

Contradictions of the Bible



Are there really contradictions in the Bible?

The problem with identifying contradictions is that language is so unpredictable. All contemporary versions of the Bible, as well as other ancient text of old-Old Testament times, are translated from an 800,000 word vocabulary. Even 2000 year old text comes from an average 200,000 word vocabulary. Today, we have reduced all of that down to our 80,000 word vocabulary. If we are going to sincerely identify contradictions then we have to first define true contradictions compared to those devised from vocabulary, and misinformation from translation.

It's easy to simply say that a statement that any person or writing makes is a contradiction. Even the underlying ideas and attitudes in common language can appear to be contradicting on the surface. However, a "real" challenge to appearances of contradiction(s) must delve deeper, be realistic and make more effort to prove that the true intent was to be deceptive. This page is dedicated to discussing accusations of contradictions that will be added as time allows.

Contradictions can be found everywhere, but only if searchers over-extend or exclude multiple meanings of words and statements; let alone multiple definitions. It would be rare that anyone could not be accused of contradicting ourselves if the meaning and content of our conversation is not considered. It is easy to understand why some quotations from the Bible are believed to be contradictory, but it is simply inconsiderate and without forethought to identify something as contradictory without reviewing the text with the sincerity in which it was originally written.

It is far too simple to write anyone's sincere concerns off without real consideration. This page is dedicated to reviewing questionable Bible quotations. If you have a possible contradiction that could be included, please complete the "[Bible Contradictions Form](#)" at the bottom of this page.

One issue of question within the subject of contradictions has highly substantiated accusations. It is the question of why different interpreted versions of Bible text sometimes uses very different meanings of the same or similar words. Some versions of the Bible even add and eliminate scores of words or verses and occasionally adds or eliminates an entire chapter. How could anyone believe the Christian Bible to be dependable with these kinds of problems? There are two reasonable answers to this question.

1. All post-original interpretations of the Christian Bible are flawed; not simply by interpreters changing text, but because language changes word meanings with each contemporary generation. It is obvious that some interpreters have intentionally changed the meaning of text. With a little basic research these deceptive changes can be identified. However, this issue does not reasonably remove confidence in "all" modern versions of the Christian Bible.

2. Intention to deceive and/or using Biblical text for purposes counter-productive to the cause of Christ are rampant. It is fairly easy to use deductive reasoning to identify statements that are used to abuse the intent of the Bible and the originator of Christianity. Those who choose to use the Bible "against" instead of "for" people choose to deprecate its content, contradict its purpose and manipulate the originator's cause in humanity.

If you or someone you know has been the object of an interpreter or others harmful ploys and accusations of breaking Bible standards, take heart. Dividing truth of the Bible from the fiction people have made isn't as hard as elitist scholars and pseudo-scholars have made it to be. The most valuable secret to understanding Bible contradictions is not in a book, it is in your own heart. (check out [Current Events: Quran](#) for more about this point)



INTERPRETATION

An example of definitively inaccurate interpretation can be found in the NIV (New International Version) of the Christian Bible. Job 9:13 and 26:12 use the word "Rahab" in place of the KJV (King James Version) "the proud". The word Rahab in the the book of Joshua in English versions of the Bible refers to the name of a woman who lived in the city of Jericho in the Promised Land and originally worked as a prostitute. She was also a direct ancestor of Jesus and her name meant "broad" or "large". However, her name in the original Hebrew version is "rachav". The original Hebrew word "rahav" referred to proud people and should not have been capitalized in the book of Job in the NIV. Whether this error was the product of electronic spell-checking or intentional deception is not known. The question remains unanswered as to why the NIV left the original Hebrew word in tact without actually interpreting it in Job. Either way, this "mistake" has led many simple thinkers to believe that the book of Job, and possibly the entire Bible, could not be real because identifying Rahab in the book of Job before she would have been born is contradictory and obviously inaccurate. If Rahab, the woman, really was referred to in Job then they'd be right; but it is easy to see that she was not, nor would such a personal reference be implied by the context where it is used in Job.

See how easy it is to mix things up? Shallow thinking is careless and has no place in searching for true understanding of anything, let alone the Bible. It is used to hurt and destroy people's lives and even the Christian Bible itself warns that removing the true meaning of its own words is cause for self-destruction in Revelation 22.

MISINFORMATION

Numerous people seem to enjoy pointing out contradictions in the Bible. Most do not include any reasoning about possible meanings of text and usually conveniently leave out context that could explain different situations causing differing text. For example: if I enjoy eating pasta I am likely to say that "I love all pasta". But, perhaps I happen to try a pasta dish that I do not like and say "I do not like this pasta". If someone quotes me saying "I love all pasta" in conjunction with "I do not like this pasta" then it might look like I'm contradicting myself. Was it taken into consideration that I meant that I love pasta in all of its forms even if I don't like every type of dish made with pasta? The average person makes enough of an effort to understand what I could, and probably do, mean by such statements. But someone who is only interested in tripping up my words for their own purposes can easily use a shallow and careless method to make a liar out of me. This is the method used in innumerable points by people simply trying to make the Bible contradict itself. No one likes to be treated this way and above all such an ancient work of text should at the very least be given the benefit of a doubt before making such implications.

Bible References Identified As Contradictions By Disbelievers

Below are several Bible references unbelievers have publically identified as contradictory. It appears that the meaning has to be bent, sometimes significantly, to believe they contradict each other. However, giving unbelievers the benefit of a doubt the guestimate of their point has been included after each set of references with a clarification of the meaning of the references.

"Ye have kindled a fire in mine anger, which shall burn forever." (Jeremiah 17:4)

"For I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger forever." (Jeremiah 3:12)

Why would this be considered a contradiction? People and God alike get angry against particular people. Sometimes it can affect us forever even when we calm down and decide to show mercy. But it is only by faith that we can get beyond offenses against us and harboring grudges can only bring us down and destroy us forever. Jeremiah 17:5 goes on to say "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed [be] the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD." Lord help anyone who is limited to other peoples' opinions rather than reading and interpreting these words for themselves.

"If I testify about myself, my testimony is not valid." (John 5:31)

(KJV) If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.

"Jesus answered: Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid." (John 8:14)

(KJV) Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, [yet] my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

Review the context of these references. John 5:31 is speaking of the authority Jesus Christ has because God the Father/Source placed it in Him. John 8:14 was a discussion between Jesus and the Pharisees when Jesus was saying that His life is a witness to His character followed by a statement that "the Father that sent me beareth witness of me". Context is everything here.



"And Jesus coming, spoke to them, saying: All power is given to me in heaven and in earth." (Matthew 28:18)

"the whole world is under control of the evil one." (1 John 5:19)

(KJV) [And] we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

The criticism here is based on questioning whether power is given to Jesus or the evil one. "The world" refers to the people of the world, or unbelievers, who is obviously considered to be under control of the evil one. God, who created all things, would have ultimate power not only of the earth but of heaven (the extradimensional) also, which was given to Jesus when He came. This is reflected in how Jesus treated people; with love, peace, and sound counsel. Return to the words that were said in original languages and you'll find that earth and world are consistently translated this way. Usually anyones' writings can be invalidated using inconsistent and shallow interpretations such as the implications made between these two references.

And Jesus said, "For judgement I am come into this world." (John 9:39)

(KJV) And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see;

and that they which see might be made blind.

"I came not to judge the world" (John 12:47)

(KJV) And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

This criticism questions whether Jesus came to judge or not. The intent of John 9:39 is to say that Jesus came to humanity to dispel peoples' judgment of each other. This is not contradicted but confirmed by John 12:47 by stating that Jesus did not come to judge humanity. This is also confirmed throughout the Gospels and repeated several other times in other books of the Bible. Just as with others books and writing, verification by repetitive statements is one of many ways to confirm true teachings of the Bible. It is just too easy to miss anyones' point without this feature.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 6:1)

We are assuming that the contradiction trying to be identified here relates to the question of whether believers contributions are to be seen or not. However, two unrelated issues are being identified between these two verses. Matthew 5:16 is telling believers to share their love and help with others. Matthew 6:1 tells believers to not show off their wealth and financial contributions to look better than others. The lesson in combining these two scriptures is that God is glorified by loving and helping others and God is disgusted by believers showing off and trying to look better than others. Unbelievers tend to criticize believers for being judgmental and condemning while, at the same time, criticize the Bible for trying to show what the true love of God is really like. Obviously nothing will satisfy an unbelieving critic until s/he has a change of heart, much like the judgmental and condemning believers.

"Jacob said, 'I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.'" (Genesis 32:30)

"No man hath seen God at any time." (John 1:18)

Is it a contradiction that no one has ever seen God when Jacob has seen God face to face? If you have seen anyone face to face have you really seen them for who they are? Did Jacob see God or an angel, a ruler, or a godly being as the original hebrew word here for God was used in about 15 other Bible references? This criticism is solely a matter of individual beliefs, not contradiction. If you are an unbeliever, of course you would believe this is a contradiction. And if you are a believer there is no need to think that this is a contradiction. Using these references as an example of a contradiction is like comparing a live animal to a teddy bear; they're both stuffed with something but does that mean that both of them are stuffed animals? It's simply a matter of opinion based on each person's underlying beliefs. If you think that these two verses are contradictory, please consider others you are questioning first. This question alone, as with most questions, is not worth basing youre entire life on.

