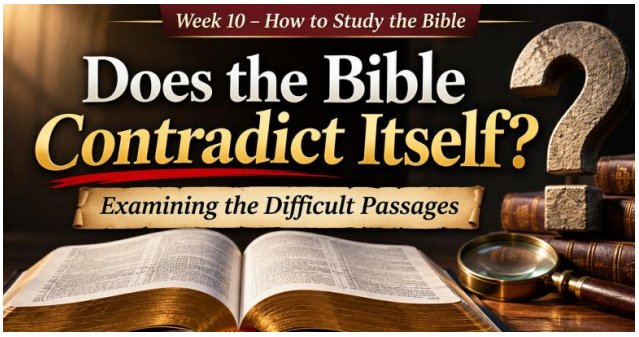


Series: How to Study the Bible in 2026

2 Timothy 2:15 – *<u>Study</u> to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **<u>rightly</u> <u>dividing</u> the word of truth**.*

INTRODUCTION

W1828 Definition: "Contradiction" – An assertion of the contrary to what has been said or affirmed; denial; contrary declaration. In other words, a contradiction would be an ***error***.

There are <u>no</u> contradictions (<u>no</u> errors) in the Bible… only "**apparent** contradictions." In other words, there are things that look like a contradiction or error in the Bible, but they are not!

Question: What is at risk if there are errors in the Bible? **Answer**: EVERYTHING!

John 16:12 *I have yet many things to say unto you,*
but ye cannot bear them now.

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.

Always give the Bible the benefit of the doubt. When two passages appear to disagree, our responsibility is to give the Bible the benefit of the doubt, to study carefully, compare Scripture with Scripture, and seek to understand the historical, grammatical, and contextual details.

This important conclusion is first reached by faith, believing that the word of God is divinely inspired perfectly and preserved without error. God will confirm His truth by demonstrating that there are <u>no</u> genuine contradictions that cannot be resolved. Although this is reached by faith, you must remember that faith has *substance* and *evidence* according to ***Hebrews 11:1***.

1. The Character of God

A. It is impossible for God to lie.

Hebrews 6:17-18 The immutability of God's counsel – the word of God

W1828 Definition: "Immutability" – unchangeableness; the quality that renders change or alteration impossible; invariableness. Immutability is an attribute of God.

Titus 1:2 God cannot lie – it is impossible for God to lie!

Psalm 12:6-7 God promised to preserve His words.

NOTE Every Christian must think about this truth tonight. Do you believe your English Bible has errors? Because **most** pastors and churches believe and state that all English translations of the Bible have **errors**. If you do not believe me, ask them yourself. Investigate their websites and beliefs. Do not let them off the hook!

2. Why are there apparent contradictions in the Bible?

A. To expose the heart of the skeptic (give them a lie to believe).

Ezekiel 14:1-4, 9 "… these men have set up idols in their heart…"
Isaiah 29:9-14 "… the vision… is become unto you as the words of a book… is sealed."
Romans 1:21-25 Rejection of truth leads to spiritual darkness.

If you do not want to believe God, He will give you a lie to believe. Notice the principle:

- ✓ They have preconceived ideas.
- ✓ They resist the truth God has revealed.
- ✓ They prefer their own conclusions.
- ✓ They can become spiritually blinded by their unwillingness to believe.

B. To reveal hidden truth to the faithful believer.

Matthew 13:10-23 "… Because it is given unto you to know … but to them it is not given."

Jesus used parables to hide truth to unbelievers and reveal truth to those who believe.

Practical Application:

Sometimes a person's problem is not that he cannot understand what God said…
… his problem is that he does not want to accept and believe what God said.

3. Dealing with Skeptics

Most people only believe what they have heard

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. Most cannot. So, ask!

However, there is that tenth person… so this goes out to them…

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

Historical Time = ***480*** years

Acts 13:16-22 This is the Gentile official record in the book that gives us the foundation for Church History!

Historical Time = ***573*** years (570 plus 3 years of Solomon's reign)
(***1 Kings 6:1*** is only 2nd month of his 4th year)

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

Judges 3:8 Israel <u>*served*</u> Chushi king of Mesopotamia = ***8*** years
Judges 3:14 Israel <u>*served*</u> Eglon king of Moab = ***18*** years
Judges 4:3 Israel <u>*served*</u> Jabin king of Canaan = ***20*** years
Judges 6:1 Israel <u>*served*</u> the Midianites = ***7*** years
Judges 13:1 Israel <u>*served*</u> the Philistines = ***40*** years

93 years!

God obviously does <u>not</u> count when Israel was captive!

Remember… most people only believe what they have heard

Another example…

Mark 15:25 This verse records the time when Jesus was nailed to the cross.
The event takes place **AFTER** his mock trial before Pontius Pilate.
The time recorded is **the third hour of the day.**

John 19:14 This verse records the time when Pilate was trying Jesus.
The event takes place **BEFORE** Christ is nailed to the cross.
The time recorded is **the sixth hour of the day**.

PROBLEM

Question: How could the trial of Jesus Christ take place ***after*** the crucifixion?

Answer: It would have been impossible! Therefore, we have an apparent contradiction in the Bible!

SOLUTION

If we *give the Bible the benefit of the doubt*… is it possible for both to be true??? ***Yes!***

Mark: The gospel of ***Mark*** is recorded by using Jewish time.
The Jewish day begins at 6AM – this places the crucifixion at **9AM**, which is **the third hour of the Jewish day**.

John: The gospel of ***John*** is recorded by using Roman time.
The Roman day begins at 12AM (like your time) – this places the trial of Christ by Pilate at **6AM**, which is **the sixth hour of the Roman day**.

The schedule works out perfectly and lines up correctly with the record of Scripture.

Therefore, it demonstrates that there are **NO** contradictions in the Bible…
… only ***apparent contradictions!***

The Conclusion

Keys to help with this factor

- Have a right heart attitude toward the word of God.
- Always approach the Bible by giving the Bible the benefit of the doubt.
- Every apparent contradiction has a solution – you may not understand it now.
- Every believer should make it a priority to memorize ***John 16:12***… Amen!

BEWARE: BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU READ AND WHO YOU TRUST!!!

Taken from: **John MacArthur**'s web site 8/3/10
http://www.gty.org/Resources/Questions/QA172

NOTE: THIS ANSWER IS WRONG!!

Is my Bible really free from errors?

Genesis 31:46; Ezra 4:8-6:18; 7:12-26; Jeremiah 10:11; Daniel 2:4-7:28

Code: QA172

Properly understood, the doctrine of inerrancy--the teaching that the Bible contains no errors--applies only to the original copies of the biblical documents. The original writings came directly from God through human authors.

The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic (cf. Genesis 31:46; Ezra 4:8-6:18; 7:12-26; Jeremiah 10:11; Daniel 2:4-7:28), and the New Testament was penned in Greek. After the Old and New Testament books were written, scribes produced and distributed copies of the original manuscripts. They took painstaking care to craft those copies by hand, long before the days of the printing press.

In God's providence, we no longer have the original documents. They disappeared over time. What we have available now are copies of those original documents--copies produced over a number of centuries. By comparing and analyzing those copies through a process called textual criticism, we are able to determine what the original manuscripts said and where variations crept into the copies. That process has confirmed that God has accurately preserved His Word for us.

The "Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy" correctly notes:

Since God has nowhere promised an inerrant transmission of Scripture, it is necessary to affirm that only the autographic text of the original documents was inspired and to maintain the need of textual criticism as a means of detecting any slips that may have crept into the text in the course of its transmission. The verdict of this science, however, is that the Hebrew and Greek text appears to be amazingly well preserved, so that we are amply justified in affirming...a singular providence of God in this matter and in declaring that the authority of Scripture is in no way jeopardized by the fact that the copies we possess are not entirely error-free...Similarly, no translation is or can be perfect, and all translations are an additional step away from the autograph. Yet the verdict of linguistic science is that English-speaking Christians, at least, are exceedingly well served in these days with a host of excellent translations and have no cause for hesitating to conclude that the true Word of God is within their reach.

While you can't handle the original documents today, you can have confidence that most English Bibles faithfully represent what was contained in those documents. God has providentially preserved His Word for subsequent generations despite the best efforts of many of His enemies to eliminate it.

THE INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE

(from the true Bible believer)

Properly understood, the doctrine of inerrancy – the teaching that the Bible contains no errors – not only applies to the original copies of the biblical documents, but to the preserved word of God in English – the Authorized Version, 1611 King James Version.

In God's providence, we no longer have the original documents. They disappeared over periods of time. However, in God's providence, He has preserved His words as He promised so clearly in Psalm 12:6-7!

You can not only handle the perfect words of God in your hands, but you can also read them every day, memorize them, believe them, share them, preach them, teach them, and love them until Jesus Christ returns for you!