

Greetings

Everything in this tome that is a Bible quote, is from The English Standard Version

Let's start at the Beginning

[Genesis 1:1-18 ESV]

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

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

4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

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

6 And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

7 And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so.

8 And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.

10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

11 And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so.

12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from *the night*. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years,

15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so.

16 And God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars.

17 And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,

18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Whoa, hold on a moment, that's not what happened!!!

We know better, due to science, the BIG BANG theory explains it thus: <https://www.big-bang-theory.com/> emphasis added

The Big Bang theory is an effort to explain what happened at the very beginning of our universe. Discoveries in astronomy and physics have shown ***beyond a reasonable doubt that our universe did in fact have a beginning. Prior to that moment there was nothing; during and after that moment there was something: our universe.*** The big bang theory is an effort to explain what happened during and after that moment.

According to the standard theory, our universe sprang into existence as "singularity" around 13.7 billion years ago. What is a "singularity" and where does it come from? Well, to be honest, we don't know for sure. Singularities are zones which defy our current understanding of physics. They are thought to exist at the core of "black holes." Black holes are areas of intense gravitational pressure. The pressure is thought to be so intense that finite matter is actually squished into infinite density (a mathematical concept which truly boggles the mind). These zones of infinite density are called "singularities." ***Our universe is thought to have begun as an infinitesimally small, infinitely hot, infinitely dense, something - a singularity. Where did it come from? We don't know. Why did it appear? We don't know.***

That is the core question, “Where did it come from?”

Feel free to read thousands of very boring pages on how matter can be created from nothing (hint – It can’t) because the universes total energy equals zero, or how negative gravity (it repels) can cause something to appear.

The truth is science can’t create matter, take a perfect vacuum, one with no atoms of matter, and have a scientist create just one molecule, they can’t.

You can turn matter from one form into another. think cement into concrete, turn matter into energy, like a wood burning fire. Or use matter to build (change one form into another) you can’t even turn energy into matter (stories of colliders shooting photons at each other and thereby creating matter aside, photons are part matter and part energy)

Let’s recap what we have so far:

1. The universe had a beginning, both the bible and “science” agree
2. It took some amount of “time” Moments for “science” Days for God (we will talk about God and time in a later chapter)
3. Where did the matter come from that makes up the universe, Created by God, as for “science” they really have no clue.

So right about now, the “science” people are saying, that’s not fair, you want to make “science” explain how it’s done, so mister smarty pants tell us how God creates matter, the answer to that question will bring us to a reoccurring theme

[Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV]

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Do you know what a goldfish is?

The goldfish is swimming around in its tank and everyday (I hope) food falls from the sky into the water. Maybe the goldfish can just make out the form of some being that appears outside the tank right before the food appears. It's the "Great and Wonderful Food Giver" that makes food fall from the sky. That would be about the extent of the goldfishes understanding of how the food gets into the tank....

The real way food gets into the tank:

You set your alarm clock for 6 AM (at some point you had to buy an alarm clock and a bed and a pillow and sheets and everything else that's in the house, oh yea, get a house while you're at it. You wake up, shut off the alarm, get your coffee, shower, get dressed, start the car (that's another complex piece of equipment, pistons, radiators and such) and go to work (note to self, have a job) at some point in time you get paid, you pay your bills and balance your checkbook (this will need to be explained to the younger folks) and see that you have the funds to purchase fish food, so you take said food and feed the darn fish.

How much of the above, simple explanation can the goldfish understand?

Wait, did I just spend \$2.95 on this book to be called dumber than a goldfish?

No, my dear reader, it is much worse, a goldfish is a relatively complex being. Us compared to God, assigning to Him the complexity of a human, we are probably like amoeba (but, good looking amoeba)

You cannot understand the way God thinks any more than the goldfish can explain what balancing a checkbook has to do with food falling from the sky.

Chapter2

How Dumb can we be?

The Fall:

[Gen 2:7-9 ESV]

7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

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

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

[Gen 2:15-18 ESV]

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

Remember what it says in verse 17, **Don't Eat (even though you may)**

from the tree of knowledge of good and evil – One Rule, try to remember

You know what happens next

[Gen 3:2-6 ESV]

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Really Eve, one rule and you couldn't abide by it, it's not going to get any easier, word has it that next time there will be ten rules (see the ten commandments)

Why did God put the tree there if he knew what would happen?

[Romans 11:33 ESV]

33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

It helps me to think of it like this:

You are on a path, it forks left and right, those forks also branch out, each splitting into two or three or a hundred, and each of those all splitting the same ways, you end up with billions upon billions of paths you can travel, each different, some not by much, others radically.

God can see all the paths, and all the outcomes from each one, for everyone.

That you can choose the pathways you take is what we call “free will” God will let you take any of the paths (take another bite of the fruit, Eve)

Ah Ha, God knows what we are going to do, so there is no “free will” everything must be predestined or how could God know what you are going to do.

[2Peter 3:8 ESV]

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

We see time in a linear manner, one moment to the next, one day before another, past, present, future, not for God, he sees all time all at once. He sees the path you took, not because you took it, but because he can see all the paths and outcomes at the same “time” including the ones you did, or will take and the ones you won’t or didn’t take.

Have you ever done the thing where there are four football games on at the same time, so you drag out four tv’s and play a different game on each one? It’s like that, except each of the tv’s play out a different path for you, from beginning to end, all at the same time. Unlike you, God can fully focus on each tv and also unlike you, the team God roots for always wins.

This concept is hard to explain, try this analogy, you are on one of the paths, right next to God, you walk in a direction away from God (please don’t try this at home) and find that he is also ahead of you, and behind you and alongside of you also, for that matter.

That brings up another characteristic of God, he is everywhere, and I mean everywhere, from the end of what we can see in the universe, to in the room that you are in right now.

Back to Adam and Eve

[Gen 3:8 ESV]

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Now as you go about your day to day life, you might encounter people that you might think are not the brightest people that ever lived, look where they got it, Adam and Eve Hid from the Lord.

A little recap

One rule, don't eat the fruit

Hide from the Lord that created the universe and everything in it.

Shake my head, there are only two people in the world at this time, did you think God wouldn't notice they were missing?

People haven't got a whole lot smarter in the present day, they will sit in church, nod their head when told how God is everywhere, how:

[Mat 10:29 ESV]

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

God knows when a sparrow falls, but when those same folks leave the church building, they think, "god won't notice what I'm doing"

Everywhere means everywhere

Just like the creation of the universe, the above isn't what really happened, as far as the creation of people.

The big bang created the universe and everything in it, including the earth (from the matter that magically appeared)

The earth cooled.

Millions of years passed.

Organic chemicals in the water (add lighting) coalesced into amino acids, the building blocks of life, add a few billion years and here you sit

Point of order: you can't have ORGANIC chemicals without life, but you can't have life without having the organic chemicals

I know, the organic chemicals came from the same place as the matter that started the big bang.

Why do humans find it easier to believe that, despite the ten to the trillionth to the trillionth power odds against everything falling into place for this "random" event of the creation of life to happen, that makes more sense than creation by a being that who's true nature we are incapable of understanding

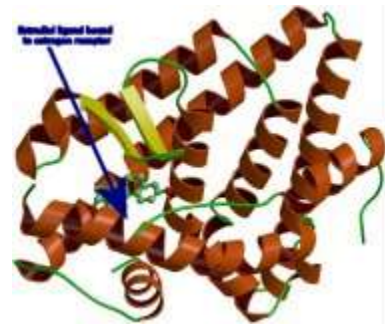
Because God can't be explained by human understanding, we would rather believe in events that are flawed at their most basic level, did you find that matter yet, or the organic chemicals.

But we have a fossil record from: <http://www.fossilmuseum.net/fossilrecord.htm>

The fossil record is life's evolutionary epic that unfolded over four billion years as environmental conditions and genetic potential interacted in accordance with natural selection. It could be likened to a movie recording the history of life across nearly four billion years of

geological time. The problem is that only a small fraction of the frames are preserved, and those that have been preserved have often been chronologically scrambled. Viewed in this way, reconstituting the movie seems intractable, and yet science has done so. Frames are still missing, but the intricate, interwoven plots are largely revealed. The movie shows a cycling planet, with life originating in the sea, and the appearance and disappearance of, as [Darwin](#) described in [Origin of Species](#) in 1859, “endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful”. The process of descent with modification through natural selection, or [evolution](#), that Darwin published in the mid 19th century became the framework for many scientific disciplines to use fossils to recover the missing frames and their ordering in time. Some one hundred years after Darwin the mechanisms of genetic memory and common descent have been elucidated at the molecular level. In this new era of sequencing the genomes and proteomes of multiple species, where science can infer protein lineage dating back into the Proterozoic, the tangible evidence in the imperfect fossil record remains paramount to the delineation of still missing frames of the movie.

Darwin envisioned an [incremental graduation](#) in descent with modification to new forms for which most frames of movie are non-existent in the fossil record. The movie frames that survive reveal great leaps from apparent ancestor to descendent with no intermediaries, much a continuity of incremental forms. Species or entire taxa suddenly appear in the sparse fossil with no certitude of ancestry. Others disappear with similar suddenness. Still other fossils are enigmatic regarding ancestors and descendants, and to which twig or branch of the great tree of life they belong. The sometimes huge discontinuities in the fossil record and absence of [transitional forms worried Darwin](#), and still provides the most demonstrable evidence that creationists and proponents of intelligent design proponents present to promulgate superstition over science. Even without fossils, however, comparison of sequences (of DNA, RNA and proteins) alone and molecular phylogenetics analysis confirm evolution and deny creationist concepts. The process of evolution by natural selection saves (i.e., conserves) important DNA coding sequences over vast expanses of geological time. Molecular analyses show that the proteins responsible for basic cell organization and function have truly ancient Precambrian origins. A highly conserved sequence is a strand of DNA in a gene that contains a sequence of nucleotides that is highly similar (i.e., homologous) across a wide range of organisms. Such highly conserved sequences code for proteins essential for survival, and have their origins in a common ancestor. Natural selection retains the sequence since adverse mutations would likely impair survival or reproductive function in the species. Among the most commonly conserved genome sequences are those that code for the sites where small molecules bind to protein receptors, often initiating gene transcription of RNA, and subsequent protein production. For example, the figure to the right depicts the primary estrogen estradiol (the small green molecule) attached to the binding domain of the estrogen protein nuclear receptor (the red ribbon). The [estrogen](#)



[receptor is found to be highly conserved](#) in all extant vertebrate organisms and is essentially to endocrine system functioning in reproduction, development, and throughout life. A significant body of research supports origin of the nuclear receptor protein into the Precambrian. Research has demonstrated that vertebrate estrogen receptors (even the ancient lamprey are estradiol (female sex hormone) receptors, though non-vertebrate estrogen receptors (e.g., amphioxus or lancelet, marine organisms that may be the most basal subphylum of chordates) are not; Ockham's razor then suggests that most primitive estrogen receptors were not able to bind estradiol but had a different function, and that hormone regulation by estradiol evolved in the vertebrate lineage, possibly following gene duplication.

So why have we digressed so far from the physical, macroscopic world of fossils to the molecular world. There are two reasons:

1. First, to emphasize the astonishing accomplishments of Charles Darwin (and many of his contemporaries) in using empirical, phenotypical evidence (i.e., physical appearances) from living and fossil organisms to correctly deduce many aspects of how evolution works.
2. Second, to affirm that the fossil record, or more particularly its shortcomings and gaps about which Darwin worried, is of much diminished concern due to modern molecular phylogenetics across genotypes, that even without fossils can infer descent with modification, and validate theories of evolution.

In my life experience, when you see a sentence like, *In this new era of sequencing the genomes and proteomes of multiple species, where science can infer protein lineage dating back into the Proterozoic* that have words like “infer” should be read as “science can MAKE UP” things to fit it’s preconceived conclusions

Again, we must infer:

Second, to affirm that the fossil record, or more particularly its shortcomings and gaps about which Darwin worried, is of much diminished concern due to modern molecular phylogenetics across genotypes, that even without fossils *can infer* descent with modification, and validate theories of evolution.

Inference is not proof – isn’t science all about proof?

Here is a theory I can't prove, what if God just placed the fossils there when he created the world?

Remember all those "tv's" and God being able to see all time all at once, he knew we would find the fossils he placed any that we would come up with these wonderful inferences.

Why would God do that, beats me, remember-

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. "

There are a lot of questions we will have for God when we see him in heaven, someone should make a list, of course God already knows what you want to ask...

Next, we tackle who god is-

Chapter 3

Who is God:

The little boy (or girl) was feverishly drawing a picture, the parent asked them, what are you drawing?

The child answered, I am drawing a picture of God

The parent said, that's silly, no one knows what God looks like.

The child said, they will when I'm done.

Moses asked God for his name:

[Exo 3:13-14 ESV]

13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

I AM WHO I AM, God just is, the creator of all things, not that he reshaped what was there, the brought it into existences from nothing, what else could he be called.

[Ecclesiastes 3:11 ESV]

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

[Isaiah

46:9-10 ESV]

9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,

10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

What is God's purpose, that needs to be put that on the list of questions to ask him when you (hopefully) meet him, what we do know is that God wants us to live certain ways, remember that one rule that got us kicked out of the garden, later we will get ten, but first the flood and other corrections.

Chapter 4

God takes a "do over"

[Gen 6:5-7 ESV]

5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, **and it grieved him to his heart.**

7 So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

And it grieved him to his heart, he created us, gave us life with his breath and we disappointed him (that may be the understatement of all time)

The heart of God:

God didn't create us because he "needed" us, aside from the fact that we can offer nothing to an all-powerful, all knowing, all seeing God.

[Acts 17:24-27 ESV]

24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

God wanted to be with man from the beginning, remember he would walk in the garden with Adam and Eve (thanks again Eve)

But why?

I think it is because God has so much love that he wanted to create us to abide in his love.

[1John 4:8 ESV]

8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

God is Love, try to imagine how wicked man must have been for it to grieve Gods heart.to wish he had never created us.

Look out your window, all that you see is God's creation, some of the matter may have been rearranged by man, but even that ability is a gift from God, all created for us out of his pure love.

God is good in all ways, he cannot be around corruption, that is against his nature. To be more accurate, corruption can't be around God, by definition God is perfect unto himself, therefore imperfection will not stand.

But God is love, how could he wipe out everyone?

First of all, the creator is able to do as he will with his creation:

[Deuteronomy 10:14 ESV]

14 Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

If the creator takes something he has created from one place he has created to another place he has created, who are we to question?

If God wiped out everyone on earth, like he did with the flood, whatever happened to those folks, was done with his love.

It could be that God wiped out their wickedness to save them from a worse fate that might happen if he let them persist in their evil ways.

But God didn't wipe out everyone:

[Gen 6:8-9 ESV]

8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

And mankind was saved, (spoiler alert, this happens later again)

So, Noah built the ark, saved the animals, repopulated the earth

[Gen 8:15-17 ESV]

15 Then God said to Noah,

16 "Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you.

17 Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh--birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth--that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

So, wickedness wiped out, then what do humans come up with:

[Gen 13:13 ESV]

13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.

Talk about slow learners, this was only 388 years from the flood to the birth of Abram

[Gen 9:28-29 ESV]

28 After the flood Noah lived 350 years.

29 All the days of Noah were 950 years, and he died.

[Gen 11:10-26 ESV]

10 These are the generations of Shem. When Shem was 100 years old, he fathered Arpachshad two years after the flood.

11 And Shem lived after he fathered Arpachshad 500 years and had other sons and daughters.

12 When Arpachshad had lived 35 years, he fathered Shelah.

13 And Arpachshad lived after he fathered Shelah 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

14 When Shelah had lived 30 years, he fathered Eber.

15 And Shelah lived after he fathered Eber 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

16 When Eber had lived 34 years, he fathered Peleg.

17 And Eber lived after he fathered Peleg 430 years and had other sons and daughters.

18 When Peleg had lived 30 years, he fathered Reu.

19 And Peleg lived after he fathered Reu 209 years and had other sons and daughters.

20 When Reu had lived 32 years, he fathered Serug.

21 And Reu lived after he fathered Serug 207 years and had other sons and daughters.

22 When Serug had lived 30 years, he fathered Nahor.

23 And Serug lived after he fathered Nahor 200 years and had other sons and daughters.

24 When Nahor had lived 29 years, he fathered Terah.

25 And Nahor lived after he fathered Terah 119 years and had other sons and daughters.

26 When Terah had lived 70 years, he fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

Add 99 years for Abram (now Abraham) from his birth to the destruction of Sodom for a total of 487 years or just 137 years after the death of Noah

[Gen 17:1, 5 ESV] 1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ...

5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

[Gen 18:20-21 ESV]

20 Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave,

21 I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

Then we come to, what I consider one of the bravest acts in human history:

[Gen 18:22-23 ESV]

22 So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD.

23 Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"

Abraham stands in the way of the Lord God and questions him!!!

Try to conceive that, Abraham knows fully well who the Lord God is, he knows about Noah and the flood, he knows God is about to destroy a whole city, yet he stands before God to try and stop him.

Even more gutsy, Abraham dickers with God (again please don't try this at home) in Abraham's words we see he knows who is whom (bold)

[Gen 18:24-32 ESV]

24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it?

25 **Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"**

26 And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

27 Abraham answered and said, "**Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes.**

28 Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there."

29 Again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it."

30 Then he said, "**Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak.** Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there."

31 He said, "**Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord.** Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it."

32 Then he said, "**Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once.** Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

He should be called Abraham the great negotiator.

Instead, he is known as Abraham the father of the nation of Israel (not such a bad title)

[Gen 25:7 ESV]

7 These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, 175 years.

Chapter 5

The Ten Commandments

[Exo 2:10 ESV]

10 When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

[Exo 24:12 ESV]

12 The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

So, we talk about us having faith in God, he must surely have faith in us, we couldn't follow one rule now we get ten

[Deuteronomy 5:7-21 ESV]

7 "You shall have no other gods before me.

8 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

9 You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

10 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

11 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

12 "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.

13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

14 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.

15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

16 "'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

17 "'You shall not murder.

18 "'And you shall not commit adultery.

19 "'And you shall not steal.

20 "'And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

21 "'And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'

Let's start with, what I hope is the easiest to keep:

17 "'You shall not murder.

Seems pretty simple, right, guess what the second sin committed on earth was, remember the fall was the first:

[Genesis 4:8 ESV] 8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Wow the fall of man was in chapter 3 and by chapter 4 we have our first murder

That is an important point, the commandment isn't thou shall not "kill" as many believe, it okay by God to kill your food, even to kill in war or self-defense, just don't murder.

Are there some among you muttering, God has killed thousands, he has, I can't say for sure why, but:

Have you heard of the Texas defense?

Question: Why did you kill them?

Answer: Because they needed killing.

Okay you are free to go.

If God out and out kills you, you probably needed killing, too bad you can't have Abraham negotiate for you, like he did for Sodom, oh yea, I forgot to mention, everyone there died, except Lot and his family, even though his wife was turned to salt for disobeying God.

Suffice to say, don't murder.

How about another seemingly easy commandment to keep:

19 "'And you shall not steal.

You don't go around stealing, do you?

Of course not, never left work five minutes early without permission, never taken home any office supplies, I bet you have never even taken a free sample of something that you had no intentions of buying. (My Wife always tells me that I am horrible at sarcasm, did I do better this time)

I am also sure that not a one of us has ever tried to find a way to pay less tax, (What's the CASH price) no not a one of us.

Maybe that stealing one isn't as easy as it seems on the surface, the next one though, must be kept all the time, by everyone, it's a "no-brainer" right

18 "'And you shall not commit adultery.

Trust me, I am going to keep trying this sarcasm thing until someone "gets it"

How sad for us, that we can't even keep promises that we enter into freely, how much adultery is not committed, only for the lack of opportunity? Better let me rephrase that, how many of us would commit adultery if they had the chance. (and didn't fear getting caught) be honest?

We really are pathetic, so weak, so lacking in integrity. Next

20 "'And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

[Pro 6:16-19 ESV]

16 There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him:

17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil,

19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

But what does it mean "to bear false witness", lets look to Wikipedia, that reads in part:

Matthew Henry taught that the prohibition against false witness concerns our own and our neighbor's good name. "Thou shalt not bear false witness" forbids: "1. Speaking falsely in any matter, lying, equivocating, and any way devising and designing to deceive our neighbor. 2. Speaking unjustly against our neighbor, to the prejudice of his reputation; and (which involves the guilty of both). 3.

Bearing false witness against him, laying to his charge things that he knows not, either judicially, upon oath (by which the third commandment, and the sixth and eighth, as well as this, are broken), or extrajudicially, in common converse, slandering, backbiting, tale-bearing, aggravating what is done amiss and making it worse than it is, and any way endeavoring to raise our own reputation upon the ruin of our neighbor's."

Speaking "falsely in any manner" like telling the telemarketer we are busy, or maybe saying to them we are eating dinner, when we are not?

For the men only, have you ever been asked "do these pants make my bottom look big", how did you answer that one?

21 "And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'

Oh brother, how did that one get in there, this is America (Well I'm in America) that's what we do, we covet our neighbors stuff, you know, new car, bigger house, latest I-Phone™. Who here hasn't seen the lines for the release of the newest phone, camping out for days for a gadget.

Hi Mom and Dad

16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

I was raised in the late 1950's and early 60's, we were (please sit down for this) spanked for being disrespectful, did that stop us? Of course not, that's why we were spanked, now little Jonny and Janney run the household and are usually surly to say the least, Mom and Dad just sit there and put up with it. Why (I will answer this and other questions, some even that no one is asking, in later chapters)

Now we come to the part of the commandments that deal with our relationship with GOD

12 "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.

13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

14 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.

15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

That is pretty wordy to just get the concept of resting one day in seven. Believe it or not, this commandment has been one of the most controversial (Not a lot of people come out in favor of murder)

In the time of Jesus, the Pharisees tried to trap the SON OF GOD with this very issue:

[Matthew 12:10 ESV]

10 And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"--so that they might accuse him.

Of course, Jesus had an answer:

[Matthew 12:11-12 ESV]

11 He said to them, "Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out?

12 Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath, I think our problems stem from not reading each word in the commandment

13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

On the six days do YOUR work, on the seventh day you can still do GOD'S work, exactly what the LORD JESUS did.

Then you still have the Saturday / Sunday conundrum which one is the "seventh day" I do not speak for GOD, but my thinking is that if you start on any day, work six days and rest the seventh (or do the LORDS work) you will probably be ok, I just don't see the CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE getting too bent out of shape because you started counting on the wrong day.

8 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

9 You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

This is a tough one, what is the harm it's just an image...right.....wrong

Let me try to explain, we are an image:

[Genesis 1:26 ESV]

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

We are made in the image of GOD, we are created by him, God is sovereign, we are not, the image cannot create what the image is taken from, the reflection in the mirror cannot create what it is reflecting.

If you make an image of the one true GOD (because your human ego thinks it should be able too) and worship it, you would not be worshipping GOD, just your poor human conception of him. If you make an image of some other god, see the first commandment.

11 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

The very name of the LORD is holy, remember earlier, way back in chapter 3, Moses asked GOD his name, GOD said tell them I AM sent you, GOD, I AM, the one that is and shall be forever, and you, well remember, you are dust:

[Gen 2:7 ESV]

7 then **the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground** and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

One thing you might want to remember about that dust, GOD created the dust also.

About God and Love:

God is Love, God wants and deserves our love, what does he get. Many Christians profess a love for God, I submit most probably love their pets more than they really love God, they make sure to take their dogs for a walk and attend to their needs, maybe an hour a day, how many spend an hour a day praying to God?

How many have a longing in their heart, for God, when they are not speaking to God, have you ever really missed a wife, husband, or child, maybe a loved one that has "passed on" that "hole" in your heart, do they have that for the Lord?

The opposite of love isn't hate, its indifference.

There is hate for God in the world, and so much undifferentiated, where does it come from?

Chapter 6

Satan

We first met this “little devil” (sorry) back in Genesis at the fall of mankind.

[Rev 12:9 ESV]

9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world--he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

The deceiver of the whole world, we were lead into sin by Lucifer, why?

[Eze 28:12-19 ESV]

12 "Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared.

14 You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.

16 In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

17 Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.

18 By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you.

19 All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever."

The King of Tyre is a euphemism for Satan, in this instance.

Satan thought he was as good as GOD, just as we tend to do, think all the science that claims to create or explain, I am not here to say that man's explanations on how things work, think things like physics, nuclear engineering and such are wrong, they are just not seen as what they are, man trying to comprehend and understand what GOD has done.

The problem comes when we fall into the same trap as Satan did, when we think we are equal with GOD.

Let me throw out a theory, remember the fruit in the garden? This one:

[Genesis 3:5-6 ESV]

5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

"Knowing good and evil" could it be that the knowledge, was the idea that one could live apart from GOD

God (good) evil (apart from GOD)

And you will surely die, Adam and Eve were perfect they would have lived forever, when they separated themselves from GOD they brought to themselves and to all of us death from corruption.

Belief, Faith and Salvation:

Remember Noah, the guy that built the Ark:

[Gen 6:13-15 ESV]

13 And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.

15 This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits.

GOD commands Noah to build an Ark out of gopher wood, 300 by 50 by 30 cubits.

Today there are many theories as to, #1 what gopher wood was and #2 what was the size of a cubit, so far, I haven't seen any alternate explanations for the word "pitch" as in cover it inside and outside with "pitch"

As the type of wood or even the exact size of a cubit isn't important to this discussion, the type of wood being totally irrelevant, we can use an approximation for the size.

The assumptions I shall use come from a more recent Ark build, the Ark Encounter folks in Kentucky

www.Arkencounter.com , that states

Ark Encounter features a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and

51 feet high, this modern engineering marvel amazes visitors young and old. Ark Encounter is situated in beautiful Grant County in Williamstown, Kentucky, halfway between Cincinnati and Lexington and right off I-75.

A place I would love to visit.

Unsurprisingly enough, there is also no real agreement on how long it took Noah to build this 510 ft by 85 ft by 51 ft structure, was it the 120 years mentioned in:

[Gen 6:3 ESV] 3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years."

Or was it a shorter time, calculated using various methods (mostly involving a variation on Noah's sons ages and their ages at the time of marriage) ranging from 10 to 90 years

Faith:

[Gen 5:32 ESV]

32 After Noah was 500 years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

[Gen 7:6-7 ESV]

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

7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood.

What we know for sure is Noah was between 500 and 600 years old when he built the Ark, now I don't know how old you are, but I am at the age that, if God were to tell me to do something, I wouldn't wait too long to get started.

Let's say it took "only" ten years for Noah, and what ever help he might have had, if any, to construct this massive structure.

Ten years is still a long time:

You would have to clear and level a piece of land 501 feet by 85 feet is 43,350 square feet, I would add about 20 percent or 8,670 square feet for room to move around the structure, call it 52,000 square feet total. Or about 1.2 acre, I would think best practice would be to not only clear that land but make it "dead" level and flat, remember this is a huge structure we are dealing with, it would need to be built plumb.

Then you need to procure, mill and dress 3.1 million board feet of lumber.

From the university of Ohio, according to "the international ¼ inch rule" a 16 foot log 36 inches in diameter would yield 600 board feet, so we only need 5,167 such logs, getting 6 logs from a 100 foot tree, we only need to cut down 861 trees, that is 861 trees that have a 100 foot diameter of 36 inches (average) for the total length, most likely a 150 foot or taller tree.

Then we need to build a big boat, no power tools for any of the above or to build the ark with, axe, adz, maybe something to drill with, hammer, that would be about it I think.

Put yourself in Noah's shoes (sandals?) let's say 2 or 3 years have gone by, maybe you have just cleared a part of the land or maybe the whole ark is completed, at some point what thoughts go through your mind? Do you doubt what you are doing, let's say you started right when GOD commanded you to build the ark, let's also suppose that you completed it in 10 years, now you are going to wait patiently for the next 90 years, in the shadow of the ark waiting for the flood (how long does the pitch stay viable)

What if it took you 50 years to build the ark, I don't know about you, but at some point, maybe 25 YEARS or so into the project, I might wonder, "what the heck am I doing" I go out every day (remember this was before the 10 commandments, no required rest on the Sabbath) for 25 years I have another 25 or so years to go to finish this boat.

I do want to touch on the amount of help Noah might have had, the bible doesn't address this directly, so, for fun, let us make a couple of assumptions, the first of which if, if I help build this

massive ark, when the flood comes, I am going to be on it. The second assumption would be, is whomever is building the ark needs to continue to survive, eat, sleep, have shelter.

We know the passenger (human) list for the ark, Noah, his wife, their 3 sons and their wives, a total of 8, I guess they could "lay-up" provisions for a period of time and work on the ark until it was time to get more food, or they could divide the labor, some getting the food, cleaning and repairing the dwelling. the others working on the ark.

Time for a little recap:

What we know so far is GOD told Noah to build an ark, it was big, it took some time to build, maybe 8 people were working on it (maybe more or maybe less).