**BS-10?**

**(That’s a lot of BS by any standards!)**

**In terms of the census, (remember the 2020 Census?) the Scriptures take STEPS to ENSURE that the count is accurate and not based on CLASS: "The RICH SHALL NOT give MORE, and THE POOR SHALL NOT give LESS, than the half shekel, ( a shekel is worth about 25-30 cents) when you bring this offering to the Lord to make atonement for YOUR lives."**

**Every LIFE here is WORTH the SAME. (ALL LIVES MATTER!) an IMPRESSIVE pronouncement RIGHT in the middle of a section about HOW AWESOME and COOL PRIESTS are!**

**Now G\*D introduces “a couple of guys” who are going to be the “primary contractors” on this job,** [**Bezalel**](http://jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/3239-bezalel) **and** [**Oholiab**](http://jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/11677-oholiab)**. They are SKILLED and MAJORLY COOL, but not as cool as a PRIEST!**

**Think about why THE BIBLE bothers to mention “these guys.” To give them GLORY. To glorify their CLANS or TRIBES? Or maybe they were just “HANGING AROUND AND CHILLIN’ when all of this stuff was going in the book!  And they said, “Hey, dude, put our names in there.”**

**Now G\*D repeats his command to MOSHE that THE SABBATH should be held sacred. MAYBE HE FORGOT THAT HE SAID IT BEFORE – or- IT IS REALLY that important!**

**Basically, if you do any work on THIS APPOINTED DAY, you will be "put to death." It is not just a designated REST DAY, but also a MEMORIAL to G\*D’S power and example. Besides that, dude, it is SACRED!**

**After all, WAY BACK in** [**Genesis**](https://www.shmoop.com/genesis/)**, he created the world in six days and then took the DAY OFF. Why shouldn't everyone else DO THE SAME? It's a “BONDING THING”.” You. Me. Us.**

**THEN, G\*D gives MOSHE the two stones TABLETS with the Ten Commandments (DECALOGUE) inscribed on them.**

**This is a big HANDOVER, folks!**

**G\*D wrote these with his OWN HAND, and now he is giving them to MOSHE so that he can give them to the PEOPLE.**

**So now we know, G\*D is like us…or WE ARE LIKE HIM. We both have HANDS! Yay!**

**It is no COINCIDENCE that this BIG MOMENT is paired with the instructions about the SABBATH; it gives the whole Sabbath thing “some MAJOR HYPE!”.**

**SPOILER ALERT: this chapter is where the Israelites SCREW UP big time, and Moses must BAIL them out.**

**Here is how it all GOES DOWN:**

**While MOSHE was CHATTING UP G\*D on the mountain for forty days, the people were getting ANTSY AND NASTY. MOSHE did just sort of WANDER AIMLESSLY OFF into the desert, claiming he KNEW where he was going. What GIVES?**

**SO, the people go to AARON (NOT PRESLEY, yep that was his real name!) and tell him to give them gods to worship.**

**AARON (NOT BURR,) ever-faithful-servant-that he-is-without-batting-an-eyelid, tells the Israelites to bring him their GOLD, and he casts a GIANT GOLDEN CALF out of their trinkets. PRETTY impressive, hey?**

**THE WHOLE THING IS CALLED: The Sin of the Calf!**

[**Bull worship**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bull_worship)**was common in many cultures. In Egypt, whence according to the**[**Exodus narrative**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Exodus)**the Hebrews had recently come, the [Apis Bull](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apis_%28Egyptian_mythology%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Apis%20%28Egyptian%20mythology%29) was a comparable object of worship, which some believe the Hebrews were reviving out there in the wilderness.**

**AARON (Not Spelling) then FLIPS the PARTY SWITCH, and everyone PARTAYS around the “golden calf.”**

**G\*D is obviously NOT happy—remember the first commandment? Um what was that one again?**

**He tells MOSHE to hang out for a few minutes while he DESTROYS all the Israelites. Afterward, G\*D promises, he will make a great nation of MOSHE (**[**sound familiar?**](https://www.shmoop.com/genesis/)**) Um, wasn’t that Abraham?**

**MOSHE convinces G\*D to “CHILL OUT” – “take a chill pill, man” --- reminding G\*D that “they” just did all this work to get these people OUT of Egypt.**

**Then he takes the tablets written by G\*D down the mountain.**

**Joshua Ben Nun (Joshua son of Nun) hears the party noises, and wonders if the camp is “under attack or something.” MOSHE tells him that these people are as good as doomed, big time! They are in SO MUCH TROUBLE!**

**MOSHE reaches the camp, sees everyone partying around, smoking Marlboro’s, having cocktails, making out in the corners and he smashes the tablets IN ANGER. Then he burns the calf, grinds it up into POWDER, mixes the gold-dust WITH WATER, and forces the Israelites to DRINK IT. (Talk about your kidney stones!) These are solid! Solid gold!**

**Ew.**

**MOSHE yells at Aaron (not Charles Carter), who blames the people; he says, "I threw [the people's gold] into the fire, and OUT came this calf!"**

**It must have been NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY!**

**MOSHE draws a line in the sand, and the Levites (a tribe of Israel) come over to Moses. He tells them to kill THREE PEOPLE each. Yep. About 3,000 Israelites are slaughtered by the Levites. Didn't it say somewhere that murder was bad, a NO-NO, even?**

**MOSHE pleads the people's case with G\*D, and G\*D sends a PLAGUE down on the Israelites for their disobedience. (COVID-18?)**

**Not a great day for THESE PEOPLE.**

**G\*D tells Moshe to go in peace and that the land of Canaan will be his for the taking.**

**He also tells MOSHE that he, G\*D, will no longer be personally accompanying the people. He's kind of SICK of them: "Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will NOT go up among you, or I would CONSUME you on the way, for you are a STIFF-NECKED-STUBBORN-COMPLAINING BUNCH of people."**

**Ouch!**

**We get a nice image of "The Tent of Meeting," where the Israelites, G\*D, and MOSHE used to hang out. But it is ALL OVER NOW.**

**G\*D tells MOSHE how they will rewrite the Ten Commandments. MOSHE even gets to look at G\*D—but not at his face…just his backside. Mysterium Tremendum (The tremendous mystery) …**

**The G\*D yells back, does my butt look big in this?**

**MOSHE laughs and laughs and laughs and then says grudgingly, yeah, sure!**

**MOSHE Becomes** [**Stanley Kubrick**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000040/) **and Everyone Goes Home Semi-Happy.**

**Ok, so who is Stanley Kubrick, come on, look it up, he is a mensch!**

**G\*D tells MOSHE to recut some stone for new tablets and meet him on the mountain ALONE. Spooky much!**

**(Heavy eerie music plays in the background…)**

**God proclaims his POWER with “a nifty little poem.”**

**"The Lord (ADONAI), The Lord G\*D (ELOHIM), looky there, you are speaking HEBREW, “merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation."**

**Basically, G\*D wants to have “his cake” and “eat it too.”**

**He wants to be SEEN as mercifully STERN and sternly MERCIFUL at the same time.**

**Confused?**

**Do not be…it is just G\*D being G\*D!**

**G\*D renews the COVENANT with MOSHE and tells him that new wonders will be on their way when G\*D drives the inhabitants of Canaan OUT for the Israelites.**

**SO, do you remember WHAT a COVENANT is?**

**One warning, though: there must be no HANKY-PANKY with ANY Canaanite GIRLS or Canaanite gods.**

**He tells Moses that the Israelites must stick to their “ritual guns,” or else.**

**G\*D reiterates that all the firstborn belongs to him (in terms of circumcision). Snip! Snip! Snip!**

**He repeats “festival law” and NOTES that "the best of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring to the house of the Lord your G\*D." Gotta give G\*D THE BEST AND ONLY THE BEST!**

**In an interesting twist, (Not OLIVER) G\*Dt ells MOSHE that the Ten Commandments will now be DICTATED; G\*D will not write them himself, but MOSHE will write down EXACTLY what G\*D says. Is there a secretary in the tent?**

**When MOSHE comes down from the mountain this time, his face SHINES when he LOOKS at the people.**

**Everyone's FREAKED OUT, naturally, so Moses puts on a VEIL to cover his face.**

**Just Do It Already! NIKE!**

**In a super small nutshell, these following chapters have ONE event:**

**MOSHE and the Israelite builder(s) get to constructing the Tabernacle to the exact specs that God gave them.**

**G\*D comes down to “hang out in it,” and the Israelites move whenever G\*D’S cloud of FIRE leaves the tent. "But if the cloud WAS NOT taken up, then they DID NOT set out until the day that it was TAKEN UP."**

**That i's it.**

**That is the end of Exodus. The end of book II of the TORAH. Remember that word?**

**The literary structure of the following section is almost exactly the same as all the regulations for the Tabernacle.**

**So, if God said, "Bob, you should go over there, and build a box, and this box should be 2.5x1.5x1.5 cubits," then it says now--- "Bob went over there, built a box, and the box was 2.5x1.5x1.5 cubits."**

**So, a lot of repetition…**

**But let us consider a larger question. WAY BACK in** [**Genesis**](https://www.shmoop.com/genesis/)**, the writers spent a few chapters trying to sum up the creation of the universe.**

**In Exodus, the writers spend about five times as much space on the Tabernacle specs—down to the last cubit.**

**Why is this? Why is it important? Assuming it is.**

 **Why repeat this kind of text?**

**For starters, we must remember that whoever was writing this text had a HUGE interest in the Tabernacle.**

**Biblical writers do not repeat UNIMPORTANT things, so the specs are REALLYIMPORTANT. If you needed to include BLUEPRINTS for your club's headquarters and info on the CLUB’S ORIGIN’S in the same document, what would you spend more time on?**

**Probably the BLUEPRINTS: they mean continuity for everything else; and if that building is not built perfectly, the REST will not get PRESERVED.**

**People also speculate that this section of Exodus was written by a source within the PRIESTHOOD.**

**Remember, the forerunners of the PRIESTS—Aaron—screwed up big time with the GOLDEN CALF.**

**Could all of these repetitions be trying to make up for that?**

**Maybe the writer wanted to focus the reader's attention on the PRIESTS’ “new source of power” rather than “their old source of disgrace.”**

**One final note about the end of Exodus.**

**Then we are done, I promise. This is page 9 after all.**

**G\*D had said before that he was not GOING WITH the Israelites INTO Canaan.**

**Remember? HE said he was DONE with them: "I will not go up among you, or I would consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people!"**

**But by the time we get to the end of the book, “the “spirit of G\*D is hanging out IN the Tabernacle.”**

**Explanations?**

**He forgot?**

**Come on, he is old right?**

**From everlasting to everlasting is a long time!**

**It could be just “an angelic messenger.”**

**Or G\*D could have meant that he would go WITH the Israelites to Canaan but not INTO it.**

**When it comes down to it, the Biblical presence of G\*D is its own thing entirely, and no one seems to be able to figure it out.**

**WOW, if you have been following you just read two whole books of the Bible and you did not even have to open the book!**

**Happy Quarantine and Self-Isolation Day, again! Enjoy your day as best as you are able!**

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