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# The Books of The Pentateuch

## Chapter One - The Book of Genesis

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

**Bertand Russell (London, 1927)**

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

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

### **The Creation**

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

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

That’s it! Doesn’t tell us how he made it; what building materials were used; if any of the work was outsourced to India; or from where he sourced the materials. The Bible’s explanation of the creation of the universe is paramount to the smart-ass kid in the classroom telling you, “It just is and you wouldn’t understand it even if I told you anyway!”

Imagine how confusing the creation of the universe by the Hebrew God 6,000 years must have been to the Sumerians as they watched on from their huts drinking beer, and using glue.

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

The remainder of the opening sentence of Genesis continues:

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

So, the question becomes what was God doing with himself all that time? Sitting idle in the formless empty darkness? How long was he sitting on his ass doing flicking between channels waiting for something interesting to watch? Did he create us out of sheer boredom, in between inventing the dinosaurs 35 million years ago and then man 7,000 years ago? It's reasonable to ask what was he doing during this extraordinary lengthy hiatus? Evidently, he was indeed content with floating around in the dark until all of a sudden he says to himself, "Fuck it, I want to create a planet, a heaven, some people and sit back and watch them destroy each other in my honour because Monday Night Football is still 6,000 years away."

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

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

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

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

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

## **God Messes Up The Order**

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

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

On day three he creates all the earth's vegetation, the plants and the trees, but as we now know God didn't create the sun until the following day, so how can there be plant life without photosynthesis? Oops!

Now we run into our very first contradiction, and we are only on page one of the Bible mind you, as God says that on day five he created the birds and animals from

nothing more than the water from the oceans, but then in the very next chapter as he is doing a summary of these heady seven days, it is written:

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

God stays on message for less time than President Obama without a teleprompter. I've met goldfish with longer short-term memories.

## **God Creates Man**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This evidently demonstrates that man falsely believed that he had dominion over all living things. An excusable false assumption one might make without what we know today about bacteria, microbes and germs, which undoubtedly hold dominion over us. Consider that in thousands of years of medical science, man has only had one success in defeating a solitary virus, small pox, which is certainly a humbling if not a terrifying fact. Even more daunting when you consider the rapid spread of new pandemics of bird flu and swine flu, illuminating the fragile hold we have as a species on this planet. Furthermore, isn't it deliciously curious that creationists doubt evolution's claims but

accept without question that viruses, such as H1N1, display adaptive traits including mutation? To further underscore this point, ask yourself what is providing you comfort at night in relation to combating these viruses: science or religion? Yes, interesting isn't it? Religion has never proven any scientific discovery wrong, but the same can't be said the other way around, can it?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Introducing Adam and Eve**

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

ludicrous that it amuses my little mind to recall comedian Bill Hicks' observation of happy-clapper Christians, when he said, "Why is it that those who believe in creation, appear, themselves, not to be fully evolved?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **God Is Resting... Still**

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

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

After that, the very next day, he rested. The day after that he rested, and the next day and the next. Fuck, he was still resting yesterday, and as of this morning. When is he ever going back to work? Unemployment is approaching 10%! Surely he can't be satisfied with the planet he has created, considering that four-fifths of it is uninhabitable and most parts are either too hot or too cold to sustain life and the polar bears are drowning. This guy works less than a Melbourne wharfie on strike. C'mon you lazy sod, do us all a favour and get back to work for Christ sake! There are 26,000 children dying of thirst and starvation every single day whilst you continue to sit around and pat yourself on the back for a job half-done.

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

## **The Talking Snake**

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

Are you kidding me? What a wicked sense of humour God doth possess! His very first dialogue with his created humans is a rule. How about, "Welcome to Eden guys. Enjoy yourselves. Have wild outdoor sex to your heart's content. Make yourself comfortable and later I will be back to you with one or two rules of the house." But no, he introduces himself with a mind-fuck technique, the power of negative suggestion, "Don't eat from that tree!" If God had said nothing of the tree, I am sure Adam and Eve would have

never come within several orchard fields of it, but because he said 'that' tree, it is human instinct to enquire. If you repeatedly tell a child to stay away from the cookie jar, what do you think he will do the next time you turn your back away from the kitchen? Cookies will be gone, Mummy! Thus, God either commanded this edict for his own humorous benefit, or he is an extremely poor psychologist.

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

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

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

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

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

To which the mouthy snake responds,

*"You will not surely die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:4 NIV)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Are you serious? Well, call me stupid, but that hardly seems much of a punishment for a snake, that had no legs in the first place! And I'm sure the snake made a big sounding sigh of relief before slithering off to wherever it came from. Which poses an interesting question doesn't it? The snake came from God and he was put there by God in the first place, whether intentionally as a ploy to tempt Eve or not, but if so why punish the snake

if God did create him and use him for that purpose? Oh well, it seems Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the Serpent and the Serpent didn't have a leg to stand on!

## **Adam & Eve – The Aftermath**

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

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

## **Cain, Abel and Noah**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Flood

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Or picture Noah, there standing proudly before the completed Arc with most of the animals on board, including the dinosaurs, asking his sons, "Alright lads let's make sure

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **God's Covenant with Noah**

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

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

This promise was sealed with a rainbow:

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

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

A further question worth pondering in relation to this chapter of Genesis and its claim that all mankind are in effect descendents of Noah and his sons, is how does this explain from where Asians and Blacks descend? And if you argue that they too came from Noah and their features adjusted to their respective climatic locales, then aren't you now arguing the case for evolution?

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

## The Tower of Babel

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Introducing Abraham

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The name Abraham translates in Hebrew to 'father of nations' and as is revealed in the writings of Genesis he is a critical figure as the founding patriarch of the Israelites. According to the Bible, Abraham was brought from Mesopotamia, or Iraq-Iran as it is known today, to the land of Canaan. God had said to Abraham, in a dream, to leave his country, his people and his household to go to the land that God would reveal to him, in return he would be blessed with all of mankind.

Abraham was led into Egypt due to a severe famine, but upon entering Egypt he was concerned that the Egyptian Pharaoh would kill him and take his wife, who was said to have been stunningly beautiful. Thus he deceived the Pharaoh into believing that his wife, Sarah, was his sister. The scheme backfires somewhat as the Pharaoh takes Sarah and includes her in his harem and bonks her, anyway, along with tens of other willing

sex slaves, at anytime of his choosing. But before you think to yourself, "Hey, it's good to be the Pharaoh", Sarah was seventy-five years of age at this point. I mean c'mon, how hot could she really have been?

What's further interesting about this story is that Abraham lied and deceived a Pharaoh with God's endorsement. What kind of moral teaching is this? I think all believers should find it somewhat unsettling that the human father of the Judaeo-Christian faith was a blatant liar. The Church of Later Day Saints, the Mormon faith, likewise founded by a convicted fraudster in Joseph Smith, but at least the Mormons got magic underwear for following him.

Somehow, the Pharaoh learns that Sarah is Abraham's wife and he reunites the couple before banishing them from Egypt. Upon returning to Canaan, Abraham enters into a covenant with God. This covenant was based on a deal that in exchange for recognizing God as supreme universal deity and authority; he would be blessed with innumerable progeny. The Lord appearing to Abraham in a vision, told him,

*"Do not be afraid, Abraham. I am your shield, your very great reward." (Genesis 15:1 NIV)*

Abraham complains to God that his wife can bear no children and expresses his concern that should he die his inheritance will be left to one of his slaves. Yes, the Patriarch of Israel, the chosen one of God is seemingly oblivious to the moral bankruptcy of slavery, but more on this later.

In return that Abraham offer unquestionable servitude of the Lord, the Lord says to Abraham:

*"Look up at the heavens and count the stars - if indeed you can count them. So shall your offspring be." (Genesis 15:4-5 NIV)*

Before Abraham could enjoy the fruits of this new baby-making pact with God, however, he is awoken later that same night with another vision from God, but this time with an eerie warning:

*"Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and they will be enslaved and ill-treated four hundred years." (Genesis 15:13 NIV)*

A little later in the story, we discover that God is a shifty old shyster and reneges on his earlier covenant with Abraham, by moving the goal posts. God had told Abraham that he and his descendants would be given land and made into a great nation with kings out of Abraham's line. However, God informs his prophet that he must now seal this new deal by mutilating his genitals, at the age of 99 years mind you, along with the genitals of every other male in his household including the male slaves. Can you imagine being poor old Abraham's water carrier, as he approaches you with a rusty old blunt knife and bellows to you, "Hey boy come here whilst I hack the tip of your dick off with this here knife". Who would've stayed around long enough for that to happen? And what sort of sick, fucking perverted, twisted god would demand such a barbaric act of senseless, immeasurable cruelty? And if God detested the foreskin so much, why create man with it in the first place?

God says to Abraham:

*"Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and you." (Genesis 17:10 NIV)*

Thus, if you are male and reading this book, chances are you too have no foreskin, which according to some scientific claims contains 75% of the erogenous nerves of the penis. You can point to this passage in the Bible to explain the reason why your uncircumcised friends are experiencing 300% more pleasure during sex. I have to say that I personally bear no grudge against God for this covenant, being circumcised myself, because if I were to enjoy sex anymore than I currently do then I would never get anything accomplished. It would be a case of 'goodbye, outside world!'

As far as this being a brutish ritual there is no refute to this claim. To raise a new born infant into your hands, the look of innocence and trust on his face, before mutilating its

genitals because of some ancient mythology is beyond the pale in this century. For this reason we opted against having our son circumcised when he was born, because it made no sense to inflict needless pain on him so as to perpetuate this ancient idiotic rite. Whilst I don't remember the day of my circumcision, I am sure it must have been painful because I didn't walk or talk for an entire year after. (An old Jewish joke.)

## **Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed**

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Let's just start by saying that the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah were having a 'gay' ole time. A suitable metaphor would describe the original twin cities as the ancient version of Las Vegas, but instead of \$20 lap dancers these guys had to settle for an ass reaming in back of Jeremiah's barn! Like Vegas, I'm sure the road through the desert leading into the cities lead to a welcome sign on the outskirts of town which read, 'Where the sinners are winners, and what happens in Sodom stays in Sodom'.

What is interesting in the passages leading up to God's destruction of these 'bum-fun' towns is, firstly, that Abraham tried to talk God down from wiping Sodom & Gomorrah off the face of the planet. He argues that the Lord should reserve his homicidal wrath as it's likely that not all Sodomites are bum-bandits or evil doers. The second thing that stands out in these passages is that the Bible asserts that it is morally preferable to offer your virgin daughter to be gang raped by a crowd of salivating perverts than to surrender two male strangers you barely know, to be molested by the same perpetrators. This is no joke by the way. I wish there was a joke in the tragedy of gang rape, but there plainly isn't. Rather than spew forth my inner anger and contempt for this immoral imbalance, I will quote the passage:

*"Before they (Lot and his family) had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom – both young and old – surrounded the house. They called out to Lot, 'Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them'. Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him and said, 'No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing. Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you and you can do what you like to them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof.'" (Genesis 19:3-8 NIV)*

I dare any follower of Judaism, Islam or Christianity to defend this moral position which is accepted as an act of decency or nobility in the book of God. This is abhorrent by any stretch and I hope demonstrates that religion is made by self-serving, morally corruptible men and not the work of a morally superior power.

We can pause for a moment's sigh of relief, however, as there is absolutely zilch evidence, archeologically or otherwise, that the twin-cities were anything but a piece of literary fabrication and therefore a story for our own amusement. Thus, there never existed any town of Sodom or Gomorrah in the sands of the Middle East or elsewhere. And more thankfully, these innocent daughters were not gang raped by a pack of lecherous bastards.

However, we only have to move a few paragraphs from this point of the Bible before we stumble across further bizarre sexual standards or norms that do not solicit any moral judgment or condemnation. In Genesis 19 it describes Lot living alone with his two daughters in a cave outside of a town called Zoar.

*"One day the older daughter said to the younger, 'Our father is old and there is no man around here to lie with us, as is the custom all over the earth. Let's get our father to drink wine and then lie with him to preserve our family line through our father.' That night they got their father to drink wine and the older daughter went in and lay with him. He was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up."*

On the following night, they got their father drunk again and this time the younger daughter slept with Lot and within a matter of weeks both daughters became pregnant and bore sons to him. There is no sub-text that follows this story. No footnote to say God was displeased with Lot or his daughters. Hell, God was smiting people all over the place

for far less than this. Heck, he turned Lot's wife into salt for merely sneaking a peak at the destruction of Sodom, after God told her not to look back. Tough love!

I guess, God, the jealous and petty god, was too consumed with his own jealousy and insecurities to be concerned over matters of gang rape and incestuous sexual relations. Too busy testing Abraham's faith with his command that Abraham should sacrifice his own son, Isaac, on a nearby mountain. This guy, God, has a wicked sense of humour, huh? Abraham, always obliging though, does as God wishes and just before he slashes the throat of his only son an angel appears telling Abraham words to the effect, "Hey, it was just a joke. You just got punked!"

What kind of god would ask you, as proof of your love for him, to look into the innocent and trusting eyes of your child before slashing his or her jugular vein, watching your very own bleed slowly to death before your very eyes? This can only be the test of a deeply wicked and insecure sadist.

## **Jacob, Esau... and the Invisible Man**

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At the age of one hundred and eighty years Abraham passed away, but on his deathbed he anointed his eldest son Isaac to lead the family. Isaac inherited all that was Abraham's and in his new role as patriarch he wasted no time in impregnating one of his favourite wives, Rebekah. Mind you it took God's IVF program to deliver the sperm to her ovaries as Rebekah had been 'barren' for many years in unsuccessfully trying for children. Rebekah and Isaac slaughtered an animal as a token of thanks for allowing them to finally become parents. The glowing mum-to-be realized mid-way through her pregnancy that she was bearing twins. Whilst a 'two-for-the-price-of-one' deal was reason to further praise God, Rebekah became confused and concerned because the two foetuses were punching the shit out of one another insidiously of her womb. In what is positively the first in utero boxing showdown. Too bad Sodom and Gomorrah had already been destroyed, because the bookmakers from that city could've thrown down some handy odds. Rebekah became increasingly worrisome that the child battle inside her continued with unrelenting punches, kicks and some UFC 'ground n pound'. She cried out to God for an explanation to this pre-natal sibling bickering and God answered:

*"Two nations are in your womb and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other and the other will serve the younger." (Genesis 25:23 NIV)*

The due date for delivering the rival twins came and the first to emerge was a hairy, red-headed boy, a 'ranga' as we would say in Australia. They named him Esau. The second child to pop was anointed Jacob and he emerged from Rebekah's womb clutching onto the heel of his five-minute older brother.

The boys became men, of which Esau became a skilled hunter and Jacob a lay-about, preferring to just spend his days hanging around the family tents whilst his elder brother chased wild game throughout the land. The story takes a devious turn at this point, however, as the scripture tells of Esau returning from a hunt. He is exhausted and near starving and returns home to find his brother cooking a stew. Esau pleads with his brother, Jacob, for some food as he is famished, but his brother initially refuses him. Esau pleads with his brother again. To which, Jacob plots a heinous bribe. Jacob tells Esau that he may have some stew on one condition:

*"First sell me your birthright." (Genesis 25:31 NIV)*

To give up one's birthright to a sibling is the equivalent of forfeiting all inheritance and family power, but Esau agrees to Jacob's wicked proposal, replying:

*"What good is my birthright if I am about to die of starvation?" (Genesis 25:32 NIV)*

Years later, Isaac is now on his deathbed and in his final days he is anxious to bless his eldest son, whom he still believes is Esau, with the family trust. On his deathbed he summons Esau to his side and asks that he go out and catch some tasty meat for what

would most likely be his father's last supper, a meal whereby he will announce his blessing to Esau. Esau agrees and sets forth into the wilderness with his spear.

Rebekah overhears the conversation between her husband and her eldest son and she runs to Jacob to tell him what had just transpired. Jacob was Rebekah's favourite son and she wanted to ensure the inheritance did not pass to Esau. Rebekah convinced Jacob to promptly slaughter two goats in the backyard and then to dress like Esau. Jacob protested to his mother that Isaac would recognize him as him and not as his brother and accordingly this plan would be doomed before it began. Rebekah convinces Jacob that her husband's eyesight is all but gone and if he covered himself in a fur rug Isaac would mistake the fur for the much physically hairier Esau.

Jacob did what was asked by his mother and walked into his father's bedroom. Isaac called out, "Who is there?" Jacob replied, "It is me father, Esau!" Isaac called to who he thought was Esau and demanded that he come closer so he could feel his skin, to be sure of his identity. Jacob leant in and Isaac felt the fur rug covering Jacob's smooth skin. Isaac had been duped! Isaac swallowed the devilish bait and unknowingly blessed the wrong son, Jacob:

*"May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness – an abundance of grain and new wine. May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed."* (Genesis 27:28-29 NIV)

Esau returned home from his hunting trip to discover the shocking treachery that had taken place whilst he was out obeying his dying father's wishes. Esau rushed into to speak with Isaac, crying, "Father, what have you done?" Isaac, now confused, asked, "Who is that?" When Isaac realized he had been deceived into wrongly blessing his younger son, Jacob, he began to sob and tremble. But Isaac knew it was also too late to undo a blessing, i.e. you can't take it back once given.

Esau cried at his father's bedside:

*"Jacob has deceived me two times. He took my birthright and now he's taken my blessing."* (Genesis 27: 37 NIV)

Esau pleads with his dying father to bless him too, which seems only fair, but the blessing that comes forth is not the blessing that Esau either expects nor deserves. Isaac with an unjust callous voice says:

*"Your dwelling will be away from the earth's richness, away from the dew of heaven above. You will live by the sword and you will serve your brother."* (Genesis 27:39-40 NIV)

Jacob, knowing his brother would be pissed and out for revenge flees into the countryside. After travelling for a full day he camps under a tree, using a rock as a pillow. As he drifts off to sleep, God descends from heaven and appears directly before him and says:

*"I am the Lord, your God, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendents the land on which you are lying. Your descendents will be like the dust of the earth and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."* (Genesis 28:13-15 NIV)

What? Were you expecting God to punish Jacob for his deceit, too? Not only does God choose not to punish this shyster, he rewards him with being the new 'chosen one'. I guess God likes people that behave like himself, huh?

This incredible injustice is a lesson that teaches that villainy is good and the ends do justify any means. God has set a terrible precedence in this example of judicial oversight. And it gets worse! A few years later, Jacob becomes frightened that Esau has organized a few hundred men to attack him and his family. Jacob, ever cunning, formulates an elaborate plan for escape. The night before the attack, Jacob prays to God, which reads less as a prayer and more as a reminder to God that he honour his promise to help Jacob lead his descendents as a great nation. As Jacob prepares to set off, an invisible man

wrestles Jacob to the ground. I always thought the 'Invisible Man' was a product of Marvel comics, but clearly not. Jacob is thrown to the ground and bashed against rocks by this transparent attacker. This fight lasts a full twenty-four hours, before the invisible man eventually tired and pleaded:

*"Let me go, for it is daybreak." (Genesis 32:24 NIV)*

But Jacob wasn't prepared for the fight to end until he had been named victor:

*"I will not let you go unless you bless me." (Genesis 32:26 NIV)*

At this moment, the invisible man revealed himself as God. And God said that because of Jacob's strength he was fit to found a nation:

*"Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel." (Genesis 32:28)*

The fraudulent man named Jacob had now been ordained a nation by God. The nation of Israel begins.

A number of years later, however, a new Pharaoh took the throne and slowly instituted laws that made the Jewish nation slaves and over the course of the next 80 odd years, the Israelites were forced into labour and unjustly mistreated.

Before I end this chapter on Genesis, I would like to say to those amongst us who believe the earth to be only 7,000 years old, DINO FUCKING SAURS! If dinosaurs roamed the planet at the same time as early man, don't you think that somewhere in this Bible there would be a reference to some kind of lizard that stood 10 stories tall? I would expect something of the following to be included in the scripture:

*"And then Jacob led the Israelites into Egypt due to severe famine that had ravaged their lands in Canaan, as they marched through the desert and upon seeing the fertile lands of Egypt, there was a fucking, great, big Brontosaurus Rex blocking their path."*

#### **Genesis Body Count: 30,040,001**

Wikipedia estimates the world's population at the time of the supposed flood, three millennia BCE, to be approximately 30,000,000.

The destruction of the mythical twin-cities of Sodom & Gomorrah is estimated, by some Biblical scholars who believe the fable, to include approximately 1,000 inhabitants.

Lot's wife = 1

A seven year worldwide famine = 40,000

Cumulative Body Count: 30,040,001