

Does the Bible Contradict Itself? (Part I)

2 Timothy 3:16-17: (NASB) *16All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*



The Bible is a big, complex and deeply misunderstood book. It was written over a period of 1,500 years by up to 40 authors. It was written in three different languages. To make matters more complicated, it has been translated a myriad of times through the last few thousand years and has suffered the unfortunate treatment of being altered along the way by some of its translators. Many, especially atheists, have enthusiastically pointed out numerous glaring contradictions in its pages. In the midst of all this skepticism, we confidently proclaim the Bible is the inspired and harmonious

word of God! Who is right? Is the Bible contradictory or can each and every contradiction be explained?

There are many apparent contradictions in Scripture. We will cover a lot of them in a multiple-part series. If there are contradictions for which you would like an explanation, or even if there are contradictions you think cannot be explained, we would love to hear from you and hope to address your questions in future podcasts.

**CONTRADICTION -
or needing a
clear explanation?**



**WHO
killed Goliath?**



David slew Goliath. This is one of the most famous Bible stories of all time:

1 Samuel 17:50: (NASB) *Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand.*

This account is unequivocal in its characters and their roles. David slew Goliath.



Elhanan killed Goliath:

2 Samuel 21:18-19: (NASB) *18Now it came about after this that there was war again with the Philistines at Gob; then Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down Saph, who was among the descendants of the giant. 19There was war with the Philistines again at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite killed *Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. (*Note: The King James Version adds "brother of" before "Goliath" but it is not found in earlier Bible manuscripts, meaning it was supplied by the translator.)*

There is a distinct description here that verifies Goliath as the same giant in the David account - the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam:

1 Samuel 17:7: (NASB) *The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron; his shield-carrier also walked before him.*

So, who killed Goliath? If one account says one thing and another says something else, we lean towards the more detailed account and search for the cause of the error.

Fortunately, another text addresses the error:

1 Chronicles 20:4-5: (NASB) *4Now it came about after this, that war broke out at Gezer with the Philistines; then Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Sippai, one of the descendants of the giants, and they were subdued. 5And there was war with the Philistines again, and Elhanan the son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.*

Both 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles are clearly the exact same historical recounting. 1 Chronicles adds the part about *the brother of Goliath*. This gives us a two-to-one focus on David killing Goliath.



Many events in the Bible are repeated several times. The challenge is to look at the repetitions of the accounts and put them together.

This is also recounted after David's original encounter:

1 Samuel 21:9: (KJV) *And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me.*

And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest.

Conclusion



David did kill Goliath, and 2 Samuel 21 had a copyist error. There are three potential errors that could have occurred. Please See CQ Rewind Show Notes Bonus Material for details.

Human error occurred in transcribing, but not all the contradictions are due to copyist error.

**Contradiction can occur due to human error.
What about when two accounts say different things?**

Human errors in the translation process are usually small things, and fortunately we have context and repetition to help us find them. It is a different situation when we have two Scriptures that seem to say something happened differently. Here, we need to look for the connecting clues.

Our audio clips show a perspective of those who feel the Bible is ridiculous. We have to ask honestly if the opinion is valid or not.



No female teachers, Ridiculous Bible Verses You've Never Heard, Secular Talk

- *And these are things that I didn't know. These are other absurd Bible verses that were totally foreign to me. I had no idea they existed until I read this, and they are delicious. So, let me read you some of these and please feel free to use them when you're debating a bunch of idiots.*

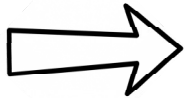
Quote, "I permit no woman to teach or have authority over men. She is to keep silent." That's in 1 Timothy 2:11, and the takeaway from this of course is, the whole idea of having female teachers in school, it's against the Bible. Fire them all. Hey, if you're not allowed, don't ever listen to a woman. That's what it's saying. No woman should have authority over men. So, you know what else that means? All female doctors, all female surgeons, sorry, you're fired. It's in the Bible. Never have a female teacher. Never have a female doctor.

It is important to study and understand the context. It is so easy to take things out of context, especially when talking about ancient times and cultures.

**CONTRADICTION -
or needing a
clear explanation?**



**How
did Judas die -
by hanging or
his guts spilling out?**



The primary thought is Judas died by suicide by hanging himself:

Matthew 27:3-5: (KJV) ³Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? See thou to that. ⁵And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

This plain statement clearly implies death by hanging.



Judas died by falling and his intestines bursting out of his abdomen:

Acts 1:15-20: (NASB) ¹⁵At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren...and said, ¹⁶Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry. ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his homestead be made desolate, and let no one dwell in it; and, Let another man take his office.

This sounds like while walking, Judas tripped, fell and ruptured his abdomen. Did he hang himself or he fall? Which is correct? BOTH are true. Both accounts are simply different aspects of Judas' death. He died by hanging. His body stayed there, and eventually the rope or branch on which it hung broke, and his body *fell headlong*.

(Source: <https://answersingenesis.org/contradictions-in-the-bible/how-did-judas-die/>)
Gruesome as it is, Judas' dead body hung in the hot sun of Jerusalem, and the bacteria inside his body would have been actively breaking down tissues and cells. A byproduct of bacterial metabolism is often gas. The pressure created by the gas forces fluid out of the cells and tissues and into the body cavities. The body becomes bloated as a result. In addition, tissue decomposition occurs compromising the integrity of the skin. Judas' body was similar to an



overinflated balloon, and as he hit the ground (due to the branch he hung on or the rope itself breaking) the skin easily broke and he burst open with his internal organs spilling out.

Why the difference in narratives? Matthew was reporting *how* Judas died. In Acts, Peter is establishing that what happened to Judas *was a result of* his suicide and horrific fall from the tree. It shows a sense of shame for the betrayal. This, along with fulfillment of scriptural prophecy, prompted them to officially replace the twelfth Apostle.

Peter quotes parts of the Psalms as evidence:

Psalm 69:25-26: (NASB) ²⁵May their camp be desolate; may none dwell in their tents. ²⁶For they have persecuted him whom You Yourself have smitten...

Judas fulfilled that prophesy. He persecuted Jesus by turning him over to the authorities.

Psalm 109:6-8: (NASB) ⁶Appoint a wicked man over him, and let an accuser stand at his right hand. ⁷When he is judged, let him come forth guilty, and let his prayer become sin. ⁸Let his days be few; let another take his office.

Peter explained that Judas needed to be replaced, per prophecy.

Conclusion



Different Scriptures often reveal different parts of a story. It is important to observe how the harmony of various details actually fit together. Remember there is more to the story.

What about our unchangeable God? Does He ever change His mind and in so doing contradict Himself?

There are many texts we could bring up under this category of potential Bible contradictions. Of all the areas we will consider in these several podcasts, this is perhaps the one that urges the most caution. After all, we are the created - should we be judging the intentions of God?



Adultery, Ridiculous Bible Verses You've Never Heard, Secular Talk

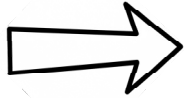
- *Quote: But I say unto you that whoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. That's in Matthew 5:28 - and let me decode that. That means that even looking at a woman and being attracted to her is adultery. So, all the pain that people go through where they think, "Oh my God, I can't violate the Lord, we can't allow gay marriage, that violates God's law. We can't get remarried or whatever. We can't get divorced, that violates God's law." Actually, I guarantee you already violated God's law. If you looked at a woman and ever thought she's attractive, you're going to hell. You already committed adultery in your heart, men. You already committed adultery.*

He completely misrepresents what the Scripture said. When we commit something in our heart, it does not mean we actually did it, but God does judge us. Looking at someone and thinking they are attractive is not lusting after them.

CONTRADICTION -
or needing a
clear explanation?



Does God change
His mind
OR
always keep it
the same?



God's mind is set and unchangeable.

Context - God judging His people, yet reminding them of His steadfast love for them:

Malachi 3:6: (NASB) *For I, the LORD, do not **change <8132>**; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.*

Change: Strongs #8132 *shana*, to alter

Context - Balaam talking to Balak, who is asking Balaam to not follow God's instructions to him:

Numbers 23:19: (NASB) *God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should **repent <5162>**; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?*

Repent: Strongs #5162 *nacham*, to sigh, i.e. breathe strongly; to be sorry, i.e. (in a favorable sense) to pity, console or rue; or (unfavorably) to avenge (oneself)

Balaam's explains God is not like an imperfect man who will lie and stand against that which is true (repent from it/rue it), because He knows what is right.

Context - James is saying that only ultimate good comes from God and to never worry about that:

James 1:17-18: (NASB) *¹⁷Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no **variation <3883>** or shifting shadow. ¹⁸In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.*

Variation: Strongs #3883 *parallage*, fickleness, variableness



God DOES change His mind frequently.

Context - God allowing Moses to talk Him out of destroying Israel after the building of the golden calf:

Exodus 32:14: (NASB) *So the LORD **changed His mind <5162>** about the harm which He said He would do to His people. (The same Strongs word is used, but it is a different definition.)*

God voiced His right to *avenge* Himself, and in so doing gave Moses the necessary passion to deal with the sin he would face when he left the mountain.



Context - the Flood:

Genesis 6:5-6: (NASB) *⁵Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶The LORD was **sorry <5162>** (this is the same Strong's word again with a different definition) that He had made man on the earth, and He was **grieved <6087>** in His heart.*

Grieved: Strong's #6087 *atsab*, to carve, i.e. fabricate or fashion; hence (in a bad sense) to worry, pain or anger

Repent: Strong's #5162 *nacham*, to sigh, i.e. breathe strongly; to be sorry, i.e. (in a favorable sense) to pity, console or rue; or (unfavorably) to avenge (oneself)

Same #5162 using a different definition - God did not change His mind. He deeply sighed/breathed strongly, meaning He was upset and pained.

God deeply sighed and was pained by the deep sin of His creation:

Jonah 3:10: (NASB) *When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God **relented <5162>** (The King James Version says "repented") concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.*

God pitied (another definition for Strong's #5162) the people as they responded to His prophet.

Lesson:

God's mind is unequivocally set for the ultimate good of His creation. At the same time, He allows for the free will of men to have influence on the immediate circumstances they face. In each of the examples above, God is responding to the peoples' responses - He is not changing His mind. He gave them leeway.



Are we stretching by applying all these different meanings to one word? No. Because the context matters!

Here is an English language example of a word that has vastly different meanings which can only be determined by the context in which the word is used. The word is fine.



A man woke up one morning and drank his whey protein drink which was ground into a *FINE* powder. He went outside, and it was a *FINE* day, so he put on his *FINE* clothing and went for a drive. Unfortunately, he was texting while driving and ran into a utility pole. The police officer who came to the scene asked him how he was. He responded, "I'm *FINE*." At that point the officer informed him he would have to pay a *FINE*, to which he responded, "Well, that's a *FINE* thing!"

The same word was used in different ways, but we all know what the word means. If we can do that with our language, certainly other languages can also.

Conclusion



Clarity of context and an understanding of words within that context are absolutely necessary to be able to determine what is meant in Scripture.

We can understand God's unchangeableness by looking at those things He allows to be altered in their context.

How about something as simple as the Sabbath? Should Christians be keeping it on Saturdays?

For those who would like to see the Bible discredited, there are many easy paths to take. One such path is the discussion of the Sabbath. The Jewish Law was simple and plain - keep the Sabbath - and yet the vast majority of Christians have their worship and rest on Sunday, not Saturday. Why?

For a full explanation, please search our archives for Episode #697: "Are the Christian and Jewish Sabbath the Same?"

Again, let's go to ridiculous interpretations of Bible verses.

Anti-family, *Ridiculous Bible Verses You've Never Heard, Secular Talk*

- *"For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and the man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." That's in Matthew 10, lines 27 to 35. And that is the part of the Bible, where it's flat-out anti-family. This is Jesus saying like a pure cult leader, "No, no, I want to pit the father against the wife and the son, the son against the daughter, and the daughter against this and that. Because I want you guys to hate each other in the family, because you need to follow me. You have to put me above your family." So, the whole idea of Christian family values that we have today, where they say "nuclear family," white picket fence, a dog, one man, one woman, all totally made up, man!*

How sad that they do not take the phrases Jesus spoke correctly. Throughout the New Testament, Jesus taught an incredible structure on the importance of family.

**CONTRADICTION -
or needing a
clear explanation?**



**Is the
Sabbath
to be kept
OR
Not?**



The Sabbath is sacred and must be kept.

When was the Sabbath given to Israel by God? Before the Ten Commandments.



Here they are, wandering in the wilderness, entirely reliant upon God's miraculous care for them:

Exodus 16:22-23: (NIV) ²²On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much - two omers for each person--and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. ²³He said to them, This is what the LORD commanded: Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.

Their very sustenance was dependent upon acting in accordance with the Sabbath.

Exodus 31:12-13: (NASB) ¹²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹³But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, You shall surely observe My sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.



Observations about the Sabbath:

- ⌚ It was for the sons of Israel to identify them with their God.
- ⌚ It was a generational arrangement.
- ⌚ It evidenced the fact of God setting them apart.



Keeping the Sabbath is not a requirement.

Romans 14:5: (NASB) *One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.*

We, as Christians, are not bound to the Law (except by its moral standards). The Law does not guide what a Christian does in terms of ritual. Jesus put an end to that.

Galatians 3:24-27: (ASV) ²⁴So that the law is become our tutor to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith is come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶For ye are all sons of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ.

The Apostle Paul is speaking to Christians. The Law taught the Jews how to get to Jesus. Once they arrived, they did not need the *tutor* (the Law). It is not a contradiction that the Sabbath is not the centerpiece of Christianity; it is the natural progression because of Jesus.

The Apostles led us to a new kind of day of rest for Christians, because the Law was fulfilled by Jesus:

Acts 20:7: (NASB) *On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day.*



Their habit was to gather on the first day of the week, on Sunday, as they were no longer Jewish. They established something different.

1 Corinthians 16:2: (NASB) *On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.*

Lesson: The seventh day was an ending, a physical rest for the Jews. It paved the way for the first day of worship - a new dispensation of spiritual rest for the Christian.



Those who remained Jewish still abided by a Saturday Sabbath, as they do to this day.

Revelation 1:10: (ASV) *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.*

On the Lord's day - Jesus was resurrected on Sunday, the first day of the week! The Apostles got together to worship God on Sunday.

Conclusion



The Bible is to be understood in the context of ages and dispensations. As time passes, God's dealings with humanity change as He shows us the step-by-step pathway back to Him.

It is important for biblical understanding to know *when* a Scripture is applicable. Before the Flood? During the age of the Law? During the age of Christianity? God dealt with humanity differently in time with a progression of guidelines. This does not mean we disrespect the Sabbath; the resurrection day of Sunday is important for the Christian.

What should we say to those who are always looking to expose the Bible as a book of contradiction?

This is a powerful and important question for we are constantly pushed back on our heels when it comes to topics like this. People ask for answers and when you give them answers, they never seem to satisfy. Why? It is time we also begin to ask questions so we can understand where the questioners are coming from.



Good vs. evil, Catholic Student Asks Jordan Peterson About Contradiction in the Bible, YouTube

- In order for their good to be good, there has to be the possibility of evil. I think the right path is to exist such that the possibility of evil remains open, but that you choose the good. And I don't think that evil per se is built into the structure of the world. I do think that that's human. I think that evil is human, and I think it's understandable. I did a lecture that's online about the distinction between evil and tragedy. And tragedy seems to be built into the structure of the world, and perhaps you can blame God for that. I mean, it doesn't seem to me that it's your fault; there are earthquakes, for example. But it is not obvious to me either that it's tragedy that takes the spirit out of people. I think that human beings are actually equipped to deal with tragedy, but we're not equipped to deal with malevolence. That destroys people. And so, I think that metaphysically speaking, the world is structured so that people have a choice between good and evil. So then the next question is, why do we have a choice? And that's where my knowledge runs out.*

He says, "That's where my knowledge runs out." That is where the Scriptures come in!

Darkness and evil are from Satan, allowed by God for the short-term.

For more on why God permits evil, please search our archives for Episode #1012: "Are God and Evil Meant to Coexist?"

Some of our content today came from the following source:

(Source: <https://ffrf.org/legacy/books/lfif/?t=contra>; The Freedom from Religion Foundation)

From their title, it is obvious they feel religion is bad want to free people from religion.

Here is a small quote from their article we used for some of our supposed contradictions:

All of the above contradictions have been carefully studied, and when necessary the original languages have been consulted. Although it is always scholarly to consider the original languages, why should that be necessary with the "word of God"?

We challenge how carefully they have studied the contradictions. There is a difference between "consulting the languages" and understanding them.



Do you believe in God?
Why or why not? Do you want to?

We need to find out where the questioner is coming from. We assume those from the "Freedom from Religion Foundation" do not believe in God. We would ask them, "What is your concern about what is said in the book we believe in?" We need to understand why someone is doing something before we engage in a conversation.

For someone who does not believe in God, they are not likely to accept any of our answers to the contradictions presented. Why? Any answer to any question passes through the filter of our own minds and our own bias. It is important to know how their filter works. Do not be afraid to ask questions.

An omnipotent, omniscient deity should have made His all-important message unmistakably clear to everyone, everywhere, at all times. No one should have to learn an extinct language to get God's message, especially an ancient language about which there is much scholarly disagreement.

Their assumption here is off-target. It is assumed that the purpose of God's word is to enlighten all people at all times. It is not.

Mark 4:10-12: (NASB) ¹⁰As soon as he was alone, his followers, along with the twelve, began asking him about the parables. ¹¹And he was saying to them, To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, ¹²so that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven. (Quoted from Isaiah 6:9-10)



Jesus is saying, "To my special followers, I will explain things, but it is not for others to understand."

It is not time for everyone to understand. God's plan is bigger than our assumptions:

Daniel 12:4: (NASB) *But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.*

God specifically told Daniel to - *conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time.*



Are you willing to put your paradigm aside to be able to absorb why God does not want everyone to know everything now?

The questioner is assuming the word of God is in place so everyone can be enlightened. That is not why the word of God is there.

If the English translation is flawed or imprecise, then God failed to get his point across to English speakers. A true fundamentalist should consider the English version of the Bible to be just as inerrant as the original because if we admit that human error was possible in the translation, then it was equally possible in the original writing.

That is a wrong conclusion.

Again, this assumption does not account for what the Bible itself tells us. It is supposed to be difficult:

2 Timothy 2:15-16: (NASB) ¹⁵*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.* ¹⁶*But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness.*

We need to be diligent to handle the word of truth accurately. The Apostle Paul was telling Timothy that the truth would get misrepresented. How much more will it be misrepresented now? We must be careful.



Are you willing to look at and give credit to the MANY prophecies that have come true, the many scientific statements the Bible spoke before they were known to humanity and the astounding knowledge of the stars it contains?

When people want to make fun of what we believe, we should not be afraid to ask questions back to them. Find out what their motivation is. In social media when people ask us questions rudely, we respond, "There is a great answer to that and if you would like to ask again in a respectful manner, we would love to answer the question."



The Bible does not contradict itself - it simply needs to be explained. There are occasional copyist errors and there are stories told from different perspectives. We need to know what words mean and their context. The Bible is a timeline. Things change as humanity walks back toward God.

In Part II we will pick up with more supposed contradictions. If you have contradictions that you see in Scripture, send them to us and we may discuss them on a future podcast!

God is omnipotent, He does have a plan...and YOU are in it.

*So, does the Bible contradict itself?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on May , 2019:
Ep. #1073: Is Motherhood Still Vital?

Bonus Material!

Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of readiness to die. – Gilbert K. Chesterton

Details on the answer from “Who killed Goliath” showing the copyist error:

(Source: <https://carm.org/who-killed-goliath-david-or-elhanan>) Second, it appears there was a copyist error in 2 Samuel 21:19. According to Gleason Archer's Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties on page 179, it says,

1. The sign of the direct object, which in Chronicles comes just before "Lahmi," was '-t; the copyist mistook it for b-t or b-y-t ("Beth") and thus got Bet hal-Lahmi ("the Bethlehemite") out of it.
2. He misread the word for "brother" ('-h) as the sign of the direct object ('-t) right before g-l-y-t ("Goliath"). Thus he made "Goliath" the object of "killed" (wayyak), instead of the "brother" of Goliath (as the Chronicles passage does).
3. The copyist misplaced the word for "weavers" ('-r-g-ym) so as to put it right after "Elhanan" as his patronymic (ben Y-'-r-y'-r--g-ym, or ben ya 'arey 'ore -gim -- "the son of the forests of weavers" -- a most unlikely name for anyone's father!). In Chronicles the 'ore grim ("weavers") comes right after menor ("a beam of ") -- thus making perfectly good sense.

A few other “contradictions” we will draw from to consider in future podcasts. These questions of contradiction and their accompanying verses are taken



directly from various websites, including <https://www.atheists.org/activism/resources/biblical-contradictions/>

Should we kill?

Exodus 20:13: (KJV) *Thou shalt not kill.*

Leviticus 24:17: (KJV) *And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death.*

vs.

Exodus 32:27: (KJV) *Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side...and slay every man his brother...companion...neighbor.*

1 Samuel 6:19: (KJV) *...and the people lamented because the LORD had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter.*

1 Samuel 15:2-3,7-8: (KJV) *Thus saith the LORD...Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass...And Saul smote the Amalekites...and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.*

Numbers 15:36: (KJV) *And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

Hosea 13:16: (KJV) *They shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.*

Should we tell lies?

Exodus 20:16: (KJV) *Thou shalt not bear false witness.*

Proverbs 12:22: (KJV) *Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord.*

vs.

1 Kings 22:23: (KJV) *The Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee."*

2 Thessalonians 2:11: (KJV) *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.*

Also, compare [Joshua 2:4-6](#) with [James 2:25](#).

Should we steal?

Exodus 20:15: (KJV) *Thou shalt not steal.*

Leviticus 19:13: (KJV) *Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor, neither rob him.*

vs.

Exodus 3:22: (KJV) *And ye shall spoil the Egyptians.*

Exodus 12: 36: (KJV) *And they spoiled [plundered, NRSV] the Egyptians.*

Luke 19:29-34: (KJV) *[Jesus] sent two of his disciples, saying, Go ye into the village...ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring him hither. And if any man ask you, Why do ye loose him? Thus shall ye say unto him, Because the Lord hath need of him...And as they were loosing the colt, the owners thereof said unto them, Why loose ye the colt? And they said, The Lord hath need of him.*

Should we own slaves?



Leviticus 25:45-46: (KJV) *Moreover of the children of the strangers that do sojourn among you, of them shall ye buy...and they shall be your possession...they shall be your bondmen forever.*

Genesis 9:25: (KJV) *And he [Noah] said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.*

Exodus 21:2, 7: (KJV) *If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing...And if a man sell his daughter to be a maidservant, she shall not go out as the manservants do.*

Joel 3:8: (KJV) *And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off: for the Lord hath spoken it.*

Luke 12:47, 48: (KJV) *[Jesus speaking] And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes.*

Colossians 3:22: (KJV) *Servants, obey in all things your masters.*

vs.

Isaiah 58:6: (KJV) *Undo the heavy burdens...let the oppressed go free...break every yoke.*

Matthew 23:10: (KJV) *Neither be ye called Masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.*

Pro-slavery Bible verses were cited by many churches in the South during the Civil War and were used by some theologians in the Dutch Reformed Church to justify apartheid in South Africa. There are more apparently pro-slavery verses than cited here.

Should we swear an oath?

Numbers 30:2: (KJV) *If a man vow a vow unto the Lord or swear an oath...he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.*

Genesis 21:23-24,31: (KJV) *...swear unto me here by God that thou wilt not deal falsely with me...And Abraham said, I will swear...Wherefore he called that place Beersheba (well of the oath); because there they sware both of them.*

Hebrews 6:13-17: (KJV) *For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself...for men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath.*

See also Genesis 22:15-19, Genesis 31:53, and Judges 11:30-39.

vs.

Matthew 5:34-37: (KJV) *But I say unto you, swear not at all; neither by heaven...nor by the earth...Neither shalt thou swear by thy head...But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.*

James 5:12: (KJV) *...swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.*

Were women and men created equal?

Genesis 1:27: (KJV) *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

vs.

Genesis 2:18,23: (KJV) *And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him...And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

When was Jesus crucified?

Mark 15:25: (KJV) *And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.*

vs.

John 19:14-15: (KJV) *And about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried out . . . crucify him."*

It is an ad hoc defense to claim that there are two methods of reckoning time here. It has never been shown that this is the case.

Is God omnipotent?

Jeremiah 32:27: (KJV) *Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?*

Matthew 19:26: (KJV) *But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.*

vs.

Judges 1:19: (KJV) *And the Lord was with Judah; and he drave out the inhabitants of the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron.*

Does God accept human sacrifice?

Deuteronomy 12:31: (KJV) *Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.*

vs.

Genesis 22:2: (KJV) *And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.*

Exodus 22:29: (KJV) *Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors; the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.*

Judges 11:30-39: (KJV) *And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, 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, shall surely be the LORD's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering. So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon...and the LORD delivered them into his hands...And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances....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.*

2 Samuel 21:8-14: (KJV) *But the king [David] took the two sons of Rizpah...and the five sons of Michal...and he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in*



the hill before the LORD: and they fell all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest...And after that God was intreated for the land.

Hebrews 10:10-12: (KJV) *...we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ...But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God.*

1 Corinthians 5:7: (KJV) *...For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.*

The permanence of earth:

Ecclesiastes 1:4: (KJV) *...the earth abideth forever.*

2 Peter 3:10: (KJV) *The elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

Family relationships:

Exodus 20:12: (KJV) *Honor thy father and thy mother...*

Luke 14:26: (KJV) *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

The end of the world:

Matthew 16:28: (KJV) *Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.*

Luke 21:32-33: (KJV) *Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*

Romans 13:11-12: (KJV) *And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

James 5:8: (KJV) *Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*

1 John 2:18: (KJV) *Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

1 Peter 4:7: (KJV) *But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober and watch unto prayer.*

(Source: <https://www.atheists.org/activism/resources/biblical-contradictions/>)

These words were written between 1800 and 1900 years ago and were meant to warn and prepare the first Christians for the immediate end of the world. Some words are those supposedly straight out of the mouth of the "Son of God." The world did not end 1,800 or 1,900 years ago. That generation passed away without any of the things foretold coming to pass. No amount of prayer brought it about; nor ever so much patience and belief and sober living. The world went on, as usual, indifferent to the spouting of yet another batch of doomsday prophets with visions of messiahs dancing in their deluded brains. The world, by surviving, makes the above passages contradictions.



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