

#8 THE APPARENT CONTRADICTION FACTOR

1. There are ____ contradictions in the Bible, only “apparent contradictions.” Always give the _____ the benefit of the doubt.

KEY This important conclusion is first reached by _____, believing that God’s Word is divinely inspired and without error. To those who believe, God will confirm His truth by demonstrating that there are ____ genuine contradictions that cannot be resolved.

NOTE Although this is reached by faith, let me remind you that our faith has _____ and _____. (Hebrews 11:1)

- Apparent contradictions serve some very important purposes:

a. To give the skeptic a lie to believe.

Ezekiel 14:1-4, 9
Isaiah 29:9-14

NOTE If you come to God with your own pre-conceived ideas, not at all sincerely interested in what God says (just wanting to appear religious)...God will give you a lie to believe!

KEY Not because God is a liar, no way! It is because you were not willing to _____ Him, but rather your own lie! Most Christians miss this...in counseling...they believe the world’s ways instead of God’s ways. Why? It appeals to and satisfies their flesh! (Isaiah 30:1-3; 33:1-3)

b. To reveal hidden truth to the faithful believer.

Matthew 13:10-23

NOTE It is like a parable – to hide truth to unbelievers and to reveal truth to those who believe.

- Dealing with skeptics

KEY Nine times out of ten when someone tells you there are contradictions in the Bible they could not show you one. So, ask them to show you one and prove it ... this will usually get them quiet!

Try this for sure...you will be amazed! Most people are simply repeating hat someone told them – try it!

However, there is that tenth person...

1 Kings 6:1 This verse is referred to as the cornerstone of Biblical chronology by religious and secular historians. They measure dates by this event (forward and backward).

_____ Years

Acts 13:16-22

_____ Years = _____ Years **PLUS** _____ Years (Solomon – 1 Kings 6:1 (only 2nd month of 4th year))

So...which is right? Is this a contradiction? Or an apparent contradiction?

Another Example

Mark 15:25 This verse records the time when Jesus was actually nailed to the cross.

The event takes place _____ his mock trial before Pontius Pilate.

The time recorded is the _____ hour of the day.

-Compared to-

John 19:14 This verse records the time when Pilate was trying Jesus.

The event takes place _____ Christ is actually nailed to the cross.

The time recorded is the _____ hour of the day.

PROBLEM: Q: How could the trial of Christ take place ***after*** the actual crucifixion?

A: It would have been impossible. Therefore, we have a contradiction in the Bible (*or perhaps we have an apparent contradiction*).

SOLUTION: The gospel of Mark is recorded by using _____ time.

The Jewish day begins at 6:00 AM. This places the crucifixion at 9:00 AM, which is the _____ hour of the Jewish day.

The gospel of John is recorded by using _____ time.

The Roman day begins at 12:00 AM (*like ours does today*). This places the trial of Christ by Pilate at 6:00 AM, which is the _____ hour of the Roman day.

This time schedule works out perfectly and lines up completely with the record of scripture.

Therefore, it demonstrates that there are ____ contradictions in the Bible...

...only ***apparent*** contradictions.

Key Points

- Have a right _____ attitude toward the Word of God.
- Always approach the Bible by giving it the _____ of the doubt.
- Every apparent contradiction has a _____, even though you may not be mature enough or gifted enough to find it.
- Every believer should make it a priority to memorize **John 16:12**...