

“CONTRADICTIONS and ERRORS in the BIBLE?”

Do you believe the Bible has errors? Do you believe that God’s Word contradicts itself? If you set out to prove such ideas, you’ll probably be successful – you can make the Bible seem to say whatever you want. But if you start with the idea that God’s Word is true – without error or contradiction – you can address all of the claims made against the Bible. It just takes a little research and a little faith!

There is always an answer for each “question.” There is never a Scriptural dilemma with no solution. You don’t have to “check your brains at the door” and accept “truth” that doesn’t make sense.

* An example of a Biblical “contradiction:” Proverbs 26:4-5

* What are the ramifications of a single Biblical error?

> If you can’t TRUST ONE PART, can you TRUST ANY?

* We describe God’s Word using the 3 “IN’s”

* INSPIRED – it is truly God’s Word

* INFALLIBLE – it will not mislead ; it cannot fail

* INERRANT – in contains no errors

> 2 Tim. 3:16

> 2 Peter 1:20-21

> Psalm 19:7

> Titus 1:2

> Heb. 6:17-18 > Psalm 119:160

> Is. 55:11

Question 1: Since God’s Word was written **by men**, doesn’t it include man’s capacity for **error**?

* God did not put the authors IN A TRANCE.

* God allowed for the authors’ OWN STYLES AND LIMITATIONS.

-- Biblical authors sometimes display BAD GRAMMAR. (to the delight of school kids everywhere)

* But ... the Bible is not “man’s thoughts.” (1 Cor. 2:13)

Question 2: We don’t have any “autographs” (originals), so how can we trust copies of copies of copies of ...

* *“The excellence of the Holy Spirit’s protection of the Scriptures over the centuries has insured that the copies delivered into our hands from generations past is essentially the same. Even literary critics who claim no faith in the **truth** of the Bible, attest to its being the most completely reliable of any book transmitted from antiquity, in terms of actually remaining unchanged and dependably accurate.”*

-- Jack Hayford

Most of the “errors” or “contradictions” in Scripture can be explained by the following:

1. Presupposition:

> 6,000 yrs and 6 days = error ... because “science has proven ...”

> Animals speaking, life spans approaching 1,000 years, etc. are errors because of scientific proof

The presupposition is that science has proven what really has not been proven!

2. Incorrect Context:

> Ecclesiastes 7:29 vs. Psalm 51:5 Are we upright? Or are we sinners?

* The context answers the question: Ecc. is talking about Adam and Eve – our original state.

In Psalm 51, David is talking about his personal situation – our fallen state.

3. Translation Errors:

> Gen 1 -- people created after animals; Gen 2 -- animals created after people

Key: “formed” (KJV, NKJV) vs “had formed” (NIV, Tyndale) -- pluperfect tense

> In Leviticus 11:13-20, bats are described as birds – but bats are mammals, not birds!

* “fowls” (KJV) – also includes insects as fowls.

* The Hebrew word, *owph*, is accurately translated “bird,” but actually means “has a wing.”

> How could the young Samuel have been sleeping in the Temple, when the Temple didn’t yet exist?

* 1 Samuel 3:3 – NIV, KJV, and NKJV* -- the word “hekal” literally means ‘a large building

or

edifice.’ This term was used of the tabernacle and of the later Temple. Also, it denotes living quarters.

4. Changes in the use of Language:

> Genesis 1:28 -- Is there a GAP? “Replenish” = “fill” or “refill”; same root as “replete”;

* In 1611 – “replenish” -- “to fill completely”

> Psalm 88:13 – “But unto thee have I cried, O Lord; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee”

* In 1611, “prevent” meant “to come before”

(KJV)

> Leviticus 11:20-23 – Moses says insects have 4 legs. We know they have 6.

* “on all fours” – a colloquial phrase – a way to refer to animals which walk

* In fact, this description is very precise when referring to locusts and similar insects.

Such

insects do indeed have four legs with which to “creep” and another two legs with which to “leap,” which Moses points out.

> Jesus’ days in the grave: How do we fit three days and nights between Good Friday and Easter?

* A Special Sabbath on Thursday – crucifixion on Thursday

* A different method of counting days (also, see Esther 4:16; 5:1)

“This (method) indicates that Jesus died on Good Friday; that was day one. In total, day one includes the day and the previous night, even though Jesus died in the day. So, although only part of Friday was left, that was the first day and night to be counted. Saturday was day two. Jesus rose in the morning of the Sunday. That was day three. Thus, by Jewish counting, we have three days and nights, yet Jesus rose on the third day.

5. Copyist error:

> Contradiction: 2 Chron. 9:25 vs 1 Kings 4:25-26

* Many believe it is a copyist error: the miracle is that there are SO FEW!

* Another possibility: 2 Chron: *Jerusalem*; 1 Kings: *All Israel*