

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #18
PRINCIPLE OF APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS

Isaiah 29:9-14

There are no contradictions in the Bible, only “_____ contradictions.”

- The student of the Bible must exercise _____ in what God said, believing that the word of God is divinely inspired and without _____.
- To those who believe, God will confirm His truth by demonstrating why there are no genuine contradictions in the Bible that cannot be _____ by the eye of faith, only “apparent contradictions.”

“Apparent contradictions” serve two purposes:

1. To give the skeptic a _____ to believe.
 - **cf. Ezekiel 14:1-11, 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12**
2. To _____ hidden truth to the serious Bible student
 - **cf. Matthew 13:10-23**

“APPARENT CONTRADICTION” EXAMPLE #1 - cf. Matthew 27:9, 10

- Matthew tells us these words were _____ by Jeremiah, yet they are only found in Zechariah 11:12.

Is Matthew telling us something that is not true?

- Remember the importance of EVERY WORD of Scripture! Notice in Matthew 27:9, it does NOT say that Jeremiah “wrote” these words, it says they were “_____” by him.
 - This provides a SIMPLE solution: Zechariah _____ the words that were spoken by Jeremiah. That is how God chose to record them for us.
 - The Jews had an extensive _____ tradition passed down through the generations of Israel. Zechariah obviously had these words of Jeremiah when he wrote his prophecy under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

APPARENT CONTRADICTION #2 - cf. **Genesis 22:1, James 1:13**

- James says that God does not tempt men, but Genesis says that God tempted Abraham.

See how the skeptics are bent on making a liar out of God!

How can this “apparent contradiction” be resolved?

- Once again, remember the importance of EVERY WORD of Scripture! Also remember that the Bible will _____ terms for us. Keep in mind that a single word can have more than one definition.
 - **cf. James 1:2, 3** - Here, “temptation” is defined as a _____ of your faith. Notice there is no mention of being tempted to _____ in the context. It is the skeptic who wants the passage to say that.
 - **cf. Hebrews 11:17** - This passage sheds light on the Genesis passage, indicating that Abraham’s temptation was a _____ given to him by God.

CONCLUSION: God does not tempt a man to sin, but God will allow a man to be tempted in the sense of enduring a _____ of his _____.

APPARENT CONTRADICTION #3 - cf. **Exodus 20:12, Luke 14:26**

- The skeptic sees a contradiction since Exodus commands children to _____ their parents while Luke says that they are to be _____. So, should children have honor or hatred for their parents?

By now, you probably know how to answer! Remember that God defines the terms and definitions are NOT always what we think.

The word “hate” has more than one definition in the King James Bible:

- **cf. Genesis 27:41** - here, hate means to _____
- **cf. Genesis 29:30, 31** - here, hate means to _____

In Luke 14:26, the Lord seeks followers who love him MORE than they love _____.

The main issue is to have a _____ when approaching the Bible. Every “apparent contradiction” has a _____, even though we may not discover it in the time we desire.