

Alleged Bible Contradictions

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1 Tim. 6:20-21

1 Tim. 6:20-21, *“O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.”*

The Bible is the Word of God. It has proven itself true.

Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah were fulfilled many centuries later.

In olden times God spoke to man through his prophets.

After his crucifixion, Christ sent the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles in establishing his word.

- John 16:13, *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”*
- 2 Pet. 1:21, *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*
- 1 Thess. 2:13, *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”*

The Bible is inspired.

- Psalms 19:7, *“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”*
- Psalms 119:89, *“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”*
- John 10:35, *“... and the scripture cannot be broken,”*
- Matt. 5:17-18, *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”*

Many skeptics in the world.

Over the ages there have been many scoffers that the Bible is the word of God, or that even the idea that God exists.

The apostles had to deal with this problem, and proved the things they said were true by the miracles they performed.

Heb. 2:3-4, *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”*

When I was about 17 in high school, a fellow classmate remarked when I attempted to talk to him about the scriptures that he didn't want to study the Bible, that it was full of contradictions. I asked him to give me some examples of contradictions. He said he would ask his father, who was an atheist.

After that, he seemed to avoid me. When we finally got together, and I pressed him on the matter, he said, "I don't have time to go searching through something that is false!" He did not give me what he claimed he could do.

Sample alleged contradictions explained.

Is God warlike or peaceful?

- Rom. 15:33, *“Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.”*
- Exo. 15:3, *“The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.”*

God is a man of war to His enemies and a God of peace to His friends. He punishes the ungodly and rewards the righteous.

Rom. 11:22, *“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.”*

Did the Law of God perfect anything?

- James 1:25, *“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”*
- Heb. 7:19, *“For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.”*

The first text refers to the New Testament law, the last text refers to the Old Testament which made nothing perfect.

How many blind men besought Jesus?

- Matt. 20:30, “*And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David.*”
- Luke 18:35-38, “*And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.*”

The answer is in the preceding verse in Matthew, “*And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him.*” (Matt. 20:29). Luke recorded an event with one blind man begging as Jesus was going into Jericho. Matthew recorded an event with two blind men begging as Jesus was leaving Jericho. Where is the contradiction?

Did Christ shrink from death?

- John 12:27, “*Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.*”
- Phil. 2:8, “*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*”

As a man Christ shrunk from death. He did not deserve to die. As the Son of God He had come to do His Father’s will. This involved his death. He prayed, “*Not my will but thine be done.*” Christ did His duty even when it involved suffering. This should be an occasion of admiration even on the part of an infidel. Even though Jesus did not want to die, he suffered the agony of the cross for our sakes.

How many women came to the sepulcher of Jesus?

- John 20:1, “*The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.*”
- Matt. 28:1, “*In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.*”

John says that Mary Magdalene came early to the sepulcher; he does not say that she came alone. Matthew repeats the same thing and adds that the other Mary came also.

For example, I could say to you that Terry was gone because he went to Oklahoma to hold a meeting; and I could say to someone else that Terry and Richard went to Oklahoma to hold a meeting. Both statements would be true.

Does God approve robbery?

- Exo. 3:21-22, *“And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty. But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.”*
- Exo. 12:33-36, *“And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men. And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneadingtroughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders. And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.”*
- Lev. 19:13, *“Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.”*
- Exo. 20:15, *“Thou shalt not steal.”*

For 250 years the Israelite people served as slaves in the land of Egypt. They had filled the coffers of the Egyptian government. When it was time to leave, they asked gold, silver, and raiment of those who had robbed, defrauded and enslaved them for centuries. The word translated “borrow” does not strictly mean “borrow,” but also signifies “to ask” or “to demand.” It was a case of justice, not robbery.

Must men hate their kindred?

- Luke 14:26, *“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.”*
- Eph. 6:2, *“Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;”*

- Eph. 5:25, *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it,”*

In Luke 14:26 the word “*hate*” simply means to love less. The person who loves his father or mother, or wife, or children more than he loves the Lord cannot be the Lord’s disciple. We are to love our kindred, but we are to love them less than we do the Lord. Another way of saying it is that we love God more than we do our husband or wife, son or daughter — even our own lives.

Must men obey civil rulers?

- Rom. 13:1, *“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”*
- 1 Pet. 2:13-14, *“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.”*
- Exo. 1:17, *“But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.”*

The Bible teaches that we are to obey our civil rulers. We are to obey them in everything that is right. If the civil rulers should command us to do something wrong, we should refuse to do so, just as the midwives refused to obey the king’s command, because they feared God more than man. When a law of man conflicts with a law of God, we must obey God rather than man.

The apostles were forbidden by the rulers to speak, but they did so anyway. They obeyed God rather than man when there was a conflict.

When King Darius outlawed praying, Daniel prayed three times a day as he always had before.

Is baptism commanded?

- Matt. 28:19-20, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

- 1 Cor. 1:17, *“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.”*

Jesus Christ did command baptism. He commanded his disciples to teach and baptize all people in the world who wished to become Christians. Paul’s statement in 1 Corinthians must be considered in the light of its context. He was glad that he had not baptized any more of the Corinthians that he had, lest any should say that he had baptized in his own name. Others traveling with Paul had done much of the baptizing. Paul’s duty was to preach the gospel, although he did baptize some himself.

1 Cor. 1:11-16, *“For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.”*

Does death still exist?

- 2 Tim. 1:10, *“But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”*
- Heb. 9:27, *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”*

Jesus Christ abolished death as a permanency. He has taken away its sting and terror so that it is no longer a terrible monster. Christ holds the key to the grave. Following the resurrection of Christ, the apostles considered physical death but a door to the next life with their Master. They did not fear death.

Does Christ judge?

- 2 Cor. 5:10, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”*
- John 8:15, *“Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.”*

At His first coming, Christ did not present himself as the Judge, but as the Saviour of mankind. He came to save. At His second coming he will take vengeance “*on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*” (2 Thess. 1:8).

Will the earth be destroyed?

- Psalms 78:69, “*And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, like the earth which he hath established for ever.*”
- Eccl. 1:4, “*One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.*”
- Matt. 24:35, “*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*”
- 2 Pet. 3:10, “*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*”

The Hebrew word “*olam*” rendered “*forever*” does not imply absolute endlessness, but a period of indefinite length — a very long time, the end of which is hidden from us. The earth is not going to last forever.

Christ is building us a new home.

John 14:2-3, “*In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*”

Conclusion.

There are many such things in the Bible that ignorant people will twist in looking for contradictions so that they could discredit the Bible.

It is truly amazing the things they can come up with.

The Bible is true. It has proven itself to be so.

And if the Bible is true, then the consequences it speaks of are also true.

Heaven and hell are sure, as well as the great judgment.

Prepare for that great event today, while there is still time.

How can a person be saved? One must become a Christian. The following are the steps necessary to make that happen:

- **Faith.** Heb. 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* When I was in high school (I was about 17 years old), a neighbor boy my same age told me he was an atheist. Since I had been baptized, I took the opportunity to talk to him about the scriptures. He told me that he could see that living the life of a Christian was good, but he wasn’t sure if he believed there was a God. But to be on the safe side, maybe he should go to church, and when he dies and stands before God (if there is a God) on the day of Judgment (if there is a Judgment), maybe if God sees that he has gone to church and lived a good life that God would send him to heaven (if there is a heaven), and not to hell (if there is a hell). I told him, “It doesn’t work that way. You have to believe in Him with all your heart or you cannot please Him.”
- **Repentance.** Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* Acts 11:18, *“... Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”* If while you were sleeping, you heard a noise in the other room, and you think to yourself, “There’s a burglar in my house!” So you reach for your cell phone, and as quietly as you can, you call the police, tell them there is a burglar in your house, and you give them your address. Soon, you heard them arrive and capture the thief. He yells, “I’m sorry; I’m sorry!” What is he sorry for? He is sorry that he got caught; not that he stole. In true repentance the thief would be sorry that he ever stole and wants to change his life so that he would never steal again. That is true repentance. It is a change of mind that brings about a change of action. That is what we have to do before we can become a Christian.
- **Confession.** Rom. 10:9-10, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* What do we confess? That we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Note that in the above scriptures that faith (believing), repentance, and confession are “**UNTO**” righteousness, life,

or salvation. “Unto” means toward something; not that one has already attained.

- **Baptism.** It is baptism where righteousness, life, and salvation are attained. Jesus, himself, was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, “*But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” (Matt. 3:14-17). Jesus was baptized because God said it was the right thing to do. Did you see how pleased God was about Jesus being baptized? Jesus also said “*it becometh **us** to fulfil all righteousness.*” We are baptized because it fulfills His righteousness, not because it is of our righteousness.

In fact, if we are not baptized, we are still in our sins. “*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” (Acts 2:38). Peter, what did you say the reason of baptism is? “for the remission of sins”. Why would anyone want to leave out the step that removes our sins?

Jesus commanded that to reach salvation we must be baptized. “*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*” (Mark 16:15-16).

Ananias told Saul (before he was rename Paul) the very same thing, “*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*” (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a requirement given by God.

Baptism is called a burial. “*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*” (Rom. 6:4). Our old man is to be dead to us. “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been*

planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” (Rom. 6:3-6). Baptism is God’s blueprint for applying the blood of Christ in our lives by baptism. We are free from our old sins only when we are baptized.

This doesn’t mean “sprinkling. The scripture above says baptism is a burial. We don’t take a dead body to the cemetery and sprinkle a little dirt over it; we bury the body.

If you have not yet become a Christian, won't you consider it today?

