

## Surprising Passages from the Hebrew Bible (*Tanach*)

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_, God created... **(note: grammatical error, impossible to literally translate).**

**(Did God make man and woman simultaneously or not?)** 1:27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them... 2:7 Then the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul... 2:22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from the man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man

**(Just before the flood story)** 6:1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, 6:2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives, whomsoever they chose. 6:3 And the Lord said: 'My spirit shall not abide in man for ever, for that he also is flesh; therefore shall his days be a hundred and twenty years.' 6:4 The Nephilim were in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bore children to them; the same were the mighty men that were of old, the men of renown.

**(Can God see the future?)** 6:5 And the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6:6 And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart.

**(Does God play fair with Pharaoh?)** Exodus 7:2 Thou shalt speak all that I command thee; and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he let the children of Israel go out of his land. 7:3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. 7:4 But Pharaoh will not hearken unto you, and I will lay My hand upon Egypt, and bring forth My hosts, My people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt, by great judgments. 7:5 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch forth My hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.

**(More Translation Fun)** Exodus 20:13 (Jewish Pub. Society Translation) Thou shalt not murder. (King James Translation) Thou shalt not kill. (Both are correct! The English word kill meant, in King James time, murder. Simple killing was called "slaying" then.)

**(Abortion not murder – but what's about "eye for an eye?")** Exodus 21:22 And if men strive together, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart, and yet no harm follow, he shall be surely fined, according as the woman's husband shall lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. 21:23 But if any harm follow, then thou shalt give life for life, 21:24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 21:25 burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Lev. 24:19 And if a man maim his neighbour; as he hath done, so shall it be done to him:  
24:20 breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he hath maimed a man, so shall it be rendered unto him.

Deut. 19:21 And thine eye shall not pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

**(Do Jews sacrifice children?)** Judges 11:29 Then the spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon. 11:30 And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the Lord, and said: 'If Thou wilt indeed deliver the children of Ammon into my hand, 11:31 then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, it shall be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt-offering.' 11:32 So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the Lord delivered them into his hand. 11:33 And he smote them from Aroer until thou come to Minnith, even twenty cities, and unto Abel-cheramim, with a very great slaughter. So the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel. 11:34 And Jephthah came to Mizpah unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances; and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. 11:35 And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said: 'Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art become my troubler; for I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back.' 11:36 And she said unto him: 'My father, thou hast opened thy mouth unto the Lord; do unto me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the Lord hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the children of Ammon.' 11:37 And she said unto her father: 'Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may depart and go down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my companions.' 11:38 And he said: 'Go.' And he sent her away for two months; and she departed, she and her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains. 11:39 And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed; and she had not known man. And it was a custom in Israel, 11:40 that the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.

**(Still More Translation Fun)** Isaiah 7:14 (JPS correct version) Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: behold, the young woman shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (King James, incorrect, version) 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**(How many Gods?)** Psalm 82:1 God stands in the divine assembly; among the divine beings He pronounces judgement.