

# *Contradictions in the Bible (?)*

One of the most distressing excuses that people make for not accepting the Bible as the Word of God, **1** **2** is that it contains discrepancies, contradictions. They will use this as an excuse to justify their ignoring of the Bible and they have convinced themselves that these so-called contradictions are absolutely valid and therefore the Bible is nothing more or less than a work of fiction perpetrated by a number of writers over the course of some fifteen hundred years or so, from approximately 1450 BC, the time of Moses, give or take, to about 100 AD, assuming the late date of the writing of the Book of Revelation. If nothing else, think about that dynamic for just a minute. 1500 years, 66 books, and the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on mankind, far more insidious than the Piltdown man, whose fossilized skull was acclaimed as proof of the missing link and evolution for 40 years, until 1953, when it was proven that the famous Piltdown fossil was in fact a combination of the skull of a man, the jawbone of an orangutan, and the teeth of a chimp, all cleverly put together to represent the so-called missing link. If the Bible is a hoax, it is a hoax that has been carried on for those 1500 years between the writings of the various books. It is a hoax that has been supported and engaged in by any number of writers from Moses to John. It is a hoax that has been accepted to be just exactly what it purports itself to be by a vast portion of the world.

Just the illogic of that, in and of itself, is mind-boggling, but setting that aside, consider, please, that even though many go to great lengths to point out what they perceive to be these discrediting contradictions of the scriptures, the harmony of the Bible is phenomenal. Even the most ardent nay-sayers can't explain how that that many people over such a vast amount of time could possibly have collaborated to such an exacting extent that their works would so closely harmonize. Think about the research that would be required, the records that would have to be kept to make sure that what is being written at the end of the specific book would match what was written at the first. That doesn't even take into consideration the fact that all the other records would be necessary to be available for research for that last writer, and this, at a time when many of the accounts or histories were not even written down but were recorded, if you will, in oral history. Were the Bible a hoax, the accomplishment of it would be tantamount to putting 1000 monkeys into a room for ten years with computers and them accidentally comprising the complete works of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series. To claim that the Bible is a hoax defies the very fabric of logic. Not to mention what the scriptures say...

**2 Tim 3:16**

**3**

**16** All Scripture is inspired by God

There truly can be no other explanation for the 66 books that comprise the Biblical library. Of a necessity, for there to be the level of agreement and harmony in these books there must be really, only One Author, one author over the 1500 years that it took to write them, if not God, then who?

The first, and maybe the most important, thing that the world ignores is what role faith has in this discussion.

**Rom 1:17**

**4**

**17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Paul clearly points out that faith, faith from the Word of God, Rom. 10:17, is to be the guide that leads man through this life.

**2 Cor 5:6-7**

**5**

**6** Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord — **7** for we walk by faith, not by sight  
The follower of God walks through this life by following God by and through faith.

So all of this is to set the background to the things we will be looking at in this lesson, these so-called contradictions of the Bible. Now the point of this discussion isn't so much to answer the specifics of the allegations, but rather to try and dispel some of the motivations of the arguments. We are going to try and look at some principles that I think will help as we look at what the world claims, not the least of which is faith. In and of itself faith is discounted by the world. It isn't scientific in its nature. It isn't to be used as evidence because it is not testable or provable. It is neither concrete nor empirical. Faith is nothing more than emotion or feelings, and most assuredly a life founded upon emotion and feelings is a life of folly. This has long been the justification that many in the world turn to as their excuse or reason to not come to God. Science, on the other hand, claims to use provable, empirical evidence to structure its conclusions on. Well, as we have already seen with the Piltdown man, science bases their conclusions on what it perceives to be as concrete evidence, just like with the so-called missing link. Notice what Albert Einstein said concerning science and religion...

**6** *Albert Einstein, one of the most highly recognized and revered scientists of the twentieth century believed in religion. The founder of modern physics and Nobel laureate recognized the impossibility of a non-created universe, quoted saying “Everyone who is seriously committed to the cultivation of science becomes convinced that in all the laws of the universe is manifest a spirit vastly superior to man, and to which we with our powers must feel humble.” Another famous quote of his was “Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.”*

So, what the world does to combat faith is to try and destroy it. It does this by trying to point out contradictions and discrepancies in that faith. The problem is that this is strictly a one way street with the nay-sayers. They seek desperately to point out flaws in the Bible and then use those perceived flaws to discredit the whole but absolutely look the other way concerning their own conclusions. If the idea of evolution were accurate, even if God used it to create, which many now say He did, then that dynamic would demand that the fossil record show that. There would be some sort of connection between the evolving species. The thing is, it would not be just one missing link but billions upon billions. If life started as some single celled organism in some pool of goo, then all life must originate from that goo. Where are the missing links between organic life and biological life. Though I must admit I think I've met a few talking turnips in my time. The point is, the fossil record has nothing in it to indicate any such evolution from kind to kind or species to species, and it would have, even if God had used evolution to bring about creation.

So let's look at some of the things that are pointed to as contradictions in the scriptures.

Now, I want to eliminate, on the front end of this lesson, the idea that there is any validity or credence being given to these things whatsoever. I am not, in any way, saying that these arguments bear any weight at all. But let's not forget...

**1 Peter 3:13-15**

**7**

**13** Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, **15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

These challenges to the scriptures directly attack the standard of the One Faith that God has given to man to direct his footsteps. According to Peter, these challenges must be answered, that is what we are going to endeavor to do.

One of the things that I found that people point to as a discrepancy is the idea of lying. I had not heard this thought before, but it goes something like this...

***Should we tell lies?***

**8**

The scriptures are very clear that lying is a sin and always has been.

***Ex 20:16***

**9**

**16** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

And also in...

***Prov 12:22***

**10**

**22** Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,

Now, this is where the world claims a contradiction, and to prove that point they cite...

***1 Kings 22:23***

**11**

**23** "Now therefore, behold, the Lord has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets;

And...

***2 Thess 2:11***

**12**

**11** For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

Obviously, there is a major flaw in this reasoning, and to the student of the Word, it's fairly easy to see the fallacy of the argument being made. God hates liars...

***Rev 21:8***

**13**

**8** "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

That much the world gets right. God hates liars and decrees that they will be punished for their lies. The world misapplies the understanding of the point when they take out of context what the scriptures are talking about in passages such as **1 Kings** or **2 Thess.**. They claim that these passages say that the same God who hates liars makes men lie, thus making a contradiction in the scriptures and invalidating God and His Word. The problem is that neither of these verses indicate at all that God caused anyone to lie.

The context of the account in **1 Kings 22** is that Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, came to see Ahab, king of Israel, in the days of divided kingdoms. Ahab wants to take back Ramath-Gilead from Aram and wants Jehoshaphat to go to war with him. Jehoshaphat agrees, but wants to consult God first and seeks a prophet of God to go to God for them. Ahab asks his sooth-sayers but this not to Jehoshaphat's liking and he wants another prophet. Micaiah is sent for from prison but an objection from Ahab who says that Micaiah never says anything good about him. There is a surprise, considering the abhorrent evil nature of Ahab. Now, with that background, look at the context of Micaiah's message...

***1 Kings 22:19-23***

**14**

**19** Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right and on His left. **20** "The Lord said, 'Who will entice Ahab to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said this while another said that. **21** "Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord and said, 'I will entice him.' **22** "The Lord said to him, 'How?' And he said, 'I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' Then He said, 'You are to entice him and also prevail. Go

and do so.' **23** "Now therefore, behold, the Lord has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; and the Lord has proclaimed disaster against you."

Is Micaiah saying that the Lord has decided to cause the 400 false prophets to lie, or is he saying that the Lord has decided to let Ahab pursue his folly and will allow whatever means Ahab seeks to lead him in that direction. It seems quite apparent that the later explanation is the correct one, but the world will use this to say, see, a contradiction, when in reality, only a perversion of the scriptures can make it seem so.

Note now what is said in **2 Thess....**

**2 Thess 2:8-10**

**15**

**8** Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; **9** that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, **10** and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

Paul is trying to illustrate what happens when someone makes the choice to...

**16**

***"Not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved"***

What happens when someone makes that choice? There is no neutrality, either man chooses to follow God, or he chooses to follow the deceptive illusion of the world that there is no God. Isn't that what Paul is saying? God does not cause the deception, but rather allows man to make his own choice, either to follow the truth or the deception.

This next one is laughable to the point of being ludicrous. How desperate must someone be to try and contrive this into a contradiction.

***Shall we make graven images?***

**17**

**Ex 20:4**

**18**

**4** "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

And then in...

**Lev 26:1**

**19**

**1** 'You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image or a sacred pillar, nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God.

God's commandment is to worship only Him. Man is to have no other gods that he worships. He is to make no graven image of any sort to represent either the false gods or the true God. That is God's commandment, but look at what they try to use to create a controversy...

**Ex 25:18-20**

**20**

**18** "You shall make two cherubim of gold, make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat. **19** "Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat at its two ends. **20** "The cherubim shall have their wings spread upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be turned toward the mercy seat.

In chapter 7 of the book of 1Kings, we read the account of Solomon's personal home. The columns, the ornate decorations, all of the magnificence of the king of Israel.

These passages are what the world uses to try and illustrate a discrepancy in the scriptures. I am stunned by the foolishness of this argument. Nowhere is it ever indicated that any of these decorations were to be used to represent The Lord Jehovah. They are not. Again a taking out of context, a misrepresentation of the truth, a perversion of that truth to try and support error of judgment.

This next one is one of those deceptions that will cause many to be lost.

*Are we saved through works?* 21

*Eph 2:8-9* 22

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Paul is very clear, man is saved through the grace of God, and in...

*Gal 2:16* 23

16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus,

Here Paul contrasts the works of the Old Law and its inability to bring man to salvation and faith in Jesus as the Christ which can restore man to God. In their effort to discredit these passages they try to use...

*James 2:24* 24

24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

The world interprets this as...

25 ***"We are saved by faith and works." But Paul said "not of works."***

Do you see the ignorance and error in that statement? Paul does not say, "Not of Works," he says...

26 ***"Not of works ALONE"***

The scriptures do not say anywhere that there is nothing for man to do to receive salvation, quite the contrary, the scriptures are absolutely clear that man will be judged by the deeds he has done in this life. What Paul says is that while salvation is a gift from God, through Jesus the Christ, because of his grace and mercy, there are still things for man to do. He must believe, he must repent, he must confess, he must be baptized, and he must live a life in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures. God has done His part, we choose if we will do ours.

I think it readily apparent that the only way to contrive a discrepancy in the scriptures is by taking out of context and grossly perverting what God has told us. And I guess that all of this leads us to the real point of this lesson...

*2 Tim 2:15* 27

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.

The obligation of handling accurately God's Word is each individual's, and we will be judged based on how we do that, **2 Cor. 5:10**. Faith, that God has given us exactly what we need to get through this life, **2 Tim 3:16-17**, faith that salvation is to be found in Jesus Christ, **Acts 4:12**, faith that God will reward His faithful...

*1 John 2:25* 28

25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

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