wrong) and has a couple of servants go with them on this journey to a place where god wants Isaac offered unto him as a sacrifice. Now, on the way up the mountain, Isaac says something like “uh - dad, we have wood and fire and a knife, but what lamb will

we be offering?" to which Abraham says "don't worry about it boy, god has it under control."

9 And they came to the place which God had told him of. And Abraham built the altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

Lets think this through, you go on a hike with your dad who you adore and love to go pray in the woods thinking you are going to kill a lamb and burn it because somehow god thinks that's cool and "pleasing". The next thing you know, *you* are the damn lamb!! Now I don't know about you, but my dad could be god himself and that shit's going to take years of therapy to get over. Imagine the horror as Isaac processes the fact that dad is going to kill him as he lays tied up on a pile of wood looking up ...

10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

Lucky for Abraham who is about to become a felonious murderer, and even luckier for Isaac who is about to become ... well, dead – an angel speaks to Abraham and stops the insanity. He says something to the effect of "blessed art thou Abraham for being willing to commit murder, bizarre acts of torture, corporal mutilation and desecration of a corpse - and not just any corpse but your own flesh and blood, your beloved son Isaac - to prove that you love and obey the lord thy god".

And actually the verse says :

12 And he said, Lay not thy hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him. For now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, from me.

Here is where you ask WHAT THE ...HELL?! What kind of a lame-ass god needs a) to be feared b) to screw with an old man's and a young child's brain in that way to prove to him that they love and obey him? And why didn't god already know Abraham would do it if he is so all-knowing?

Now, maybe its just me, and I have an overly developed sense of etiquette, but god spent all this time chit chatting with Abram/Abraham about covenants, tokens, nations, nooky on the side, kids, inheritance, child bearing, name changes, you know daily stuff prophets and god bullshit about. But when Abraham is about to filet and bake his beloved son to prove his fear and blind obedience, somehow god had something more pressing at the moment and couldn't pull him self away? Isn't he the one that set the whole "test" in motion in the first place? So what's up with sending an underling as if he was disappointed the guy actually passed the test. Maybe it is just me, but something isn't right.

The bible isn't going to give the account because there is nothing to be gained by it, but anyone can imagine Abraham's relief and the mental dialogue as the effect of the mushrooms he must have eaten subsided: what the hell did I almost do?

But imagine Isaac's mental state if you will. Here we have a young kid that loves his dad and is just one "thou shalt" from being an entree menu item at a Hannibal Lector family barbeque, and trying to make sense of it all. How does a kid process an experience like that? This traumatic episode was brought about by some god that Isaac is supposed to love, and yet apparently fear; that supposedly loves him, but almost had him killed in order for his dad to prove a point to this god (that no one else hears talking but dad) that an all knowing omni whatever would already know anyway.

You think Isaac didn't have trust issues, daddy issues, nightmares, bed wetting 'til he was 40, and all kinds of trauma as he grew up? Sure, he became quite the biblical all-star, but what is the point? Was it really necessary or could it be that this is its just another sick Little Red Riding Hood type story that uses extreme dramatics to make a point. Maybe it's as simple as back then they couldn't diagnose schizophrenia, delusory deity syndrome, filicidal tendencies or psychopathic behavior so they attributed it to the next best thing – religion, prophecy and god.

Now I have children and I am not omni-anything but, I don't need any of them to do a damn thing to prove to me that they love me, and I surely don't want them proving that they fear me. In my feeble carnal and very ungodly state, even I have a fairly good idea that they love me. I sure as hell don't want any of my grand kids tied up and put on a barbeque with any kind of knife even in the vicinity, to prove anything to me. That is just plain sick and wrong and I don't care what religion you are. Come on now open your eyes! And guess what? – I will leave as their inheritance, everything I have to my children – The kingdom of Dave will be theirs - no tests, no psychotic pop quiz, no fire, no brimstone, no tokens, no fear of ...me, and no knives. I love them and they do not have to prove anything to me – and I am just a mere mortal.

Do we really believe that a perfect, loving father – God - would be so insecure, sadistic and petty as to be less than me? I don't!

So I say come on Abraham of Genesis and Mr. whacko nutsoid god-dude talking crap to this obviously demented brain – what the hell?!

The Story of The Creation

Oh, if ever there was a story that caused more controversy, argument and contention among the whole of humanity, it has to be this one. The story of the creation and Adam and Eve as told by Moses in the book of Genesis has been a foundational principle on which all faith has been erected concerning the origin of our planet and humanity. While this age-old favorite is so far-fetched that it boggles the mind, how anyone with a brain the size of a pea could take it literally – they do. Even in an age where evolution of the world (God’s creations) is undeniable and conclusive, mainstream Christianity has conducted a relentless holy war on the “theory of evolution” from the day Darwin set foot on that dreaded set of Islands called the Galapagos. Heaven forbid we allow the possibility that god or Moses may have been using metaphor. It’s not like the Bible isn’t at all replete with any of that.

So, we watch the zealots wage the holy war in the courts, the classrooms and the churches with narrow-minded tenacity that would make a pissed off pit-bull look like ... well, what lots of these people say Jesus wants them to be. Hence, the ongoing struggle to this day between the creationists and the evolutionists as each faction has come to be known, leaving in their wake a load of crap for me to plant my mushrooms on.

“In the beginning, God created the heaven and earth”, (Gen 1:1) which is an excellent place to start if you want to reside in heaven. What we aren’t sure of because it was probably edited out in the holy editing room, is just where god moved from when he moved into his newly created heavenly digs. Logic does dictate that god had to live somewhere before he built heaven in the beginning. However, what really messes with my brain is the gnawing inquiry of what “the beginning” was called before he started. Hmm... in the “pre-beginning” god wanted a bigger place in a better neighborhood so he decided to start construction as soon as the heavenly plans were approved. Real estate in the infinite was available and cheap with all the materials needed to build your own firmament and stuff, so he broke ...space in the “beginning”.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

As we see, god pretty much made the earth, hooked up the lights and made day and night the first day on the job. Not a bad first day at work at all. And we say Mondays aren’t productive.

The next morning, god gets to work on the firmament. He created the firmament to divide the “waters from the waters” so he had these waters above the firmament and some below it. The firmament, he called heaven and that’s all he did the second day. (Gen 1:6-8)

Wednesday morning god has a spring in his step because he has to make up for some fiddle farting around on Tuesday that affected productivity. He takes the waters under heaven, gathers them in one place, and makes the dry land appear. Since we don’t have a set of “as-built” documents available to us for this job, we aren’t sure where the dry land came from because on Tuesday there was just water and heaven or firmament; but we do know that by Wednesday, he had dry land in the final stages and was ready for landscaping. Being the owner/architect *and* general contractor on the job, he decided to call the water seas and the land earth – and he saw it was pretty right on.

Making up for lost time on Tuesday, god tackles the landscaping – I’m guessing by lunch, because there is a bunch of landscaping to do on the earth part. By quitting time, he had every plant yielding seed and every tree bearing fruit; and being the humble guy he is, he said, “its good”. I say Goddamn! That’s a hell of a third day. (Gen 1:9-13)plants

By Thursday, he is getting into the groove and productivity is on the rise. Undaunted by the enormity of the task; first, he sets lights in the firmament, one to rule the day and one to rule the night. But these lights aren’t any ordinary earth mood lighting fixtures, they are luminary control modules, cosmic road signs, seasonal control devices and they tell time!

14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

But not one to be easily satisfied, he doesn’t stop at the sun and the moon, hell it’s barely his 10 o’clock break – he’s just getting started.

16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: **he made the stars also.**

Holy shit! I recently watched a special on the discovery channel and they were showing how small our earth was compared to the single relatively small star we call the sun. But then they showed an estimate of how many millions of suns with their myriad of planetary gravitational cohorts there are in our galaxy alone – mind boggling! Then they went on to say how many billions of galaxies there are in the universe and my brain shut down.

This verse is single-handedly the most awesome of the entire Bible! He knocked out all those stars the discovery channel told me about in the last part of his Thursday! Now if god had a boss, he would want to know why the hell he was screwing around so much on Monday, Tuesday and Wed. If he had worked those days like he did on Thursday, he would have finished by Wednesday, and we would have a 4 day weekend.

Friday morning god says “let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.” This proves without a doubt that birds came from the ocean, we just figured it took longer than a day for them to move from flippers to wings, but that’s not important. The important thing is that we now have sea creatures and birds on the earth. God goes on to tell all these creatures he just whipped up, that they need to multiply and fill the seas and the skies. While it is impressive for anyone to throw together a whole population of whales and sea creatures and birds in a day, after the whole “all the stars” thing on Thursday, I have to say it was rather anticlimactic and bordering on disappointing.

Saturday is a special day, it’s the day we get animals and people.

24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

As we know, he didn’t stop at all the cattle and creepy things-eth. He goes on in verse 26 to say: “Let us make man in our own image after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” And because we know the Bible is the holy literal end-all be-all, we have to assume that the holy editor in chief must have overlooked what I’m sure is a very uncomfortable issue for god that certainly he was hoping would have been edited out of his book before it went to press. I am referring to his very odd tendency to refer to himself in plural like suddenly there is someone else there. Unfortunately the bloopers of the bible are somewhere in a vault in the Vatican or a granite mountain in Utah. However, I was told that when Moses was given the 10 commandments, it took him a long time to get off the mountain because he kept trying to figure out when god was talking to him and when he was talking to the bushes that weren’t on fire.

Anyway, god creates man in his/their (wink, wink) own image – male and female, and he gave them dominion over the beasts and the fish and the birds and the plants and their fruit. And god blessed them and commanded them to “multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it”. Unfortunately god didn’t clarify the whole concept of subdue and it was left pretty wide open which is why we have some issues with extinction of some of the species he went to all the trouble to create on Saturday. The whole global warming, carbon footprint thing is over-subduing but he forgot to say how much we should subdue – so its really his own damn fault. But that’s what he did on Saturday, and true to form he stepped back, looked around and just said “it’s good.”

And that was the sixth day.

Now the evolutionist or “heathen” crowd ask how do you do all that in 6 days. And that is a very good question that again if we only had the “as-built” documents to this project of his or had god been just a wee tad clearer in his writing, we could avoid all the contention.

The creationist crowd says – he is god and omnipotent and he can do everything and all things, so it’s easy, he willed it done and it was. Simple, concise and to the point - Nicely done, and who wants to argue with such stunning logic?

The secret truth and the answer to any questions about the creation is simple – heavenly methamphetamine.

It’s the only thing that makes sense. How else do you explain staying up for a week strait, getting unimaginable amounts of things done and sleeping the whole day after? Think about it. I think that Bible god might have a drug problem.

The Story of Adam and Eve

After 7 long days of creating the earth and resting for a spell, god has everything set exactly the way he wants it. The plants are growing, a mist rises from the earth to water everything and everything is looking pretty hunky-dory until god realizes that there is no man to till the earth.(Gen 2:5)

Nobody addresses the reason god didn't just incorporate some tilling mechanism into the works or why it was so important, but he decided that he better create man from the dust of the earth to take care of that particular chore.

Bible chronology puts this blessed event at around 3924 BCE or roughly 6000 years ago. This makes for a pretty lame argument when what we have is a book that we know has been tampered with, altered and not to mention translated thousands of times losing unimaginable amounts of information in the translation that says everything including the Universe was created 6000 years ago. There is solid evidence with the tangible remains to prove it that humans inhabited the earth up to 200,000 years ago and anatomically modern ones 130,000 years ago. There is evidence – not hearsay from a deluded old man but actual bones of hominids up to 7 million years old. So just in the name of fairness, lets assume a day to god is 1000 years on earth as some say – that still puts the creation of the universe at 13000 years ago. Come on now – we have this grey blob of goop in our head cavity that actually comes in handy when we use it. Think about it.

7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

So god plants this big ass garden because that's a lot of different plants and trees and among every tree in existence, god plants the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Moses goes on to tell us about the rivers that run through and out of the garden, but I just haven't figured out why that was relevant information and worth taking up so many verses in this all important book. However, now we know there were some rivers with funny names just in case we run out of celebrities or human rights activists to name streets after.

The garden was quite the place with gold, bdellium and onyx which god seemed to approve of at the time. This of course changes later in Moses' lifetime when his cronies build this calf out of the gold stuff, but that's another story. The important thing here is that god tells Adam that he can eat anything he wants out of the garden - he has given Adam a veritable smorgasbord for his culinary and pallet indulgence - except of course, the

fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. For some twisted reason god led Adam to believe this tree was toxic, but then maybe there are metaphors used in the bible after all.

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Again, the loving father sets his children up to fail by placing something he – being all knowing – knows they will eat to their detriment. In addition, being the hell fire and damnation kind of person he is, he throws in the drama of “eat and die” to add effect.

As god watches Adam putting around the garden, tilling and eating, he says maybe it is not such a good idea that man be alone. I had better make a helpmeet for him.

So, on this quest for a helpmeet, god springs every animal and bird out of the ground and brings them all to Adam to be named.

19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; **but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.**

This becomes a bit disturbing because again we are faced with the glitches in god’s omnipotence. Surely, god knew Adam was not going to find a socially acceptable not to mention attractive wife among the cattle and the beasts - and the birds - not a chance. “Come on baby, don’t fly away I just want to cuddle and talk”

Who really wrote this shit?

As god recovers from what Moses portrays as a pretty seriously hazy moment, he shakes it off and causes a deep sleep to come over Adam and he removes a rib from him, closes him back up and makes Adam his wife to be, out of this rib and delivers her to him.

Gen. 1:27 says that “god created man, male and female created he them” so now the literal Bible is saying just one chapter later; “well, not exactly, what actually happened was god made man who got lonely so then god figured what the hell, Ill create helpmeet person to keep him company. So which account is the inspired one? Did he create them male and female as a co-creation or, did he create the macho dude first and then whip up a rib-chick-afterthought to keep his Adamness company and satisfied? These are important social questions if we are taking this thing as the literal word of god.

The question beckons – why a rib? If god made man out of the dust and all the animals out of the dust, why did he make Adams wife out of a surgical procedure extracting a bone vs. just whipping up another dust puppet sans the penis? While there are several schools of thought on the matter, it strikes me that none of them make any more sense than the

original story anyway, so I suppose deep theological analysis is irrelevant. I mean regardless of where god pulled the raw materials from, the end result was pretty right on – in spite of how this ridiculous story plays out.

Adam having been in naming mode for what had to be a hell of a long time to name all the animals and birds, was not overly creative when it came to his helpmeet and called her woman because she came from man. Deep Adam – very profound. In hindsight, had he spent a few days with her before he started labeling, he would have had a plethora to draw from. This is where god probably showed great wisdom because many adjectives would have become nouns had Adam gotten to know everything before he named it.

Moses skips the details of the first wedding ever and just jumps to the part where the man and his wife were naked and were not ashamed. Ashamed of what would be my first question. Exactly how bad did god screw up the design that they should have been ashamed? Even so, isn't that god's fault? Adam did not have much to do with it and his still unnamed helpmeet certainly was not to blame for that screw up – she came in at the end of the design phase. Ashamed? Moses is implying that there is reason to be ashamed of our bodies that god supposedly designed and fabricated out of dust and ribs in his own damn image. Frankly that's quite the feat, I would think anyone would be quite proud of that. What is there to be ashamed of?

Among the many creatures god created, the snake or at least one in particular has exceptional communication and reasoning skills. The snake being the crafty bastard it is bumps into Adam's yet to be worthy of a name wife and strikes up a conversation like snakes do in enchanted gardens. Mornin' your husband calls me "snake" what are you? "He calls me woman, but I hate it. In a couple of verses, if he thinks he is getting any tonight, he will give me a proper feminine name that labels me as an individual and denotes my rank on earth within a gender that will somehow descend from my incestual children – but that's kind of creepy and I don't want to think about that now. How are you snake?" She says with a smile.

Lets assume that the snake could somehow enunciate intelligibly in Adamic or whatever language Adam and his wife were created already speaking fluently – and lets assume Adam's wife actually stuck around to talk to it. I'm sure they chewed the fat, got to know each other and suddenly wham! - The snake tempts her and tells her to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Now the she-rib says, "Oh dear snake, I can't eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil for if I do I will surely die." Not one to lose a debate, the snake counters quickly with "You won't die, but you will be as gods, knowing good from evil – trust me, you won't die. Even the damned snake knew about god's tendency to refer to himself in plural. (After all "gods" would imply a polytheistic reality so we would all much rather just think god has a slight touch of multiple personality syndrome or maybe he was just a Gemini.)

This snake was pretty convincing because he actually talked the she-rib into eating the "forbidden fruit". Now what happened next has come to plague and haunt womankind for

the last 6000 years, and unless we wake up and see the stories for the STORIES they are could continue to do so for another 6 or so thousand. (Gen. 3)

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Now their eyes are open – they know good from evil – but notice nobody dies. However almost as bad, they do notice:

Holy shit your shmekl is showing Adam! Good god almighty – your ...unshmekl is showing woman! And with that, they run to the nearest fig tree and make themselves aprons with fig leaves to cover their horrible, horrible very recently discovered nudity that god so absent mindedly cursed them with in his terribly flawed design.

So, god was hanging out in this new garden he planted because it seems among the billions of stars and solar systems, it's the cool place to hang out. Adam hearing god as he meandered along hid himself because apparently now he knows god screwed up and forgot to whip up some shmekl duds to hide their uglies. "Crap woman, its god and he is going to see us naked – we will hide under this gods-eye-proof plant" And they did.

For an all seeing, all knowing god, this one is either, affected by the mist in the garden or the plant Adam hid under really was god's-eye-proof because ...

9 And the LORD god called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

Adam knew good from evil now so he couldn't very well fake his voice and say "Adam's not here" so he bucks up and climbs out from under the magic bush and says "holy shit dude, you scared me. I heard you walking around, saw I was naked and hid in the bushes." Again, obviously new at omnipotence, god says who the hell told you, you were naked? Did you go and eat from that tree I told you not to? The irritation in god's voice must have been very evident and being the vengeful god, the god to be feared he is, Adam obviously lost composure, threw gallantry and protocol to the wind and in a very un-cavalier way, points strait at the she-rib with his index finger ...

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

As a dude myself, I find Adams reaction extremely annoying. If I was the almighty smite-er, I would have smitten him there and then. First he tries to insinuate that its god's fault with the whole "you gave me the bitch" attitude, and then he shifts it to her, knowing god would see through the first attempt and says "she did it and yes, I ate" as he bows his head in defeat and shame. What is up with that? The founder of the human race is a bona-fide pussy! The "woman" did not have a gun, they just figured out they were naked, so she was not threatening to hold out on him; he just rolled over on her and threw her naked ass under the god-bus. What a guy this "father Adam"!

At this point god looks at the still unnamed woman and says “what the hell have you gone and done?” to which she replies – very smoothly and true to form I might add – the snake bedazzled me with his smooth talking way and tricked me into eating and well... I did eat. But can I just tell you, that is one good fruit, I mean you could eat it as an appetizer, an entrée or a desert, its delicious and believe me it would go good with a roasted duck, turkey, pork or beef. I mean talk about versatile and did I mention delicious? Why I can’t think of a wine that wouldn’t be complimented by its ... SILENCE! exclaims god as Adam does the first eye-roll in biblical history.

By this time god is developing his soon to become legendary wrath, and he looks at the snake that apparently has more human qualities than herpetological qualities since he not only talks but also stuck around to satisfy a morbid curiosity about how this would all go down. As god’s vein in his forehead began to bulge, he said to the snake, “because you have done this you will be cursed over all the animals and you will slither around on your belly and eat dust. The woman’s seed will stomp your head and you will just bruise its heel.” The snake, being the smart-ass that he obviously was, said under his breath “what, did you just join this party? You just *described* my lame ass, you didn’t *curse* me. You cursed me in the design phase asshole” as he slithered away looking for heels to bruise.

Having heard the snake’s mumblings god is in less than a jolly mood as he looks at the woman and says, “Because you listened to a snake and ate the fruit, I am going to make your child bearing unbearable. What’s more, I am going to make the whole process a hormonal mess and every month you don’t stay barefoot and pregnant, I’m going to make you unbearable to everyone around you. On top of that, I am going to make you subject to your husband and he is going to rule over your every move and keep you suppressed in the soon to be society”. Now we know god was acting out of anger and probably just learning how to put the fear of ...him in humanity when he cursed the woman because it was an exceptionally chauvinistic, not very well thought out curse that really showed some less than brilliant true colors of a relatively new god. In his defense, he does mature as time goes on. Later on in biblical history, people do terrible things, murder, mass corruption, etc. far worse than eat an apple, and god just smites them, obliterates the people involved and their cities, puts them in bondage or thrusts them into his famous lakeside resort – Brimstone Volcanic Park. But at this point he has a couple of things working against him – he is new to the god scene and he is pissed as hell. The woman eats a little fruit and she and every woman from then to the end of humanity is cursed for one simple mistake. It hardly seems fair or the works of a loving, just god, a father in heaven or a god of peace, but who am I to question the infallibility of the holy bible?

Wait, god is not through yet. After cursing the snake, divinely and eternally messing with the woman and all womankind, he still has the wimp Adam to deal with.

By now god, is starting to feel that whole theory that Kung-fu Tzu would so eloquently share with humanity some time later about how a wasp cannot sting without feeling the effect of his own venom. By the time god gets around to Adam, he does not have the same piss and vinegar he did with the snake and the she-rib. “Because you were lured by the

evil temptress of a wife I made you, hmmm, your going to have to till... no you already do that...you will have to sweat when you till damn you! And you will have to work for your food, and dust to dust when you die.”

The bible doesn't give the account but you know the woman is standing there with an incredulous look on her face thinking “what the hell? he makes me all hormonal, bloody, moody, water retentive and I have to pass a 10 pound baby through a 2 inch hole and this asshole gets to sweat?!!!”

Adam is not totally devoid of manhood and gallantry as is evident in verse 20 where many scholars concur the first booby prize in humanity is awarded. – Named by the way, after the woman's breasts – the woman FINALLY gets a name!

20 And Adam called his wife's name **Eve**; because she was the mother of all living.

21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Adam and Eve (and may I just say how nice it is to finally be able to refer to her by a name rather than the blatantly implied “she-rib” or the literally bestowed “The Woman”.) after this very traumatic event are now cast out of the garden of Eden and into the Lone and Dreary World. Fortunately, for them either god was tired or he had not created his brimstone fire resort yet where he will threaten to throw everyone after them that dares to screw up when he throws crap in to trip them up.

Suddenly god remembers that he had planted this other tree in the garden called the tree of life. Obviously Adam knew about it because Adam named all the plants and animals so god says, “oh crap, I can't have Adam eating that fruit too or he will live forever in his dreadful sinful state having eaten the fruit I told him not to eat but put right in his path just to test him failing miserably”. However, here we get back into that polytheistic controversy again and I don't know what to think. The mainstream Christian majority are adamant about there being one god and only one god. The notion of multiple gods will get a person stoned in the modern day Bible belt. Hell you want to give a born-again a cardiac episode, make the argument that there may be multiple gods to this planet, and yet their very own and beloved good book says:

22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

I figure it is the multiple personality psycho thing, he is a Gemini or there is more than one god. Nevertheless, back to the story...

We aren't sure why god doesn't just light the old Sodom and Gomorrah torch to the garden and just poof it into oblivion; but he recruits Cherubim and a flaming sword to guard the tree of life just in case Adam gets any stupid hair-brained ideas of going back to try to eat more forbidden fruit. I don't know what this Cherubim dude did to deserve that shit detail,

but I can only assume his wages were on the low end of the heavenly-being union scale to get stuck guarding a vacant never to be seen again garden.

At this point god has found the hiding couple, discovered that they ate the fruit he put there but told them not to eat just to see if they would, cursed and smote the offending parties. Then he tailored custom skins to clothe the pair, cast their sorry asses out, posted a guard at the tree of life with a burning sword, was pissed off, tired and had a holy migraine and said:

“I’m going back to heaven to get some Tylenol.”

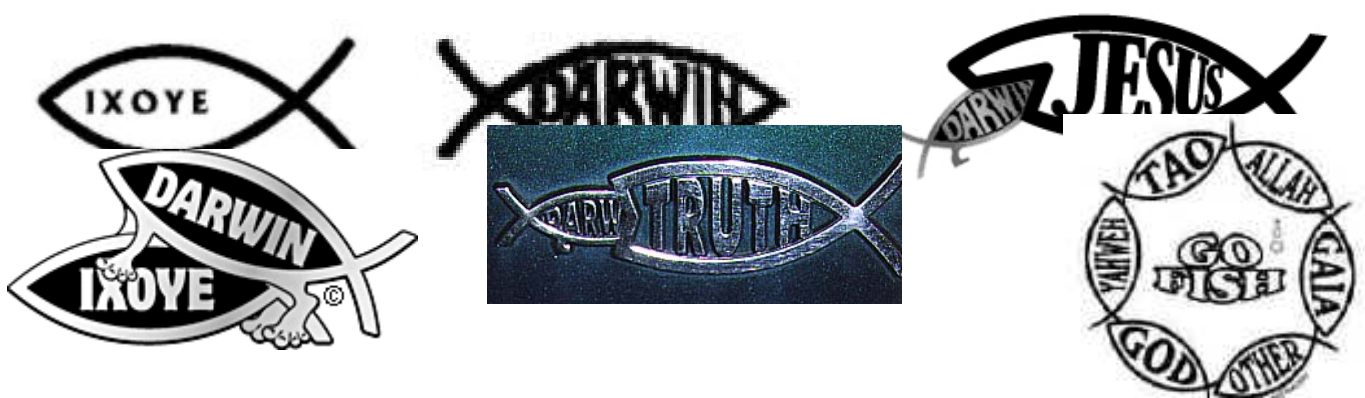
If the bible stories teach us character building lessons, morality to live by and the way god wants us to conduct ourselves, our lives and to teach our children, then society is right on track. I don’t see why people think we are going to hell in a hand basket when we as a society are just adhering to the holy bible and its omni-whatever-the-hell teachings. Somewhere we deludedly came up with the notion of ‘assumption of responsibility when first in command’ – “the buck stops here” crap which is apparently just human contrived bullshit. God’s word makes it clear – pass the buck, point fingers and the little guy be damned, then let the more vulnerable of the parties take the next wave of blows so by the time it gets to the top, all the underlings have softened the blow for “the man”. Sounds like the status quo of this planet to me.

evolution vs. creation

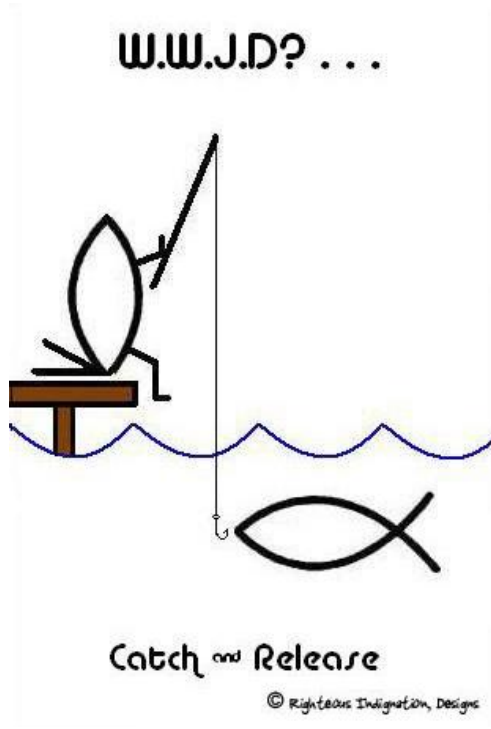
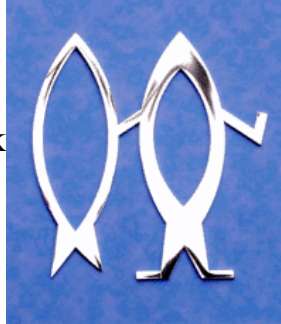
While it is not a Bible Story, it seems to fit in right here.

The battle between those that subscribe to the theory of evolution and those that believe in the literal holy biblical account of the creation in its logic and wisdom has been a heated one at best. It is sad to see this battle waging in schools, courts, churches, libraries, and virtually every hall of semi-intelligent occupancy. People so afraid that they might be wrong are willing to fight with people that otherwise would be friends over something so stupid, unfounded and non-provable as either side of this ludicrous argument is. Here we are touting love thy brother but if he does not believe what you do, kill his heretic ass or ridicule his Byzantine faith and screw you – no screw you. Come on now, in the words of a briefly famous citizen: – “can’t we all just get along?”

Well this ongoing battle is not without its humor, and I have watched the trunks of cars and rear hatches of countless mini vans where this battle is silently waging with - oddly enough – pagan symbols.



The real question we should ask Jesus Do?



The Story of Cain & Abel

This has got to be one of the all time dumbest bible stories. In fact, I don't know why it's even in here other than the fact that it is the first documented case of murder or fratricide in biblical history.

This story does however illustrate the consistency in the biblical nature of god and his many attributes. And since it is only a small part of chapter 4, what the hell?

Adam and Eve are just getting to know each other in the biblical sense at this point so, humanities first sexual interlude, the first ever act of intercourse takes place and all Moses had to say about was ...

- 1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.
- 2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

So why did god pass up a stellar opportunity to teach his children about fatherhood from the first father ever with some verses on how Adam courted Eve, how involved he was in the pregnancy, the delivery of the first baby. Why does god skip over how Adam taught the child and what he taught him. Why was the very first human natural birth on planet earth covered in just one verse? It seems to me that had someone paid more attention to this first child ever, he may not have had the anger issues he displays later on in the story.

One can only assume with the blatant omission of any detail whatsoever that Cain and Abel grew into their professions with time and were not as the verse implies, born with a robe and shepherd staff or overalls and a plow respectively.

Cain and Abel at some point were taught to offer sacrifices to god to appease his anger and vengeance or whatever but when they did, god shows pleasure with Abel's offering but not with Cain's.

- 3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.
- 4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:
- 5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

So, Cain is hurt because god doesn't respect his offering and he gets pissed off. So, god is apparently wandering around the lone and dreary world or just hovering over Adam and family because he sees Cain all pissed off and in his omni-whateverness finds himself having to ask a seemingly stupid question:

- 6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

If god just disrespected Cain's offering and he is seeing he is pissed off and his countenance is on the ground or whatever, why does he ask him what's wrong if not to just rub it in a bit.

So god goes on to explain to Cain that if he would just do good, he would be respected but if he continues on the path he is on, well, he will be hanging out in the domain of sin and that is where he will stay.

Moses doesn't tell us what terrible sins Cain was committing to have his offering disrespected by god, but one can only assume it was an awful sin. On the other hand, at this point in the bible everyone is just guessing what sin is and what is not, because god hasn't set out his instructions yet so how the hell can Cain sin or know if he is?

So far, the only commandments given have been to multiply and replenish the earth and to not eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The fruit thing is over and null and void so all that is left is to screw and have kids.

Obviously, the interaction between god and Cain didn't go so well because Cain is still upset about the whole thing and one day while the two brothers are hanging out in the field, Cain clobbers and kills Abel providing humanity with its first ever homicide.

9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

Again, I have to ask why this god who is supposedly omniscient, omnipotent and omniseverything else has to ask such stupid damn questions?!

God goes on to curse Cain by making the earth not yield anything if he goes back to farming and he is relegated to a "fugitive and a vagabond in the earth" for killing his brother. Cain complains a bit about how he is going to be hunted down and killed as he wanders the earth which makes absolutely no sense whatsoever since the only people around are his brothers and sisters – and that we must assume because the good book doesn't actually say so.

15 And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

Who exactly is god talking about if Adam and Eve were it? Wouldn't Cain pretty much know where his brothers and sisters were and who to avoid because they are pissed off by his killing Abel? Why does god need to mark Cain so he isn't killed?

This ridiculous nonsensical verse has been the basis for even more absurd and ridiculous doctrine in modern days. There are religions that actually believe that the mark of Cain was turning his skin black and hence the rise of the African race. In fact, the LDS or

Mormon religion actually banned anyone of African descent from their priesthood based on this stupid verse. What are we missing here? How does anyone come to any conclusion other than god is confused and all screwed up in his holy word because none of it makes any sense?

16 And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

17 And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.

So, Cain starts his gallivanting globe tour as he heads east and he What the hell??!
Where does his wife come from? Is god out there extracting ribs again? On the other hand, could it be that this crap cannot be taken literally, and Adam and Eve were not alone but maybe just symbolic of the first humans on earth.

From here on out it is this ongoing rambling of who begat who and named them what for who cares what reason but there you have it, and they lived a long ass time and “builded” stuff.

The Story of Noah and the Ark

Classic among classics - The story of Noah and how he beat the worst odds in the history of planet earth. Noah won the coveted lottery ticket out of the worldwide flood with its associated challenges and lessons in shipbuilding, wanderlust navigation, shipping logistics, inter-species relations and animal husbandry. Another inspirational story from the word of god as contained in his holy bible.

Our story begins in Genesis chapter 6...

- 1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,
- 2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Apparently, the women were just daughters of men lucky enough to be considered fair by the sons of god and chosen as wives. Where the men came from or how god had sons on scene or why the sons were his and the women were daughters of mere men is a biblical mystery. Regardless, there were several descendents from Adam and Eve and once they got over the whole marry your sister thing and it got diluted down to 3rd and 4th cousins making babies, there were a lot of them about. Of course, the fact that people apparently lived for a long, long time back then helps too.

I realize this is out there, but maybe carbon dating is indeed of the devil and inaccurate after all, and cave men were actually the descendents of Adam and Eve. They were just the product of several generations of inbreeding and required evolution to work us into what we are today. I'm just making an effort to accommodate theories, no, my IQ did not suddenly drop.

- 3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.
- 4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

Ok, so these giants popped up out of the cabbage patch when Cherubim and his flaming sword were looking the other way and they were all just hanging out about the time the sons of god swooped down on the daughters of men impregnating them with mighty men – of old – renown. – what the hell does that mean?

Of course the holy text doesn't give us any indication as to what exactly was going on that was so terribly evil in this day, but whatever it was, it was completely out of control. Granted a few hints as to what would avoid the impending smite in future generations would have been helpful, but god might as well keep us on our toes and guessing. After all

is said and done a little surprise factor with your smite always makes for more interesting destruction. But whatever humanity of the day was up to, it was so bad that god after going to all the trouble to create everything is starting to question his own all-knowingness.

5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

In his word according to Moses, god is making it pretty clear that he is sorry he went to all the trouble of whipping up man in the first place. But as in other cases where god is all uptight over humanities antics, is it not the all-knowing, all-powerful, all-whatever that screwed up the design phase if he doesn't like the finished product? I guess the fact that we were made in his image creates an image problem in his pearly gated community.

I can to some perverse extent bring myself to imagine what mankind could do to piss off an already less than stable and very vengeful deity; but I REALLY struggle with understanding what the beasts, creeping things and foul in the air could possibly have done that was so terrible that they needed to be destroyed as well. I can't help but think that if the animals, creepy crawlies and all the birds were in on the whole conspiracy of evil, how were the fish not clued in? In fact, as we will see shortly, the fish were blessed with a serious addition to their home - for a geological nanosecond anyway.

Among all the evil, lurking about planet earth offending god by existing, there is this one guy named Noah that found grace in the eyes of the lord and he walked with god. So, Obi Wan Ke Noah is humanities only hope for survival as god explains to him that the whole world is about to be destroyed. Bible god in his kind loving way gives Noah the job of preserving the entirety of gods creations from total extinction by building a big boat and putting 2 of every species in the boat before the rains come to drown out gods previous mistakes.

14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

15 And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

Now this is no small undertaking because a boat that size is tough to build these days much less in Noah's day – even with giants helping shag materials to the job site. And, that's a bunch of cubits of gopher wood and pitch. I notice god didn't tell Noah to put the gopher

wood and pitch on his Heavenly Home Depot account. We will assume Noah was a wealthy man.

According to Wikipedia, “a Cubit = the distance between thumb and another finger to the elbow on an average person and measures about 24 digits or 6 palms or 1½ feet. This is about 45 cm or 18 inches. This so-called "natural cubit" of 1½ feet is used in the Roman system of measures and in different Greek systems. The ark was measured as 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide and 30 cubits high. Using a standard 18-inch cubit, this would make the ark about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high, dimensions not exceeded in shipbuilding until the 19th Century (cf. the *Great Eastern*)”.

That is a big ass boat for a family but cramped quarters for the planetary farm. Just to put it in perspective, it is approximately 33,000 square feet per each of the three stories without accounting for the slope of the hull, so approximately 100,000 square feet of floor space for all of the animal kingdom to ride in along with Noah’s family for about a year.

With 43,560 square feet per acre, our hero’s boat has about $\frac{3}{4}$ acre per level or a total floor space of $2\frac{1}{4}$ acres. Let’s say we use the largest yet very unlikely version of cubit which is the Arabic *Hashimi cubit* of about 650.2 mm (25.6 inches), and we have a total of 4.7 acres where Noah was told to ...

- 18 ... come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.
 19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.
 20 Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.
 21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.
 22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

I have to say that among my biblical heroes, Noah has to be one of my favorites. This man single-handedly rounded up not only 2 of every what we would deem common animals, but he had the foresight to go to say the Galapagos and get tortoises and the rare sea iguana; or to central Indonesia to get a couple of Komodo Dragons. Then he was off to the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean where he collected a couple of dodo birds all of which were around for far more than 6000 years so obviously were alive in Noah’s time. I mean, this guy contended with the headache of figuring out male from female among sexually amorphous species (that aren’t obviously male or female by their markings or otherwise) like many reptiles and so many birds. It boggles my mind, but the holy bible is after all the literal word of god so – wow! Noah knew to get a couple of ocelots from south america and polar bears from the arctic all of which have been around since – well Adam named them right?

So, Noah not only builds the largest boat in human history until the 1800's AD but he manages to get his whole family and from 2 – 14 of each species depending on whether god considered them clean or dirty animals inside it as indicated in Genesis chapter 7

2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

Fortunately for Noah the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (usually referred to as the ASPCA) had not yet been formed or he would have been in court for another year with animal abuse and hoarding charges stacked up for more cubits than his boat. Apparently, god in his omni-whateverness overlooked a minor question of mathematics and common sense when he had Noah try to get approximately 4,000 species of mammals there are on earth along with the 8,600 species of birds on 1½ acres. We haven't considered the thousands of reptilian species either and imagine what the ark looked like with over 900,000 insect species crawling around and getting into everything.

Where it really gets impressive is when we realize that approximately 80% of the animal kingdom has yet to be classified (of course Adam did it but he neglected to write it down so now we have to do it all over again.) So we don't even know the names of most of the creatures Noah somehow crammed into those 2 – 4.7 acres of boat space but since they all still exist today, he must have done it somehow.

A five-acre zoo is unheard of. Yet, the less than appealing zoo in one of the localities I have lived in - to remain anonymous so I don't get sued by the city of Salt Lake - is far larger than 5 acres and hosts only 250 species in a depressing caged environment that has been plagued with death and disease for years. However, Noah was able to cram 50 times as many species in under 5 acres. Absolutely impressive.

6 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

7 And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.

Apparently, environmental factors were such that disease was non-existent back then because 600 years old is a ripe old age in anyone's book. Of course running around the world herding two of every species will tend to keep you fit and take a few years to accomplish.

15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.

16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

Now that is what I call heavenly valet service!

21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

If Noah didn't have one hell of a case of survivor guilt syndrome, he was not human to begin with. He floated along in his 4.7 acre wildlife preserve with every animal on earth and his immediate family while the rest of creation was eradicated from existence via drowning. Oh the humanity!

So, god is pissed because there is too much evil and not enough fear of him on the earth and he decides to obliterate every living thing on earth except the few seed specimens Noah has collected for purposes of future propagation and re-seeding of the entire planet. Could we have read that correctly?

23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

Yep, that's what it says. So, the bible can not tell a lie or that would imply the author is lying. Well, I guess that settles that – however you choose for it to settle.

In Chapter 8, the waters begin to subside after 150 days of covering the entire earth. Noah pops open the one window in the massive ark with a god-awful hissing sound as the pitch-bound trapped gasses of thousands of animals and a few humans release into the ether, and the first bits of fresh air enter into the ark. The stench of the ark had to be relatively innocuous compared to the stench of every body on earth rotting in the receding floodwaters and the hot sun but nonetheless, I'm sure they were glad to get a hatch open.

4 And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.

5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.

So, once they hit ground, the ark sits there for another 3 months waiting for the waters to go down to where they could see the tops of the mountains.

Meanwhile Noah sends a dove out on a recon mission and when it comes back breathing heavy and wet, he figures he will wait another 7 days before he tries again. The next time, the dove comes back with an olive twig in its mouth so Noah knows the waters are dropping.

13 And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry.

14 And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.

Noah had to wait another 3 months and 27 days in the ark from the time he saw the mountain tops to the time he could get out of the smelly ass zoo-boat he was condemned to navigate for over a year with every animal species on earth aboard eating him out of ark and home and shitting with reckless abandon and disregard for nautical hygiene.

Can you imagine the discussions that took place in the captains quarters at night as the smell of the animals wafted up from the lower decks permeating every aspect of life in the ark? What do you want to bet his wife didn't even joke about playing Tarzan in the bedroom. And let's take it a step further, Noah survived 10 to 12 menstrual cycles cooped up in under 5 acres with every animal species on earth and his immediate family with very little ventilation and nowhere to go to get away from the reality of the genocide or totalicide they were escaping and often wishing they weren't. Do I even need to mention the wrath of his wife having to endure the plague of Eve as well as Noah's divine calling as "beast master of earth" under those conditions? Holy shit – he IS a saint! But more so yet is his WIFE who put up with his crap and doesn't even get her name on the ark when it was christened, much less in the bible. That is just wrong.

15 And God spake unto Noah, saying,

16 Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.

17 Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.

So, as the all-clear is sounded, the ark is vacated of all species on mount Ararat or in the vicinity thereof. Of course, this poses the question that many students of the bible don't like to address and that is just how exactly did the Komodo dragon and the Galapagos tortoise and the sea iguanas get put back where they belonged? Obviously, it happened because they are exactly where they were before this big earth rinse and I would love to understand how Noah pulled that off. I guess "god willed it and it was" works – I guess.

The important thing is that all of animalia and humankind was re-seeded by this nautical advent of biblical proportions and everything and everyone on earth now descends from whatever was on that boat. Talk about inbreeding! No wonder we aren't exactly enlightened as a species, we are recovering from 2 periods of evolution from a single branched family tree. First, we have Adam and Eve and their incestuous down line, then Noah and his unworthy to mention by name wife and progeny. On the other hand, look how far we have come in under 6,000 years considering we started out as some back woods love stock stupid enough to talk to snakes or think they got every animal on earth on a big boat!

20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Because killing clean animals and birds and burning their corpses on a pile of rocks is like an aphrodisiac to some gods. And this bible god in particular has a definite fetish with the concept as he illustrates by his own word as contained in his holy bible in verse 21...

21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

Isn't that just moving to tears? God smelled the stench of burning animal sacrifices and the "sweet savour" prompted him to relax and decide to stop the genocide and annihilating the human race and keep it down to just nations, countries and individuals that piss him off instead of everything in one fell swoop.

And god said to Noah, "see that rainbow in the cloud over there? Well that is my sign and covenant with you that I promise, cross my heart, hope to die, so help me – me, that I won't flood the whole earth ever again".

Noah and company were obviously very fertile because they repopulated the whole world from those 2-5 acres of ark.

28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.

29 And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.

All I can say is yeah, whatever, Hallelujah, Amen!

The Story of the Tower of Babel

As a child in Sunday School, and in the many books of bible stories my parents made available to us as children, the story of the tower of Babel went along these lines:

The people of the city of Babel wanted to be closer to god so they thought they would build a big tower to reach the heavens and be a bit godlier. Bible god was offended by their pride in thinking they could reach him with a tower, he smote them by confounding their languages, and instead of speaking just one language as before, they now all spoke the various languages we now see around the world.

Genesis Chapter 11

1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

So far – so good.

3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

So, they did.

5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

6 And the LORD 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.

So, god swings by to see what they “builded” and he goes “damn! These people are organized, they all speak the same language, they are motivated and if they are building a tower to heaven at this stage in human history, nothing will stop them from doing anything they imagine, and we surely cant have that shit going on!”

7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

So, god in his omni-humorous way, decides to round up his god-posse, his alter-egos, Gemini twin, or whoever the hell “us” is and go down to earth and make everyone speak different languages so nobody understands each other. There is no mention of punishment for any sin or wrongdoing. The word of god clearly states that they were too ambitious for his comfort “and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do” and god cant have an entire city of self-thinking, self-motivated, creative people going around figuring out truths of life through experimentation and discovery. Oh no, that would allow humanity to evolve without him and what would that leave for him to do? Who then would

he smite and show great signs to in order to instill the fear of him in? Who would he play his tricks on and trip up so their personal progress is divinely hampered and kept within the parameters of ignorance that he is comfortable with?

Faced with such logic, god absolutely has no choice but to play his games and screw with the language to get his heavenly jollies and ensure his continued relevance.

8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

9 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.

The important thing to take away here is in the last verse. These days scientists are actively engaged in determining where various groups of people migrated from and where they ended up. DNA science is shedding an ongoing light as they uncover more and more bone and fossil evidence. But since the bible is the literal word of god, we all know that nobody came across the Bering land bridge or made ancient boats, they were just magically scattered from Babel across the entire earth - which makes a lot more sense if you have a couple of bottles of sacramental wine under your belt.

The Story of Moses

Most of us have seen at least on one occasion Cecil B. DeMille's epic movie "The 10 Commandments" starring Charlton Heston as Moses and Yul Brenner as Pharaoh where it depicts the Hebrew son of Pharaoh and his many grand and dignified dealings as he becomes a prophet and frees the people of Israel from their bondage in Egypt.

The story of Moses and the 10 commandments was always one of my favorite bible stories as a young Christian – inspirational, motivating to obey god's commandments, moving in the dramatic way god showed his power to his children and their enemies. The story cemented a feeling of religious affinity with the Jewish faith, and today it remains at the top of my list for other reasons altogether, but at the top nonetheless.

Frankly, I justified not reading the book of Exodus in the bible for years as a young devout Christian because I figured between the many stories told to me by Sunday School teachers and the cinematographic masterpiece by Cecil B. DeMille, I knew how it went down with excellent pictures to reinforce it to boot. After all, Cecil B. DeMille would have to adhere to what is contained in the holy book right.

It was several years later in my efforts to study religion that I actually read the book of Exodus and the lord's word in his holy bible strait from the horses ... mouth. I was able to understand many things that made me ask my harsh (and to some vulgar) question which is the running theme of my writing.

The Children of Israel, descendents from Joseph - you know the Technicolor coat dude that was sold by his brothers - moved to Egypt after Joseph dies which is another story in itself. Now they are a prolific bunch that started out as 70 souls as indicated in Exodus 1:5 and grew into quite a bunch – so much so that the Egyptians started seeing them as a potential threat. With Joseph out of the picture and all his brothers dead and gone, the new king of Egypt starts thinking that if the Israelites were to organize; they could join with Egypt's enemies and be a force to contend with. To ensure this does not happen, the Egyptian king decides to make them slaves which he does and the Egyptians keep the Israelites under control for about 400 years this way. Not the most politically correct approach but effective and not surprising from the same people that brought us the modern day suicide bomber.

The Egyptians were tough taskmasters and apparently oppression is like Viagra to the Israelites because the greater the abuse, the more they reproduced. This became alarming to the King of Egypt who saw that the Israelites now outnumber the Egyptians so he resorts to some covert activity. The king calls in the Israelite midwives and tells them that they are to kill any male babies they deliver and let any female babies live. The midwives being in the business of bringing life into the world and not taking it out, don't do what the king asks them to do. When he asks what the hell? They say that Jewish women are not as prissy as your women, they deliver with or with out midwives. (Ex 1:19) And so, the

Israelites continue to multiply and “wax strong”. As for the midwives, god is pleased with them because they “fear” him so he figures what the hell, Ill kick ‘em down a house so they can come in out of the weather when they aren’t out harvesting all those babies.

21 And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.

Pharaoh on the other hand is pretty pissed off because the Jews just keep multiplying so he officially opens season on any male Jewish babies, instructing all Egyptian citizens to throw any male Jewish babies in the river. And we wonder why there is bad blood to this day? However, it gets better, let’s go on.

In Chapter 2 a man (anonymous) from the house of Levi (the dude not the jeans) marries a daughter of Levi and she has a son. Seeing he was a “goodly child”, she hid him from the Egyptians for 3 months - as opposed to the un-goodly ones that just were tossed in the river by their mother to save the Egyptians the trouble I am sure. But after a while his colic and the dust just made him cry too much and he was a tough kid to hide so his mother makes a mini boat out of reeds, slime and pitch. Mom puts baby in the mini craft and sets him afloat on the river where the Pharaoh’s daughter was bathing. Pharaoh’s daughter sees the micro-refugee and sends her maid to fetch him out of the water. She sees the baby laying there all cute in a sailor outfit crying in his little home made boat and she says “oh how cute, I think ill keep him, but he is a Jew”. Now the baby’s sister was watching to see what happened to her little castaway brother and she says to Pharaoh’s daughter “you want me to fetch a Jewish nurse for that baby you found?” Pharaoh’s daughter says yes, the sister goes and gets – you guessed it – her mom, and the Pharaoh’s daughter tells her to raise her new found baby and she will pay her wages to do it. Now mom made out like a bandit! she saves junior from being thrown in the river and she gets a royal godmother for her kid and gets paid to raise her own kid for the Pharaoh’s daughter who thinks she just randomly found this baby. It’s a perfect scam.

Once the child grew, his mom having “nursed” him took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and she took him as her son and called him Moses because she “drew him from the water”. Actually, Moses in Hebrew means to draw out and in Egyptian, it means to beget a child so with that understanding the verse somewhat makes sense.

Moses grows up as Pharaoh’s grandson and during the construction of one of the cities where the Hebrew labor was employed; he catches an Egyptian mistreating a Hebrew slave. Moses gets hot under the collar, looks around to see that no one is watching and he kills the guy and buries him in the sand. Now, I don’t think killing a guy and burying him in the sand is Kosher even when he is mistreating a Jewish slave, but apparently it’s ok in god’s book because it was an Egyptian guy. Pharaoh finds out that Mosses killed one of his people and Moses gets the hell out of Dodge because Pharaoh is going to kill him now. Moses gets to a place called Midian where he is sitting by a well when the daughters of the local priest come by to water their flock. The local shepherds figure they can bully a bunch of girls out of their way so their sheep can drink first but they didn’t count on Moses jumping in and whooping their ass and letting the girls water their sheep. This is how

Moses meets his soon to be father in law, marries one of the shepherd girls and starts a little shepherd family and has a son named Gershom. (Ex. 2)

- 23 And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.
- 24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

Moses was enjoying the simple life watching Jethro's sheep and as he was herding them around, he came to a mountain known as the mountain of god and an angel appeared to him in a pillar of fire that came out of this burning bush. Oddly, to Moses and anyone else the bush never actually burned, it just shot this talking flame pillar out of it. Like any inquisitive human being Moses wants to see what's up with this botanical spot light so he goes over to check it out when he is stopped in his tracks by the voice coming from the flaming phenomena. "Moses!" "Yes, burning shrub... sir... your combustibleness" "Stop right there, come no closer and remove your shoes for you are on holy dirt and your sandals are less acceptable than your dirty chapped feet." So, the bush proceeds to tell Moses that he is the god of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at which point Moses hides his face which pleases the bushy god that likes to be feared, but in actuality he turned his head saying I can't believe I'm talking to a brushfire!

The bush goes on to tell Moses that being all knowing and all, he has heard the cries of the Israelites and their woes in captivity. Apparently, he was working out the details with Cherubim and his flaming sword about what to do with Eden for the past 400 years and just barely got around to doing something about the human rights violations in Egypt. He tells Moses that he wants him to go to Egypt and tell the Pharaoh to let his people go free.

- 10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.
- 11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

Moses never got a strait answer from the bush about who he was to be freeing slaves, but the bush did say that he (god) would be with Moses during this sizeable undertaking. Moses thinking ahead a bit asks the godly bush "and when I go to the Israelites and tell them that god sent me to free them, they might say 'oh yeah and what's gods name'? What do I tell them then?" And the flame throwing bush replied, "You will tell them I AM THAT I AM" which of course would make perfect sense to anyone with such an inquiry. "Tell them I AM sent you unto them" which I'm sure put Moses completely at ease.

- 18 And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

Now the bush god of fire goes on to say that the Egyptians aren't exactly going to go along with the whole plan but not to worry because he will stretch out his hand and smite the crap out of them and they will come around. Obviously Moses is a bit reluctant to go marching into Egypt claiming god sent him to free the Israelites and tell Pharaoh that he better surrender or be smitten.

(Ex 4)

1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.

To which the bush asks Moses what he has in his hand and Moses says "my shepherd staff". The god bush tells Moses to throw it on the ground, which he does, and the damn stick turns into a snake. Of course, Moses runs the other way because well, his staff is now a snake and he does not want the damn thing to start talking too and get him to eat some forbidden cactus or something because as we know, snakes do that when they aren't bruising heels. Seeing that Moses is leaving a trail of dust between him and the snake, god says whoa boy, just pick it up by the tail, which he does reluctantly, and viola! It becomes his staff again. Now god says "put your hand in your bosom" and Moses is very reluctant after the snake trick, but he puts his hand under his robe and pulls it back out to see it is white with leprosy! Knowing that Moses is going to freak out, god preempts with "now put it back again and take it out." Having nothing to lose but his already rotten hand, Moses does as instructed and his hand is back to normal. So, god says:

8 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.

9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land.

Moses quickly responds by saying "yeah, I'm cool, lets not practice the blood thing though - I trust you on it." still really freaked out by the whole snake and leprosy tricks – I mean signs.

As Moses recovers from the traumatic episode, he says to god, "I am not much of a speaker, in fact, I really suck at communication, public speaking and such since I tend to stutter when I get nervous. Couldn't you get someone else to do the talking and just let me carry the snake stick?" And god says "who the hell do you think made your mouth and everything else for that matter? Don't worry about it; I will guide you in what to say." Moses is still reluctant though, surely he was remembering the years of ridicule and taunting due to his impediment, and he tries again – Lord, I am begging you here, cant we just... and god starts to get pissed off. "Alright already! Isn't that Aaron guy your brother? He can talk for you then. He will be your spokesperson and will act in the place of your mouth and you will be my representative and be in my place to him. Now go meet up with him and let's get this show on the road"

Moses packs up his wife and kids and moves back to Egypt.

21 And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: **but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.**

Here we see another case of god setting his children up to fail. He gives Moses these nifty yet somewhat twisted signs to freak out the Egyptians with and then tells Moses that he is going to harden the Pharaoh's heart so he will not listen to him anyway. Why is he so hell bent on screwing with the Egyptians? Not our heavenly father, he can't have people not fear him, so he hardens Pharaoh's heart so all the Egyptians get their ass kicked? Aren't the Egyptians part of this god's creation too and therefore his children as well? But this jerk is going to make sure there is reason to deal out the smite because after all, he is the almighty smiter.

This god goes on to tell Moses that he needs to confront Pharaoh and tell him that Israel is god's first born and if he doesn't let them go, god will kill Pharaoh's first born. However, god will harden his heart so one way or another there will be blood running in Egypt.

Verses 24-26 go on about how Moses' wife takes a sharp stone and circumcises their kid and throws his foreskin on the ground and who the hell cares what else because it's just wrong. Someone should trim her un-shmekl with a sharp rock, throw it at her feet, and see how she likes it. But I'm a guy and a bit overly sensitive to sharp rocks anywhere near the Johnson. Frankly, I am not sure what god wanted to tell his children with those verses of holy script, but there it is.

The lord tells Aaron to meet up with Moses and he does.

27 And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him.

I am unclear what all the born-again hate towards homosexuals is all about these days. Apparently, it was no big deal back in Moses and Aaron's day.

After their little interlude, Moses tells Aaron all about his conversation with the brushfire and the signs, and they go to the elders of Israel to show them the twisted holy parlor tricks to convince them that they indeed spoke with god and they are there to set them free. The Israelites are excited at this point and decide that now is a good time to bow their heads and worship - So they did.

The next morning, Moses and Aaron go see the King and tell him that the god of the Hebrews has commanded them to go into the wilderness and make sacrifices to him for 3 days, so they are going to need a few days off work. (Gen 5:1) That went over like a lead balloon and the Pharaoh asks why he should stop construction for 3 days for a god he knows nothing about. Now this is a legitimate question regardless of the morality of the

relationship between the Israelites and their masters. The Egyptians honestly knew nothing of this god, because by his own word he was the god of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. How would the Egyptians know him? And why would he punish them for something he being all omni-whatever did a shitty job of disseminating?

Bothered by the incessant threats and sudden impudence of Moses and Aaron, the Pharaoh says “ok, not only are you **not** getting a 3 day weekend, but now you have to provide your own damn straw and still keep production at the current level! – are you still here?” Or something roughly to that effect. With that, the slave drivers passed on the word that no straw would be delivered for brick making, and since the Israelites were not able to keep up, they got the crap beat out of them. At this point, the Israelites are looking for Moses to see what the hell he was thinking by pissing off the Pharaoh so completely.

Understandably, Moses is perplexed as he goes back to chat with god and he asks why god sent him if he was just pissing off the king. (Gen 5 2-23) The first question any normal person would ask god is why didn't you SOFTEN his heart instead of HARDEN it and save him, you and us some grief? Surely omnipotence allows for it to be as easy to soften as harden or why not just leave his heart the hell alone and let Pharaoh work through his own emotions. Of course, the almighty god of vengeance, fire and brimstone has a reputation to keep up and that would be too easy and make for poor biblical drama – and who wants to read that? No, not the god of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob because he needs to prove a point and since he isn't the god of Pharaoh or Egyptians in general, what the hell, a convenient sacrificial example of biblical proportions is brewing in his smiting mind.

(Gen 6)

So god says to Moses that he will show the Egyptians who is boss, and by the way...

2 And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD:

3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

Just to keep people guessing and true to form, god not only changes prophet's names, but he decides to change his own as well. So, we have Israelites being beaten into kifte (Jewish meatballs) because Moses pissed off the Pharaoh whose heart was hardened by god to ensure Pharaoh was pissed off when Moses told him what god told him to say in the first place. It is safe to assume that there is a considerable human rights crisis ensuing in Egypt at about this point, and this egocentric puppeteer decides to change his name and announce this event at this less than opportune time - why?

The discussion continues with god telling Moses “I am the lord” three more times in three verses just in case he forgot in the last 2 to 3 minutes, and he tells Moses to go back and tell the Israelites that Jehovah, a.k.a. almighty god a.k.a. I Am, or one of the gods or one of his personas – whatever – was going to honor this covenant between Abraham and Jacob and they would be freed and taken to a promised land. (Gen 6: 6-8)

Under the circumstances, Moses was lucky he wasn't run out on a stick, but the children of Israel were less than enthusiastic about his announcement being that they were kind of busy having the shit beat out of them from the last hair brained encounter Moses had with Pharaoh in god's name. (Gen 5:9)

Unfazed by the obvious reaction of the Jews, god tells Moses to ... you guessed it...

11 Go in, speak unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, that he let the children of Israel go out of his land.

Moses is still in some political hot water with his Israelite constituents over the last fiasco so he asks god...

12 Behold, the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me; how then shall Pharaoh hear me, who am of **uncircumcised lips**?

First of all, this whole circumcision thing is out of control, and this god and company have an unhealthy infatuation with the concept of trimming very sensitive organs with sharp rocks - which in itself is a disturbing thing to incorporate in a "holy guide book to salvation."

The lord says to Moses and Aaron that they should get all Israel together as an army divided into houses or tribes. He goes on to list out every single one of them and who will be the head honcho of this tribe and who will lead this house and that house for another 13 verses (Gen 6:13-26)

28 And it came to pass on the day when the LORD spake unto Moses in the land of Egypt,

29 That the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, I am the LORD: speak thou unto Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say unto thee.

Being the polite god he is, he clarified once again for Moses throwing in "I am the Lord" just in case Moses wasn't sure if it was god or just the bush talking to him this time.

30 And Moses said before the LORD, Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh hearken unto me?

What the hell with circumcising lips?! ...

I got nothin'

Genesis Chapter 7

1 And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

2 Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land.

As we can see, the Egyptians do not deserve a real god; they get a prophet for their god because this bible god dude is the god of Abraham, Isaac and Joseph and that has him

excessively busy and just not able to attend to the needs of Egyptians at the time. So, being the loving kind of guy he is, he kicks them down a prophet for a god which should be ample for the lowly Egyptian heathen bastards anyway.

3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.

My dear friends and readers, you know it has been way too long and many a biblical stupidity have escaped unscathed by the vulgarity of my incredulous inquiry to this point; but the crap is deep, and the words are bursting from the bottom of my soul like a prayer...

What the f*#k?!

Did he just say "I'm going to harden Pharaoh's heart so I can grandstand my omni-arrogant magic show to prove to a guy who I don't really care enough about to be his god, that I am a kick ass S.O.B. to be feared" at the expense of the entire Egyptian population?

3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.

Yep, that is what he just said.

4 But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.

5 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.

As we can appreciate from the literal biblical holy text, god will harden Pharaoh's heart so he does not listen to Moses and Aaron. Now god can smite, or 'lay his hand' on the Egyptians and raise a Jewish army out of Egypt by his all-smite-iness so that the Egyptians shall know that he is the man, the dude, the almighty-smiter-in-chief of the Jewish armies.

So, imagine the Pharaoh's confusion. Hell, I am confused, and I am not dealing with god-induced hardening of the arteries, prophets that are promoted to god sent by a god I don't know, who wants to kick my ass for not knowing him, so that I know him, and that he **is** god after all. Huh? And where does this leave Moses supposed god of Egypt? Isn't that just a godly mind trip all around? Even Moses is wondering what the hell, thinking he was promoted to god and Aaron to prophet, but now 'Sam I Am of the holy bush' is saying he **IS** the Lord and he is going to prove it.

It seems Egyptians are not descendents of Adam and Eve because the Bible god clearly created those two and their progeny but apparently not the Egyptians since he is not their god – he is the god of Abraham, Tevye and Yentl or whatever. If I was Egyptian or a descendent thereof, I would be reluctant at best to acknowledge, much less worship a god that very clearly states he is not my god. I would be looking for a god that was a) less anxious to whoop my ass, b) more anxious to claim it, c) smart enough to let the bushes talk to me directly and skip the middle man with dick lips.

Well, back to the story...

Aaron and Moses go to Pharaoh and of course present their credentials as emissaries of the god that's going to kick his ass. Pharaoh asks for a sign which god in his omnipotence had foreseen and had previously rehearsed with Moses and Aaron. Moses told Aaron to throw down the snake stick and it did as expected, it turned into a serpent. But god's omnipotence did not foresee (or he kept Moses in the dark about it anyway) the fact that Pharaoh's magicians happened to know the serpent in the stick trick and they did it too. Now we have a bunch of serpents slithering around the palace floor, but not be out done, god has Aarons snake eat all the other snakes. OK, so he wins the battle, but you have to admit, for not being gods or prophets, the Pharaoh's magicians did quite well with the snake trick. But god isn't through grandstanding so...

13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

Now that god has really hardened Pharaoh's heart, he tells Moses to go back and tell Pharaoh that because he didn't listen to him last time with the snakes and all, now he will put the snake stick in the river and turn all the water in Egypt into blood. So, Moses and Aaron go back and do just that. Well, of course Pharaoh doesn't listen because god doesn't want him to after going to all the trouble of hardening his heart so he won't. Aaron puts the magic stick in the water and *all* the water in Egypt turns to blood.

21 And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

What the bible does not explain is what happens to all this stinky blood and dead fish when it flows out of Egypt into say the ocean or wherever the hell had the misfortune of being down stream from Egypt. Apparently, he was not their god either because that is just plain un-neighborly. The bible cannot be too literal or the editors are covering something up because lets face it, we all know the rivers had alligators, turtles, otters, muskrats and all kinds of wildlife that live in it or depend on it for food. What the hell did all those poor little critters and fish do to the almighty smiter to get smitten along with the Egyptians? What loving creator asphyxiates every one of his little fishy creations in the entire country in a curdling mass of coagulated stinking blood just to be dramatic and put on a show for a Pharaoh? What an ...

Genesis Chapter 8

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

2 And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs:

So, Moses tells Pharaoh who of course doesn't listen and Moses has Aaron break out the dreaded stick and he has frogs invade the land. There were frogs everywhere and in everything.

Finally Pharaoh gets fed up and says "OK already, tell your god to take back the frogs, this is past a joke, I will let you have your 3 day holiday to worship." Moses is obviously delighted, he tells the frogs to stay in the rivers, all the frogs on the land god caused to die, they were piled up all across Egypt, and they stank.

Why god had to again assassinate innumerable innocent frogs just to prove how tough he is rather than just send them back to wherever the hell he brought them from initially is beyond me. But who am I to question the infallibility of the holy bible?

Once the frogs were back under control Pharaoh reconsiders his position and says "sorry, I changed my mind, my heart feels oddly hardened and you cant go sacrificing for 3 days after all."

Next on the agenda of smite is the lice trick. Moses is told to tell Pharaoh to let his people go or Moses will have the dust turned into lice. Of course Pharaoh does not budge and lice are everywhere on every living thing which had to be very itchy. Then god tells Moses to tell Pharaoh that he will infest the place with flies which he does as well and again Pharaoh gives in and says "enough already – you can go kill and burn your sacrifice to your god, it is obviously very important to him" Moses not to be fooled again says something like "cross your heart"? because last time Pharaoh changed his mind at the last minute. Pharaoh said "cross my heart" and Moses made all the flies go away. But Pharaoh had his fingers crossed and his heart was already hardened by god so he backed out once again.

32 And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.

Genesis Chapter 9

Moses is told again to go to Pharaoh and tell him that this time, if he doesn't let his people go, the lord will take out his wrath on the domestic livestock of the land – Egyptian only of course because the Jewish livestock will be saved by his almighty hand or whatever. The lord gives a 24-hour ultimatum that goes unheeded and delivers his next round of awe-inspiring death and destruction to prove his point.

6 And the LORD did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one.

7 And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

Of course!

At this point god is just getting warmed up with the smiting, so he sends Moses back to Pharaoh with some ashes that he is to throw in the air and ...

9 it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.

The bible dictionary is kind enough to shed light on what the hell boils with blains is and I have to hand it to the god of Abraham, Isaac and Joseph, he is one creative – sadistic but creative – deity figure.

Blains is called “the blotch of Egypt” it seems to have been the fearful disease of black leprosy, a kind of elephantitis, producing burning ulcers. Just the perfect affliction for getting ones point of almightiness across to the unbelieving or the Egyptian as the case may be.

So, our loving bible god hardens Pharaohs heart so he won't comply so he can infest the bodies of every Egyptian and their cattle with black leprosy and burning sores which he seems to think will really get their attention – and I'm sure it would if he would stop hardening Pharaoh's heart. But that would be ungodly and show weakness. That would promote reasoning, understanding, communication and not fear, vengeance and almightiness – so that just will not do at all. What we don't know is where the cattle came from if god killed them all with the previous plague, but then that would be logical and we cant start thinking like that at this point in our spiritual journey now can we?

Frankly, it is getting difficult to tell this story my friends and if I were not reading it strait out of the King James Version of the holy text, I would not believe it. And since I am reading it strait out of the King James Version, I do not believe it.

For whatever its worth and no longer to anyone's surprise ...

12 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken unto Moses.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters, this god dude does it yet again to prove his twisted little point.

The next day Moses and his toady thug go back to Pharaoh after being instructed to address Pharaoh as follows:

14 For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth.

All I can say to that is thank... him that is the case. Imagine two gods spreading their version of loving guidance across Egypt.

15 For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth.

Because somehow killing everything around them that they depend on for survival hasn't been enough being that HE is the one keeping Pharaoh's heart hardened.

16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to show in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.

If the bible is the literal word of god, here in this verse god does a wonderful job at being honest about his motives for all his manipulative destruction. Being relatively new at the god thing, he had not come to terms with his ego at this point in his career and was brazen enough to publish that fact in black and white proclaiming to the world his need to show power and have his name declared throughout all the earth. This proclamation of intent is reminiscent of a few subsequent characters in history with names like Hitler, Stalin, Saddam Hussein, Osama Bin Laden, etc. But these comparatively small-fry wannabe's were on a far smaller scale than super god of the bible.

To prove his point, god has Moses raise his snake stick and he sends hail mixed with fire that destroyed or killed all the crops, cattle or people that didn't take cover. Again we scratch our heads wondering how there were cattle or crops left from the previous rounds of smite where all the cattle and crops were destroyed but again, we keep regressing to logic. My apologies.

25 And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.

26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.

27 And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: the LORD is righteous, and I and my people are wicked.

By this time, it is safe to assume that Pharaoh is wondering himself why his heart is so hard. If I was Pharaoh and found out that I just got my entire nation's ass divinely smitten several fold because some god dude that isn't even my god by his own admission played me like his clay puppet, I would have a real hard heart right about at that point. In fact, I'd be down right pissed and ready to have some words with this deity that doesn't follow any rules of civility, morality or kindness. But Pharaoh agrees to let the Israelites go. Once Moses is outside of town, he raises his snake stick and stops the hail.

Pharaoh just gets pissed – and rightfully so if I say so myself – and he has the Israelites rounded back up and again fails to comply with god and Moses' reasonable request. Who actually does all this is a mystery since everyone in Egypt is ailing with the black boil shit and starvation, but again we digress to logic.

Genesis Chapter 10

1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his

servants, that I might show these my signs before him:

The lord is off to his usual start getting Moses and company all riled up in their righteous cause of sign making by continuing to harden the Pharaoh's now tachycardic heart even more.

This time the dynamic duo go to Pharaoh with promises of locusts which they deliver in true godly fashion that proceed to consume whatever vegetation the hail didn't thrash or burn. Before they unleash the locusts, the magicians are done with Moses and they try to get Pharaoh to listen to reason and just let the damn Jews go. But this chapter started with god hardening Pharaoh's heart again and what mortal can contend with the will of god - Right? So let the smiting commence – again.

15 For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.

Again reality begins overriding the heart hardening spell that was cast on Pharaoh by god and he says holy shit, just leave but take the damn locusts with you. Go, for the love of whatever god sends plagues like these, go.

19 And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt.

This verse reiterates how important destruction is to godliness and instilling the fear of god in ones less godly subjects. When reversing a very deadly and “grievous” spell or plague, make sure to destroy your tools of destruction for added effect. It just doesn't give the same message if you merely send the locusts back to wherever they were happily being locusts. Hell no, it makes a lot better impact if you drown every one of them in the red sea – after all they did commit the sin of gluttony and we cant have that shit flying around unpunished either now can we.

20 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go.

Are we seeing a very disturbing, sadistic and sick pattern here yet?

21 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.

And of course we get three days of pitch darkness where you couldn't see the light of Alexandria if it were lit next door. But the Israelites “had light in their dwellings” as one would expect.

Pharaoh, reeling with the blow of reality shaking ever so slightly the divine incantation on his heart, says “OK, ok – you can go – take your people and your children just leave your

livestock (surely hoping they would jump at the chance and leave a few living specimens as breeding stock to replenish the now extinct Egyptian herds.) Moses, not one to give an inch in his godly infused self assuredness says “no way José, we don’t know what the lord will want us to chop up, bleed out and burn as holy sacrifices to his omni-whateverness so the livestock goes with me.”

Now a reasonable human being won’t believe what happens next, but just to show that god has a sense of humor – a sick and twisted one but a sense of humor none the less...

27 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go.

Pharaoh tells Moses to get out of his face because the next time he sees Moses, Moses is a dead man. Frankly, Pharaoh showed great restraint and compassion by not killing Moses and the rest of his clan some time ago. However, they did have this nasty tempered very capricious and sadistic deity on their side so that will always be a historical conundrum.

Genesis Chapter 11

Moses is told again by god – no documentation whether in burning bush form or otherwise – that he will give one last warning that of course will not be heeded and consequently one final smite of smites, the mother of all pestilence, the ultimate smite to show everyone that gods the man.

5 And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts.

My only question here is why does this god take shit that he provokes out on innocent beings? You know I have to ask... What the holy f*#k?! Why does an alleged father in heaven, a creator, an almighty god, an omni-whatever deity feel the need to inflict such horrendous and unimaginable pain and suffering on people that have no say whatsoever in the matter he is taking issue with? Even the Pharaoh, whose sin was that of a hard heart, was given the affliction in the first place by the very god that supposedly wanted him to let the Israelites go. In the coherent world, this makes Pharaoh’s sin irrelevant and him technically innocent as well by the blatant coercion and manipulation he suffered at god’s hand. But lets be good Christians or whatever and give this god the benefit of the doubt. Let’s assume that indeed the Egyptians were evil and all, running around blowing up Regional Trade Centers, driving goat herds with bombs tied to them into Jewish auction houses, hijacking camel caravans to Mecca, keeping Jews as slaves to build their cities, etc. We obviously have some issues of corruption in the leadership of the country. A rogue nation like that could after all, get out of control and threaten our more conventional lifestyle or worse yet, our religion!

So, the supposedly perfect, all knowing, all loving, all powerful, Father in heaven, creator god of love – in order to prove a point – punishes the entire country, men, women, children, animals, wildlife, and natural resources alike in what would be considered cruel

and inhuman punishment and prohibited under the Geneva Convention? That sounds more like a vengeful, to be feared, insecure, tyrant asshole of ungodly proportions. Those seem more like the antics of say ... the George W. Bush administration.

But back to the story...

7 But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.

Lets not even address the narrow-minded, racist, hateful nature of this holy statement; but rather let us ponder in amazement the many reasons god has given the rest of the surrounding communities to hate the Jews and why.

9 And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you; that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.

10 And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

Here we go again. These thugs are threatening to kill the first-born of every Egyptian family or livestock and the "lord" hardens Pharaoh's heart so he will not comply with the demand so that god can show how kick-ass he is by killing the first born of all Egypt. That is for all intensive purposes, instigation to war, mass murder, gross crimes against nature, and on and on we could go with the list of atrocities perpetrated not in god's name but by god against an entire nation.

As I read the sickening lines, I cannot help but wonder what I was thinking the many years that I would have gladly given up everything or anything for a religion that backs this crap up.

Genesis Chapter 12

In preparation for one of the largest mass murders in history with the exception of Noah's flood of course, god tells Moses to tell his cronies that on the 10th of the month, they are all to pick out a yearling lamb or goat. The yearling they pick out has to be without blemish – so show quality livestock only used and one per Jewish household. On the 14th of the month, they are all to kill their baby lambs or goats that evening and smear the blood on the head and jambs of their front doorway.

7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

They Are further instructed to cook the little critter over a fire and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Now no boiling or baking allowed - the little bugger needs to roast

over fire because this of course affects the angel of death as he only skips houses with blood on the door AND roasted lamb for dinner.

Moses goes on to tell everyone that they need to burn whatever they don't eat that night but no leftovers for the Egyptians. Oh yeah, and they need to eat dressed to travel because they will be getting the hell out of Egypt that night and nobody wants to wait for a Jewish Princess to primp before she goes on a trip.

13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

So, god explains to Moses that the blood on the doorways is a sign for him to pass by and not kill the first-born in that house because his omnipotence is somewhat flawed in the sense that he just can't seem to remember which of his creations are Jews and which Egyptian. But wait a minute, he didn't create the Egyptians, Allah did. OK, what the hell? Why exactly did he need to kill all the baby lambs? – Beside the pleasing sacrifice thing of course.

It seems to me a god would be able to figure out who is a Jew and who is not when he goes on a first-born killing spree even if his omnipotence was in the quasi-omni stage of development. However, it appears the god of Abraham, Isaac and Joseph graduated from god-school thanks to contacts and politics, but rumor has it he rode the little bus there and back every day.

The bible god goes on about how the children of Israel should observe the Passover every year and when to commemorate the deliverance from the first-bornicide he committed that evening in Egypt.

29 And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.

30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

At this point, god couldn't harden his heart enough for him to keep up his pace in the face of such horror. Pharaoh gives in and tells Moses to take his people, their livestock and whatever else they want and get the hell out of Egypt. All of Egypt was in ruins from an onslaught of unimaginable horror and the few Egyptians that were left standing were pretty much in Pharaoh's face at this point, so the Israelites are free and they set out on their way to the Promised Land.

The lord goes on to further explain the whole Passover celebration and he gets into some interesting detail.

43 And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof:

44 But every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof.

It appears that the Jews who were slaves, had slaves of their own. We cannot explain why it seems ok for the Jews to have slaves, yet when the Egyptians had Jewish slaves it was another story altogether. Then we have this just god of Abraham saying that slaves of the Jews are ok to worship him at Passover as long as they had their Johnson trimmed at the tip. He goes on some more about the whole Passover thing and they start the 600 thousand man march out of Egypt after 430 years of slavery.

Yet again we see how our current society is indeed god-like. Take nuclear weapons for example. It is ok for the U.S. to have them because it is the U.S. - hell the inventor of the atom bomb. But about the time a backward-ass, heathenistic, non-Christian, country even thinks about harnessing nuclear energy to produce electricity, it merits almighty smite. The god of Abraham would definitely be proud.

Moses Parts the Red Sea

Exodus Chapter 14

Moses on his way out of Egypt decides to pitch camp by the Red Sea and god mentions that he isn't finished screwing with Pharaoh yet.

3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in.

4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so.

So, just in case you are sitting there with an incredulous dopey kind of look on your face like I do every time I read this, let me clarify.

God tells Moses to free the Israelites – which he does - after god hardens Pharaoh's heart so he won't comply so god can whoop Pharaoh's and Egypt's ass – which he did – several times.

This god sends the man back with pestilence and what not until finally after destroying everything in Egypt; god allows Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free which he wanted to do back with the frogs, but god kept hardening his heart.

Now, Egypt is in a mess recovering from things like the stench of dead frogs, curdled stinking blood flowing in the rivers and the associated environmental implications, black leprosy, a severe case of delusory parasitosis (still feeling like bugs are crawling over them), incendiary-monster-hail annihilation, and death of the first-born to name a few.

Pharaoh is going about making funeral arrangements for his now dead first-born. Lucky for him he is the Pharaoh and got preferential treatment because the funeral homes were booked solid for weeks after that doozie. Pharaoh obviously has some heavy stuff on his mind and needs some time to well... heal, grieve, drain the blood out of his pool, all kinds of issues in the aftermath of the almighty smiting. The guy is busy, preoccupied with some very personal and public issues – it's a very sensitive time in Egypt.

The Pharaoh did not become so because he was an idiot – he was doing pretty good for himself before Moses came along. I think it is safe to say, he was at least of average intelligence.

What kind of an idiotic, brain-dead imbecile would even consider pissing off Moses or his god after all the crap they put him through? Obviously, nobody, drunk or sober would do that. But this god has an agenda and a very very creepy need to throw his weight around and flaunt his omni-whateverness in very sick and twisted ways. For some reason known only to god (literally) he feels like he hasn't dealt out enough smite and he hardens Pharaoh's heart AGAIN.

What the hell?!

Moses was gone, Egypt in ruins, Israel was on their way to more adventures of biblical proportion – it was over – the point was superbly made. The god of Isaac, Jacob and Joseph has shown his true colors and kept his promise and was off the hook. It was over. He won! We are all fearing him – shitless. His divine intervention worked fabulously. The heart hardening spell, while a bit cliché after the third or fourth time, worked like a charm. It was OVER!

But NO, oh oh oh! He is going to do it again and enchant the Pharaoh with his hard heart charm and get him to go after the Israelites for another ass whoopin' so he can be "honoured upon Pharaoh" and the Egyptians know he is LORD.

Now surely mister all-knowing, all-seeing, had to have SEEN that the Egyptians pretty much agreed that he was anyone he wanted to be to them when he finally released his spell on Pharaoh, and they let the Israelites go.

Im no scholar and I don't claim to know in what context god would be honoured upon Pharaoh – hell, I don't know what that means at all. What I do know is that whatever he calls what he did to Pharaoh, there was no honor in it. Nor was there love, or kindness, or any quality whatsoever that a father would have with his children.

But god went and hardened the Pharaoh's heart yet again and Pharaoh rounds up 600 chariots which he was able to acquire very cheap due to the scorching hail damage. After rallying the leper troops, they all drag their boil-infested ass (many strait from burying their first-born) into the chariots and off they go to get the Israelites back so they can REALLY piss off the smiter-in-chief.

As the Israelites see the oncoming army of scabby, sore oozing zombies in used, hail-damaged chariots, they were not only incredulous but very distraught by the prospect of being consumed by the living dead or whatever was about to go down. They start screaming and running and severely questioning Moses' divine calling and prophet-ness. As one would expect, the Israelites are saying things like "damnit Moses, you should have stayed the hell out of it. We were better off back in Egypt alive than here in the wilderness dead!"

Moses, tells everyone to relax and stop yelling and running because god has it under control, he will deal with the army, and they will never see them again after today. Besides that they were scaring all the little kids and livestock and he didn't want to cross the wilderness eating bloody eggs.

15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me?

It seems our hero was either in a deep sleep, too busy smiting other parts of the globe or due to some heavenly virus he lost his omni-ness, but he actually had the part where he doesn't know what's going on with the Israelites printed in the final edition of his holy handbook. He had to get Moses to remind him what he needed. Wasn't it god that cast the hard heart spell? I think god smokes pot. If he sees all, why didn't he see the Pharaohs chariots bearing down on the screaming masses? Would anyone you know watching say from the top of a hill, wonder what Moses wanted at that particular moment? I rest.

16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

17 And I, behold, **I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them:** and I will get me *honour upon Pharaoh*, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

So while Moses prepares to smite, god places a pillar of fiery dust in the way of the Egyptians so they can't get by. This gives Moses time to take the snake stick out and command the red sea to part, which it does by the next morning and they cross on dry ground. I guess if the Red Sea is parting with walls of water raging on either side of the swath of seabed you are walking across, you don't wonder why the wagons aren't getting stuck in the mud.

The Israelites start trekking along the seabed and eventually the fiery dust devil subsides and the Pharaohs troops charge after them. Being Omni-creative as well as comical, god toys with the Egyptians before striking the fatal blow...

25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

Like that was news at this point – come on now! So why take off the wheels of the chariots? Is this guy really that obsessed with – among several other things – dramatics? Why not just zap them with lightning or give the horses colic so they slow down? Why not give Cherubim a break from guarding the stupid tree back at the abandoned garden and let him slay them with his flaming sword? I can think of a thousand things a god could do to slow down the Egyptians before I would make the wheels fall off their chariots. I have an idea - Why not just stop hardening hearts and stop the genocide?

Once across, god tells Moses to reach out with the old snake stick and have the Red Sea engulf the Egyptians and that is exactly what happened. He drowned every single one of them horses and all. Not one Egyptian survived the holy tsunami.

30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

I am sure there is a clinical name for the disorder described above but I don't know what it is. What I do know is that sort of thing still happens today by people who are promptly removed from society or committed to asylums for creating a crime or desperate situation to solve it and be the hero.

The Lord saved Israel from himself not the Egyptians – or did I read something wrong or misunderstand something?

And that my dear friends is the inspiring story of Moses parting the Red Sea.

I could not make this shit up.

Honestly, I would end the story at this point, but if you read one more chapter, the fodder is intoxicating and its draw is too much for me to ignore. Like a shit-magnet I am compelled to attract and reject and my north pole just caught got in the field of the south end of this story so I have to address the chapter I like to call “The Divine Gloat” or “Humility Hath No Bounds”.

Genesis Chapter 15

After the Tsunami of 1550 BC and the mass drowning of the Pharaoh and his armies, Moses and company have cause for jubilation and Moses breaks into song. This chapter and the canticle contents are eloquently referred to by some as the Song of The Sea.

- 1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.
- 2 The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.
- 3 The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.

So, we have the Israelites chanting and singing praise to Genghis-god the original “war lord” and reiterating what he made very clear through monotonous repetition – he is LORD, he is LORD, yep his name is Lord.

Then they break into the gloat verse of this melodious cantata with...

4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

5 The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone.

6 Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

7 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

The fact that it was far from a fair fight detracts - in my mind at least - from the merits of almightiness when this god literally picked the fight with Pharaoh by not releasing the spell he kept casting on him. By constantly hardening his heart, god ensured that he would have an opposing combatant or more accurately a sacrificial King to grand stand his almightiness on. Don't we call that bullying when it happens say in grade school?

8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

10 Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

I got nothin' for the above – it spews for itself quite adequately. However, the next verse is very interesting on several levels:

11 Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the **gods**? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Well, first of all, since I am writing this, I will give my answer to that question – hopefully nobody! Do we really need a bellicose, vengeful, manipulating, fear-inspiring deity dude among the gods? Yes, I did it – I pluralized the unpluralizable, I committed the highest sacrilege and yet it's a direct quote from the holy text! The Christian Holy Bible states in various locations including the aforementioned that there is more than one god among the gods. This one just happens to be the “fearfully praised, glorious in holiness, wonder-doer” who amazingly, gloriously, whooped the crap out of people he would not allow to **not** engage him in conflict by hardening their hearts unlike any lord among the gods.

And the biblical cantata continues...

12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy

strength unto thy holy habitation.

14 The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina.

Again we are celebrating but no mention of love, joy, peace, kindness, etc. no, we celebrate the fact that all fear this god.

16 Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.

“Fear and dread, fire and brimstone, doom and gloom, death and destruction, screw up and die! Good vs. evil, us against them, chosen trumps gentile, cheat to win, image is everything, smite over all!” sounds like the mantra of this so-called song of the sea. I can see it becoming another Gregorian hit among the Gothic-Christian crowd. Set it to a Libana-esque pagan drum background to stay true to biblical form and we have a chart-buster.

18 The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.

19 For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

Nah, nah, nah, nah, naaaaaaaaah! Goes the holy gloat over whatever that was.

20 And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

How the hell did that tidbit of heresy get by the holy editor in chief? Did I read the word “prophetess” as if women may actually have a role in religion and spirituality by the very word of god? While some religions are joining the human race and including women in the clergy where they naturally excel, most deny women any ecclesiastical or authoritative position and yet Miriam was a prophetess of god. How exactly do they explain where god changed his mind and stripped women of their prophetic potential?

Anyway, the prophetess and all the women took timbrels, or in today’s jargon tambourines, and they sang and danced the night away as guests to Miriam’s first ever Desert Rave.

While everyone was all happy and dancing and singing praise to the deliverer Genghis-god, not to allow frivolity or any similar sins against his whateverness, he throws in one last promise with very threatening undertones if you ask me; but who am I to question the holy bible?

26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

But if you happen to slip and slack in one some or god forbid all of the above, you can pretty much count on all hell breaking loose on you, just like it did them.

From what we have read so far, it is obvious it doesn't go so well for anyone that goes against this god be it on his own or otherwise heart-hardened. It is made very clear who is lord and what he expects, so as long as you hearken to a voice only Moses hears, do what is right in god's sight, follow the commandments, *and* keep ALL his statutes (whether you know them or not), he wont put any of the plagues of Egypt on you.

But just you dare to screw up, in fact I dare you to even slip a bit. I double-dog-dare you to even think about screwing up ANY "statutes" and apparently, according to the holy word of god, the plagues of Egypt will be yours as well.

I love you too father.

You know I have to ask...but Ill give you the honors...

{Insert incredulous, profane and irreverent inquisitive by reader here }

The Story of Lot, Sodom and Gomorra

In Genesis, chapter 18, god is getting ready to unleash his vengeance and wrath on the cities of Sodom and Gomorra because of their grievous sins.

20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

With that, god swoops down to town and finds that it is pretty much as he expected, grievously sinful or whatever, so he tells Abraham that he is going to just obliterate the place. Abraham has seen that when this god smites, he doesn't screw around with the low-cal version of smite, he gives it his brimstone-laden, special version of all-out smite. So Abraham says "hey, you wouldn't torch the place if there were 50 good people among the sinners would you?" to which god replies, "ok, you show me 50 and the smite is off." Abraham, knows that god isn't going into this wager blindly and god isn't one to risk losing a good, justified session of godly smite either, so he counters... "What if I find 45?" "Deal" says god. "40?" "Done!" "30?" "deal" "20?" "Fine, your still on" "Ten?" "whatever dude" and with that god walked out on Abraham and Abraham went home thinking "holy shit, those towns are screwed – I hope he doesn't make me torch them with the snake stick".

33 And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

Chapter 19

1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

Lot asks these travelers to come into his house, wash up, rest, and be on their way the next day. They tell him they are cool in the street, but Lot will not hear of it and he persuades them in for dinner.

After dinner they are about to turn in for the night and they hear this god-awful racket outside from all the townspeople in a mob surrounding Lot's house. This concerns Lot, I am sure he is thinking his homeowners insurance is going to skyrocket if these two are mobbed in his house.

5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

So, this mob apparently wants to know in a biblical sense the two men visitors at Lot's house. Being that this mob is from downtown Sodom, its safe to say, they were likely going to really "know" them.

Lot goes out to diffuse the situation shutting the door behind him and he says to the mob that they should not do what they are considering to the travelers however ...

8 Behold now, I have two daughters, which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

Im going to spoil this story by telling you that this Lot guy is actually very well liked by the bible god and he is saved from the impending smite, he ends up being another prophet since god talks directly to him in a bit. But, before he is promoted to prophet, he offers up his two virgin daughters for an enraged mob to do with as they see fit as long as they don't ass-ram the two guys he has holed up at this point because they did after all, go to him for refuge or something.

You know I have to ask... HUH?

This miserable lump of shit excuse of a man offers up his own virgin daughters to be violated by an angry mob with fudge packing on their mind rather than have the premium on his homeowners go up or whatever the hell he thought would happen.

This sorry little carbon unit didn't even know these visitors were angels yet either, as far as he knew, they were just travelers. Lucky for his daughters, the crowd wanted the two travelers so they pushed their way against the door to get in at them. The travelers pull Lot in

11 And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

So, while everyone stumbles over each other in their newly acquired state of blindness, the angel/travelers tell Lot to round up his family and get the hell out of town and make for the mountains because the smite is about to commence. Lot is told to run and to not look back or they will be consumed.

Lot takes his wife and two daughters and they run like hell to the mountains just in time.

24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven

25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

Lot's family is now on the run from the fallout of gods nuclear smite blast to the cities and his wife decides to take one last look at her home as it is being annihilated by the holy

annihilator; but that particular lapse of memory or disregard for instructions had a life changing effect on her.

26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Another of the less creative smite tactics this god has come up with, but after all, she was told to not look back. As we have seen, this god does not mess around when one dares to go against his holy edicts regardless of the level of logic or common sense or lack thereof.

In god's defense, he did spare the "worthy" ones by allowing Lot and his family to get out before they were brimstoned to death as sort of requested by Abraham. He didn't spare the city, but he did get the "righteous" out. So, Lot is righteous in the eyes of the lord in spite of the fact that he just offered up his two virgin daughters to a mob to be ravished at their discretion. This tells me two things: a) Sodom and Gomorrah must have been crazy places. b) god has low standards for righteousness and no definite concept of what constitutes worthy as the standard fluctuates from story to story.

30 And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters.

Lonely and shackled up in a cave with their dad, the virgin daughters realize that their father is old and they aren't exactly in a position to date, marry and provide progeny living in a cave. So, they come up with a grand plan that any loving daughter would see as her holy duty. So selfless are these two that god himself had their righteous actions engraved in his holy handbook for all posterity to study, admire, learn from and emulate.

32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.

33 And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

34 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay yesternight with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, and lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.

35 And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

36 Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father.

I'm sorry, but I don't care how drunk on wine you are, you will either pass out and never get it up or you will know god-damn well you are about to have sex with your daughter. Being that both girls got pregnant, Lot obviously got it up. We all know he knew he was boning his daughter the first time, so it is safe to assume that when his younger daughter is trying to get him drunk again the next night, he would have to be a moron to not know what was on her mind as well. So this horny old duffer doinks them both because they gave him wine? And this behavior finds favor in the sight of this bible god. Let me repeat – there is no way he was so drunk he didn't know who he was doing because he would be

passed out. Lot knew what he was doing, omni-whatever god dude knew and yet this is obviously ok.

So, god destroys two cities because they are “wicked” but he doesn’t actually tell us what wicked is so we can be sure to avoid it in the future. Yet he saves the righteous ones who are a very warped bunch at best, and he glorifies this inbred, vile down line of genetic refuse as the future of Israel. Lovely.

Ultimately, who reads that crap and concludes that the books of the OT were written for anyone but the Jews? It is THEIR book! It does not belong, relate or otherwise even deserve to be contemplated as having anything to do with anyone but ancient Jews!

The most bothersome issue of all of this for me is that for over 30 years I blindly, unquestioningly and ignorantly actually worshipped this arrogant, vile, insecure, puny excuse of a deity as if he were God.

The Story of Jonah and the Whale

Jonah's story is told in the book of Jonah, the 32nd book of the Old Testament. A classic for children and adults alike due to the creativity of god in his smite tactic in this case. Jonah is a prophet and god instructs him to travel to the city of Nineveh to call the people to repentance because he caught wind of their wickedness.

Apparently, Jonah had experienced some difficulties in the past when asked to call a large city to repentance because he flat out did not want to do it this time; so he wanders down to the dock and catches the first ferry to Tarshish hoping to elude the lord and get out of being the deliverer of unwelcome tidings.

Why this prophet who by definition is a man that speaks to god, did not know that god had a fairly accurate, holy GPS on his ass and could find him wherever he went is a mystery to everyone. Jonah's attempt to evade omni-whateverness backfires and god, true to form is now placed in the all too common position of having to unleash some smite to keep his prophet in line.

After a long history of prophet ass kicking, one would think that god in his all-knowingness would do a better job at screening candidates for prophet positions. The Bible is chuck full of god's screw-ups and this is just another one – he picks a prophet and the dude tries to run off on him rather than do what prophets do and confront a city about their sins.

Not one to be fooled, god causes the wind to blow and the waves to crash on the boat Jonah is in to the point that the sailors were afraid that it was going to sink.

5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

Jonah is not only going prophetic AWOL but he is in the hull asleep while the storm god conjured up is raging outside and has all the sailors clamoring to whatever god they happen to pray to for help and throwing everything overboard to lighten the ship so it doesn't sink.

7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

Ok, there we have the holy answer to so many issues that we waste so much time investigating through logical methodology in order to arrive at a conclusion when the Bible tells us clearly that all we have to do is draw lots! What the hell are we thinking by following a logical sequence to arrive at the truth through deduction when it is just a matter of drawing straws? I do not understand why mainstream Christianity frowns so harshly on divination when the Holy Bible is giving us a perfect example of when to use it and how accurately it works. Jonah was the culprit and the lots or straws brought him to the light. The other people on the boat begin to ask him who he is and where he is from and why he is the bringer of such evil and doom. Jonah explains to the now unfriendly crowd that he is

a Hebrew and he “fears the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land”. Oh and by the way, I kind of blew the lord off when he told me to call the city of Nineveh to repentance and I got on this boat instead.

10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

11 Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

While Jonah was a lazy-ass prophet, he was still a fairly stand-up kinda guy, and knowing the impending shipwreck was his fault, he told the crew to throw him overboard and the sea would calm down. The crew was very tempted but somewhat uncomfortable with homicide so they decided to try rowing back to shore instead of throwing Jonah into the sea. As smite would have it, they didn't get very far against the godly raging waters so they threw Jonah overboard and the sea stopped raging - just like that.

16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.

It seems that sacrificing Jonah to the sea would suffice, but we know how “sweet the savour” of burning animal carcass is to god when offered up to please him, so it was probably best that they did. I can only imagine a bunch of sailors scared shitless making vows. What exactly does one vow in a case like this? “Oh god, get me out of this one and I will never ferry a Hebrew again.”

17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Now we know that Jonah was either a primordial dwarf or full of shit, because there is no fish or mammal on earth that could or would swallow a man whole. The original Hebrew text reads *dag gadol*, which literally means "great fish." Somewhere around 1534 it evolved into *ketos* (Greek) and *cetus* (Latin) which became synonymous with whale and the modern day study of whales is now called cetology. This translation was incorporated into the 1611 version of the bible and since then it has been blindly accepted that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

What the holy book fails miserably at clarifying for those with a brain is how exactly Jonah was able to breathe or survive for 3 days in the belly of a whale, or if he was in a stasis, how was he not consumed by the digestive enzymes in the stomach. Lets assume somehow Jonah was able to survive being human sushi and actually lived for 3 days and nights in the belly of the big fish; what species of fish or whale was it?

The only whales with mouths large enough to swallow a human whole are the baleen type whales but they eat plankton and would choke on a salmon so it wasn't one of them. The sperm whale is a carnivore but has a small mouth and tears its prey into pieces so it wasn't him. Some scholars say it might have been a Great White shark but an adult human is too large to be swallowed whole, so it wasn't him either. Others say it may have been the whale shark which is about the only animal with a mouth big enough to swallow a man whole, but there is a minor snag to that theory as well – their throat is only 4 inches wide and while a man could fit in the mouth, swallowing a human is an impossibility. So, there

doesn't appear to be a fish or mammal known to science that is capable of carrying out this feat. Then somehow, we have to wrap our tiny little brains around the fact that Jonah lived through the ordeal and quite lucidly at that.

In chapter 2 we read...

- 1 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,
- 2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

Jonah not only resides in the belly of tyrannosaurus fish but he prays to god and repents of his antics and he goes on for 8 verses about how wretched he is and how great god is and how he needs the hell out of the fish and the sea weeds off his face and wah, wah, wah.

10 And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Sure, god is omni-whatever and can do anything and everything, and one could argue – again – that he just willed it and so it was. However, in his omni-whateverness why didn't he just bitch slap Jonah for being a wimp and swami some boils with blains on him or something? What is up with the ridiculous fish tales and the omni-dramatics that just do not make sense? It seems it would be easier to just make sense – especially since this whopper of a fish story is supposedly for our benefit somehow.

In Chapter 3, god tells Jonah to get his ass to Nineveh like he told him the first time and call the city to repentance. This time Jonah, still smelling like a fish processing plant hauls his smelly prophetic self to the city and begins telling everyone that they have 40 days to shape up or else.

- 5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.
- 6 For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

Now the entire city is running around dressed in burlap and the king is soaking his royal hemorrhoids in ashes for reasons unknown and everyone stops eating and drinking to appease the very legendary wrath of god.

- 10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

This is a big deal and yet this verse gets very little publicity. In fact after the fish spits Jonah out, most wrap the story up with “and he lived happily ever after.” But lets give credit where credit is due. The almighty smiter has a grand excuse to unleash his smite but realizes how evil his way of destruction is and he repents – god REPENTS! Who says god cannot sin when his holy handbook says he did? The city was spared and god borrows a burlap bag and some ashes and goes to sit in them for a spell - or whatever.

In chapter 4, Jonah gets pissed off beyond reason with god. He is apparently extremely disappointed that he did not get to see the brimstone pyrotechnic show raining down on the

city. After all, he went through so much trouble to finally be there to announce the forthcoming destruction. So, Jonah says to god...

3 Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

This is a textbook case of prophetic tantrum syndrome – very uncommon these days but a big problem for Jonah. Still hoping for some fireworks and enraged with the way god cheated him out of the smite show,

5 Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.

You know, just in case god has a relapse, sticks to historical form, and decides not to repent after all.

Just to show Jonah that there are no hard feelings, god has a gourd plant grow up over his little lean-to grandstand to keep him shaded from the sun. This is a nice touch for a god with such a history of screwing with people.

7 But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.

Just when we thought god was going to disappoint us by being nice, he just can't help himself – some believe he has an addictive personality, others figure he is just a jerk and most just worship him. Whatever your view is on the matter, he killed the gourd bush that was shading Jonah. But that's not all...

8 And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.

Again, the prophetic tantrum syndrome gets the better of Jonah and instead of just catching the next ferry to wherever and waiting for the next city to merit god's smite, he goes into this drama of wanting to die. Much to god's embarrassment, this poorly selected prophet gets all caught up in his dying booth-plant and a mild case of heat stroke.

But god says to Jonah, what the hell are you so worried about a plant that you did nothing to make grow? Shouldn't we both be more concerned about the one hundred twenty thousand plus people that do not know right from wrong in this city, as well as many animals? (Jonah 4:9-11)

And that was pretty much the end of Jonah's career, however, this particular story is very important and transcendental in nature, just not in the ways it has been force-fed to us by those who think they are "in the know".

Even though god just had to screw with Jonah and his technique is somewhat over the top in terms of dramatics and sensationalism, we can all be very proud of how well his heavenly anger management classes are doing for him. As we have seen in past stories, god has a history of unleashing his anger problem on the innocent and in this case, he was able to maintain some divine composure and restraint.

We also see that god is obviously not “perfect”, as many believe. Nobody disputes the fact that he is powerful, but powerful does not necessarily mean perfect. Perfect implies without fault or defect and yet in the holy word, in chapter 3 verse 10 it states very clearly that god had need of repenting of the evil he had planned to unleash on the innocent. He even goes on to share his logic with the very disappointed Jonah in chapter 4 when he asks Jonah if he really thought it necessary to kill the 120 thousand plus people as well as animals that did not know any better. God realizes and admits to the world that his habit of smiting people that do not know any better is evil and something that requires repentance. Another glitch in omni-whateverness this holy story brings to light is the fact that is highlighted in just about every Bible story and that is god’s inability to judge character and screen candidates for prophet. If god is all-knowing, then he knew Jonah would take the boat rather than go to Nineveh. So why would he act all pissed at the fact, start the storm and scare the hell out of everyone on board the boat; or prepare the magical ichthyologic submarine for Jonah to cruise about in the belly of for 3 days?

While this and all the Bible stories are more along the lines of ridiculous and saddening rather than instructional or uplifting, we do have to admit that they are very revealing of the true nature of this Bible god. What I just can not bring my puny little brain to wrap itself around is how this god or any of his agents of propaganda, marketing and indoctrination, came up with this stuff to supposedly make us better people, more worthy of his blessings or of eternal salvation.

At least we are able to put to rest the theory and false doctrine regarding god’s displeasure with divination and sorcery. This story clearly teaches the use of divination through drawing straws as a divinely sanctioned method of discovery of truth and ascertaining guilt when evidence is non-existent. I cant help but wonder why the courts have a witness swear to tell the truth by placing their right hand on the bible and yet they don’t save the time and expense of an unnecessary jury by just keeping a stack of straws at the judges desk to be drawn by any suspects.

Anyway, that’s the story of Jonah and the whale.

The Story of Samson & Delilah

In the book of Judges, in chapter 13 we read about the legendary Samson and his god-given, super-hero strength. Our story unfolds at a time where the Israelites are again straying from the will of god and due to their wickedness, the god of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, offers them up as slaves again, this time to the Philistines for about 40 years.

2 And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife

was barren, and bare not.

3 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

This news is a godly favorite to drop on old barren women, it has such a controversial effect on the rest of their lives and yet they get so little mention for being the bearer and conduit of god's plots. So the angel goes on to instruct the woman...

5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines

"The woman" is minding her own business probably getting lunch ready or picking out a young unblemished baby lamb to brutalize, torture and incinerate for that evenings offering to god, when this angel pops in and tells her she is about to have a child. Apparently, god is not involved with the insemination in this case, which makes her life and pregnancy a lot easier to explain than a certain Mary who comes along some time later. The angel goes on to tell the woman that she and the child should avoid strong drink and unclean food.

A Nazarite is a Jew that takes the ascetic vow as described in Numbers 6:1-21 that requires the person to abstain from wine, grapes, raisins, wine vinegar and alcohol, refrain from cutting the hair on ones head and avoid corpses and graves. So, not only will she be having a child but it will come with a long list of thou shalt and thou shalt nots so he can be the lords instrument in freeing the Israelites from the Philistines.

The woman runs to tell her husband about the encounter and what the ghostly messenger had said. Manoah, prays to god to ask that he allow the messenger to come back and give them more information on how they are to raise this child and what to do with him, which he does.

Manoah wants to honor the messenger and name the kid after him and have him stay to a feast but the messenger – not wanting to steal any thunder and well aware of the consequences if he did - tells the couple they should thank god and leave him out of it.

19 So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wonderously; and Manoah and his wife looked on.

20 For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground.

What exactly the angel did so wondrously is a biblical mystery but if he is anything like his boss, he was getting off on the "sweet savour" of burning innocent flesh. While it is mere speculation, one can only imagine what an aroused angel does when the heavenly aphrodisiac of burnt offering is in the air. Whatever it was, it was wondrous as he danced some ethereal smoke dance as he rose through the flames and the smoke into heaven in a conspicuous display of theatrics never to be seen again.

24 And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

In chapter 14 Samson is maturing and his hormones are raging ...

1 And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines.

2 And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife.

Samson's parents are cautious in their approach because their kid can and likely has beat the crap out of both of them in a tantrum. However, as concerned parents they try to persuade Samson to date a nice clean Jewish princess of circumcisional decent rather than a dirty Philistine from an uncircumcised father to no avail.

5 Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him.

6 And the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

Apparently Samson's parents were off sight seeing on this trip to Timnath and they somehow didn't hear the roar of the lion or its screams and cries as Samson kills it with his bare hands, but he sure taught that damn cat a lesson for daring to roar at him.

7 And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.

It appears you get to try before you buy – or marry as the case may be – and the woman did it for our hero and pleased him so what the hell, the wedding was on.

8 And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion.

9 And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion.

These are telling verses to the open minded biblical scholar as we can see that Samson was without doubt plagued by some type of mental disorder. This condition could be the result of his over stimulated pituitary gland and steroid production, but we can only speculate with the limited information available. What is incontrovertible is the fact that only a deranged mind would allow a guy to think it is somehow acceptable to harvest wild honey from inside a stinking, rotten, decaying lion corpse self-pickling in the sun that he happened to kill several months before. Having had some apicultural experience myself, I know a hive takes several weeks to become established and produce honey. So that smelly lion road kill had been festering for a long ass time, steeping in its own juices and slowly dehydrating and breaking down with the help of numerous birds, animals and insects to the point that bees saw it as a viable hive. The bees stake their homestead claim to the remains and before you know it, they have honey oozing out of every feline orifice calling to Samson as he passes by to harvest and so generously share with everyone. It is absolutely no wonder he chose not to share where the honey came from because the whole scenario is absolutely disgusting even for a mentally challenged brute like our hero.

10 So his father went down unto the woman: and Samson made there a feast; for so used the young men to do.

11 And it came to pass, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him.

The wedding feast begins and as tradition dictates, Samson gets thirty groomsmen assigned to him. It is safe to assume that tensions at the feast are high since we have an inter-racial

marriage taking place, all the groomsmen are Philistines and not friends of Samson's or his family and there was likely some jockeying for position and pissing order in true macho fashion where testosterone rules and women are referred to as "the woman".

12 And Samson said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you: if ye can certainly declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty change of garments:

13 But if ye cannot declare it me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty change of garments. And they said unto him, Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear it.

14 And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle.

So the thirty groomsmen are perplexed by this riddle for days and on the verge of losing 30 sheets of fine linen and 30 changes of clothing so they go to the bride and say "find the answer to that damn riddle or we will burn your house down with you and your father in it". With this motivational proposition before her, she approaches Samson in tears and asks him why he has put a riddle before her people and has not told her the answer. Samson replies with "are you nuts? I haven't even told my parents, and you think I'm going to tell you, a nameless female." So, she bellyached, cried and pouted for the 7 days the party lasted driving Samson nuts. Gender dynamics haven't changed that much so chances are she was holding out on him which is the unbeatable female secret weapon that drove him to tell her the answer to the damn riddle which she readily shared with her country folk to save her own hide and home.

18 And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day before the sun went down, What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion? And he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle.

Whether he was going to get any or not, Samson was pissed as can be appreciated by his reference to his wife as a heifer. So as Samson contemplates his reality, he is faced with a wife that betrayed him throwing him under the bus to save her own ass, a considerable debt to 30 guys he doesn't know or like, and he isn't even into the first month of his marriage.

19 And the spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

Here we see how god clearly illustrates that is not only OK, but his spirit will "come upon" you if you lose a bet by deception and find yourself killing 30 innocent people in order to plunder their belongings and pay your debt as well as appease your own bruised ego. I find this information and doctrine to be somewhat justificatory in nature for a lot of people that are currently in prison on death row when it appears they should just be beatified and written into more bible stories. What the ... hell?

20 But Samson's wife was given to his companion, whom he had used as his friend.

In this verse, we see the narcissistic side of Samson as he gives his supposed friend the deceitful, untrustworthy, chicken-shit excuse of a wife as if his friend had done something to piss Samson off too. I understand dumping the woman, but why would you dump on a friend?

In chapter 15, Samson starts feeling the need to relieve some sexual tension and he tries to “visit his wife with a kid.” I sincerely hope the word kid is used interchangeably between child and baby goat throughout the bible or things are sicker than I first perceived. We will take the high road and assume that that is the case and he wanted to impregnate her and not engage in weird acts of bestiality with her and a goat. Either way, her father told Samson, “no way big guy, you hate her and I gave her to your buddy. Her sister is better looking anyway. Why don’t you take her instead?” In spite of the contradiction regarding who actually gave the woman to his friend, this frustrating scenario enrages the steroidal Samson who now feels justified in some vengeance. Being the psychologically challenged guy he was, he comes up with one of the sickest, strangest, most logistically complicated, hair-brained ideas to get his revenge. Our hero somehow rounds up three hundred foxes, tied torches to their tails and let them loose in the Philistine’s corn fields, vineyards and olive orchards burning them to the ground. What the loving, caring bible fails to account for is the well-being or fate of the innocent foxes that had burning torches tied to their tails and were used as incendiary delivery devices of guerilla warfare in a very troubling manner. Just why Samson or his heavenly puppeteer felt that innocent people’s crops and livelihood deserved to be burned to the ground because he was denied a bit of Philistine booty is mind-boggling.

6 Then the Philistines said, Who hath done this? And they answered, Samson, the son in law of the Timnite, because he had taken his wife, and given her to his companion. And the Philistines came up, and burnt her and her father with fire.

The Philistines did not screw around. Samson burns their crops, they in turn burn “the woman”, and her dad to make sure Samson gets the message that burning crops is not cool in their neck of the desert. Logic would indicate that Samson would just figure she had it coming and move on to free the Israelites or some other holy duty of Nazarite nature. But that would make for poor drama and requires a healthy mind to process logic versus emotion driven by ego.

7 And Samson said unto them, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease.

8 And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam.

Now, we are taught that it is also acceptable to god to kill a bunch of people if they are involved in killing your ex and her dad. But, Samson didn’t count on the Philistine’s wanting revenge and getting a small army together to go whoop Samson’s ass off his rock. As the Philistines approach, the Israelites ask

10 Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us.

So with that, the Israelites send three thousand men up to Samson’s rock hangout and said “do you realize what you have done? The Philistines are our rulers and you have managed to royally piss them off. What are you doing to us?” Samson replied with a very calm “I just gave them back what they dished out.”

The Israelites informed Samson that they were going to tie him up and turn him over to the Philistines before things got out of control. Samson said he would go along with the plan as long as they promised not to kill him but just bind him and turn him over to the Philistines.

13 And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock.

Our hero is now turned over to the Philistines and they start to shout at him and get all riled up so “the spirit of the lord came mightily upon him” and he broke the ropes that bound him and ...

15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

16 And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men.

Again the heavenly puppeteer has his brain dead gargantuan thug slaughter another 1000 men while gods spirit is upon him “mightily”.

Samson being the holy, righteous and upstanding member of society he is, with god’s spiritual and political endorsement, leads Israel for 20 years in the days of the Philistines. This of course gives the Jews a truly righteous role model to look up to and try to emulate along with the preceding series of whacko prophets god had thrown at these poor people throughout history.

In chapter 15, Samson is back to his plaguing condition of blue-ball that has gotten so many people killed in the past, but god in his wisdom shares with us all what to do when you are horny, and overcome with testosterone.

1 Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.

Thank god for biblical whores because this woman saved countless lives by keeping Samson’s rocks on ice enough that he didn’t feel the spirit of god strengthening him so he could kill another thousand people. The holy handbook clearly indicates to all of us that when we feel angry and with a lot of pent up sexual energy, rather than kill people, we just need to find a whore. That is what so many evangelical mega-church preachers including Jesse Jackson have done and they get in trouble over it. Why is it that bible god seems to think Samson can do it and they can’t?

2 And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him.

Well, Samson just got up at midnight, yanked the doors of the city right off, posts and all, threw them on his shoulders and hiked up a hill and dumped them there in an act of taunting defiance.

4 And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

Even super heroes get bored with prostitutes, so Samson hooks up with Delilah.

5 And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver.

Even by today's standard, that is a lot of silver. Delilah doesn't waste any time interrogating Samson about what would counteract his strength. Samson was an idiot but he had enough grey matter to tease Delilah a bit so he told her that he could be bound with seven fresh bowstrings and he would have the strength of an ordinary man. So, the Philistines give her seven bow strings, and she ties Samson with them.

9 Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known.

10 And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound.

Any person with an IQ over 20 would say something along the lines of "to hell with you bitch! you tied me up thinking I couldn't get away and had some guys in my bedroom waiting to kill me and you say I have mocked YOU?!" But as we know Samson is all but brain dead so he tells her that if he were bound with new ropes that have never been used, he will lose his strength.

12 Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And there were liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread.

Now at this point, you just have to ask - what the f*#k? How is it that Samson is refraining from slaughtering all these home intruders and subsequently Delilah for setting him up and letting them in on his secret, not to mention his bedroom? But that is a logical view on very illogical matters so I won't risk blowing a cerebral gasket trying to understand this crap, Ill just tell it.

13 And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web.

Delilah doesn't waste any time and ties seven of his locks together as he slept. Again, he is woken by Delilah announcing that he is about to be mobbed by the Philistines when he calmly undoes his hair and hopefully beats the crap out of whoever was hiding in his house to kill him by invitation of his beloved Delilah.

15 And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth.

16 And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death;

Here god illustrates the incredible ability of women to nag a guy to death or just wear and beat him down until he just gives up and figures even death is better than any more of this shit to the point of unconditional surrender.

Samson tells Delilah that his hair is what gives him strength so she sends for the Philistines and they come running silver in hand while Delilah has Samson asleep in her lap and has his head shaved.

This time Samson wakes up to find that since his Nazarite oath has been broken, God has dumped his sorry ass and the philistines put out his eyes and made him grind wheat in prison.

Slowly but surely Samson's hair grew back and one day as the Philistines gathered to make sacrifices to their god Dagon for delivering Samson to them, they had Samson brought to the temple to entertain them. The Philistines were extremely happy to finally catch Samson because he had killed over one thousand people at this point and was not very popular among them.

As the people taunt and make fun of him, Samson asks the boy that is leading him to place him against the pillars that hold up the roof of the temple to steady himself on.

27 Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.

28 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

The god of vengeance, not about to lose out on some of his namesake, complies and grants Samson his final wish. Samson pushes the pillars out from under the roof causing the temple to collapse on top of him as he yells "Geronimo!" which interpreted means "let me die with the Philistines" or something along those lines.

30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.

And thus ends the tyrannical reign of Samson the brainless over the people of Judah as well as the slaughter of Philistines at his hand as guided by the god of Abraham, Isaac & whoever.

This muscle bound, brainless thug murders over 4000 people over stupid issues of pride and revenge, and the bible god not only strengthens him to do it, but prepared him from birth for these horrible acts of mass homicide.

There is no mention in the bible about what becomes of the now very wealthy Delilah, but this story does absolutely nothing to dispel the ongoing image created by this bible god and perpetuated in his holy handbook about the unflattering, second class nature of women which readily explains the moronic attitude still prevalent today thanks to this ridiculous book.

From the arrival of Eve, god has had a problem with women and his holy book makes that very obvious and hard to deny. It would appear that if indeed he is a male, he has had his share of relationship problems and it isn't any wonder. Imagine the frustration of being married to bible god. The conversations at the dinner table would be material for a book in

itself. So, Jehovah, how was your day? Oh I had a fine day today and I am very well pleased. I destroyed a city and totally psyched out a prophet today. Damn that was funny! You should have seen the look on their faces as the brimstone fell from the sky and seared their flesh. Ahh, those assholes wont soon forget who's the man." "Oh Jehovie-poo, do you really need to be so physical? When will you try it my way and get everyone together and talk to them, maybe help them see what they are doing wrong before you obliterate them?" "Hey woman, when you are god, you can do whatever you want, until then just fetch my dessert and keep your ideas to the League of Women in Heaven meetings."

Bible god obviously does not credit women with a lot of intellect or leadership ability much to his demise. However, god-ette quietly tolerates and endures his chauvinistic ways knowing that in a divorce she won't get shit, but if she just outlives him, she gets it all. Watching the outbursts of anger, destruction and spite that have dominated the first 4000 years of his tenure, she knows it is just a matter of time. It will not be long before his cholesterol catches up with him or all the fear and vengeance bring about some dreadful disease or demise by his own holy word – "he that lives by the sword shall die by the sword". So, she patiently waits in abnegated servitude which is exceedingly pleasing in his sight – for now.

Conclusion

It is far easier to expect or believe in a very conveniently packaged, concise set of instructions to life on this world that has all the answers and everything we need to know to be joyous and saved. (I am still trying to figure out what I actually need to be “saved” from, but that is a whole book in itself.) After all, if we have the Bible with ALL the answers we need, why would we actually assume the responsibility for our choices, our thoughts feelings and emotions and the events they attract to our lives that affect our growth and development of our potential? Hell, when life gets shitty we can blame the devil or god’s will or worse yet, we can believe we are somehow deserving of ill fate or punishment because of something we may have done, thought or said. That is utterly depressing to contemplate and yet so many of us have and continue to embrace that concept in our belief system.

My experience with reading the Bible – especially the Old Testament - has been less than enlightening and uplifting and seriously confusing and depressing. Where does it teach about the joy and beauty of life and this incredible planet we inhabit? Where are the teachings of how beautiful and good we are as human beings if we indeed were created in god’s image? Where are the teachings that illustrate the love of a perfect creator for his (or her) children? I cant help but ask myself why a loving father would feel the need to illustrate his teachings and the guidelines he set out for us in such a bloody, violent and threatening way.

The god of the bible absolutely has to be a major fabrication by some seriously ill people to create fear and subjugation in mass. The representations in the Bible just cannot be accurate portrayals of the nature of the being that created such beautiful perfection and balance in every living organism, system, body, planet, solar system, galaxy and universe. To create such perfection requires perfection and where does war, punishment, blood sacrifice and fear fit into perfection?

All I see in the so-called teachings is what sinful, dirty, unworthy sacks of shit we are and how we need to be saved from ourselves because we suck. Well, of course we do! As a society, we have become what we are told we are by our parents and they by theirs, etc. and then it gets reinforced by the god we are taught to believe in, through his “holy book”, ministers, priests, our Sunday school teachers and any number of otherwise well-meaning yet misguided souls. It is a proven fact that a person will become the person he or she is treated like by those close to them. For example, if a child’s parents consistently tell him how stupid he is, the child will believe it and will act stupid whether he is or not. On the other hand, a child consistently reinforced with how smart and beautiful she is will act and be exactly that. That is a proven fact. So how is it we think we are exempt from that effect from the “teachings” of the highest being that supposedly created us? We are not! We as a society are the product of generations of this dismal belief and domestication that has beaten us to the ground into believing we have to beg for the right to happiness and joy. Somehow we believe that maybe if we please this insecure, petty deity sitting on some

golden throne by giving him 10% of our income and by showing we fear him through ritualistic adherence to his laws, we MIGHT avoid being “cast into hell” or the “lake of fire and brimstone.” What loving father on your block, in your neighborhood, in your city or on this earth, would tell a child of his own flesh and blood to go to hell and cast the child out into some form of mental torture (much less a lake of fire) regardless of what the child did? Somehow, we believe that the god of the bible would do that to us – his children - and we not only respect that but also worship it. What the hell?!

If we read the bible with an unattached or undomesticated mind, it seems that it is not so much the sacred writings of a loving father that wants to guide us to develop our highest potential, as it is the ranting of an egocentric lunatic with control issues. Do we REALLY believe that God – whatever your concept of God is – the creator of such perfection and beauty is as big of a jerk as he comes across as in his “holy word”? Could it be that just maybe he isn't? Could it be that many self-serving and ambitious men have meddled with the records there were and manipulated them to further their personal, social and political ambitions? Nah, that doesn't happen with people in power now, does it?

As I look back at my life, I can very clearly see the extreme dichotomy of my “orthodox” religious/spiritual belief system. That belief in contradicting and unattainable joy and “glory” due to my imperfection and sinful state was my spiritual walking cane and yoke at the same time. I would find hope in the fact that there is this kingdom of god waiting for me if I do this and that, but by the same token there is this hell waiting for me if I don't. Hope and despair skillfully balanced through unattainable yet seemingly reasonable standards. An impressive concept to keep us all trying but not quite making it, so there is always a need for the church to guide us to Zion. Interesting when we see the amounts of money that flows through the churches of the world isn't it.

What if God, is truly a God of love that wants abundance and happiness for his children? Wouldn't that make more sense?

My God, the God I believe in is just that - a loving kind and gentle God with nothing to prove and no need for us to prove anything to him. I see him cheering us on as we learn and grow and giving us everything we need in our very soul to be just like him – perfect.

I don't claim to know exactly who or what God is. Is God a man or a woman, rich or poor, a working person in a blue-collar neighborhood, or an executive of a large corporation, a nurse, a doctor, a plumber or an electrician, a homeless addict or a drag queen in a downtown club? Is God the single mom struggling to feed her kids, the lonely desperate guy with the gun to his head, the prostitute, the child playing in the park or the mechanic that works on my car; the person that stops to help the stranded motorist, the guru, the felon, the laborer, the lowly, the neighbor?

My God is every one of them and more. My God did not created us in his own image but has reflected what and who God is in our potential. My God is not waiting or wanting to judge us, condemn us or thrust us anywhere. My God is you and me and everyone around

us as we discover the love and joy that is who we are as we shed the years of fear, and self condemnation subscribed to in the name of Jesus, Jehovah, Allah, Elohim, etc.

My God is the beauty in every soul, in every creature; in every rock, plant and tree on this magnificent world we are a part of and that is a part of us. My God is the ghost in the meat suit we all wear and since everything in existence without exception is connected at a quantum level, then My God is ALL of it and I find no trouble in worshiping and loving that God at all. In fact, I find great joy and satisfaction in the realization that who and what I am is a part of that beautiful perfect creation. I am not broken, you are not broken, we are God and God us because we are an integral part of everything that is – including God. How can that be broken? Maybe we just need to realign our thinking and eliminate the aspects that don't evolve us and cleave as the Bible puts it to those that do.

Stories are just stories, words to entertain or affect, move or influence the mood or thoughts of the reader. History is dead. The only thing that is real and that matters is the now. Find the love for yourself and you will love God. Find the love for yourself and you will love your neighbor. Find the love for your beautiful, perfect self and you will be whatever you want to be because you are a part of God. We just struggle with years of poisonous vile condemnation spewed at us in the name of god and religion that has kept our souls in the dark, begging for scraps of validation from a being that exists in our minds alone – minds that have been programmed to judge ourselves in a harsh and unforgiving way by the world belief system. Let us dare to break out and challenge that system. Let's choose to change our belief in lack and strife and struggle into one of love and abundance in a universe of unlimited possibilities and potential. Let's choose to not judge as we will not be judged but to BE everything we are by allowing that to burst out of its prison of fear and oppressive belief. Let's dare to fly in the face of convention and say I have had enough of who I am not, enough of what God is not and enough of my belief in lack, and fear. Let's choose to give life a try and stop hiding in the shadows of false beliefs and lies that have been handed down to keep us under control.

I know it's radical because we are programmed to believe that it is sacrilegious and heretical to deny god, but I am not denying God.

I not only deny the petty, vengeful, miserably insecure god of the bible, but I say **NO** to that notion all together! That is not a God; that is a sick warped little man behind the curtain in Oz, (created by a very intelligent author) taking advantage of the munchkins that didn't dare to confront his "Ozfulness".

I would rather wither and cease to exist than to deny God, the God in all of us, in all that surrounds us and all that exists and all that we are an integral part of at the quantum level. I honor and love that God with all of heart, mind and strength. I honor and love myself, you, and every bit of the beautiful creation we are a part of. I choose not to judge good or evil but accept that choices are mere events, and every choice comes with its own natural consequence. Some will evolve us and others will not. We choose our participation in

whatever reality we want or are currently living through attraction by our thoughts feelings and emotions.