

CONTRADICTIONS AND MISTAKES

FAITH EXPLANATIONS

“Let God be true, but every man a liar”

~ Romans 3:4

1. It's Not Enough to Be Biblical

- a. God is the same - Mal 3:6, James 1:17, Heb 13:8
- b. God changes – Exodus 32:14, Jonah 3:10, Jer 18:8
- c. Contradictions reflect a change in context! We must identify the context.

2. Contradictions vs. Mistakes

- a. Don't fear contradictions – 'for the truth of God' - Rom 15:8, 2 Cor 13:8
- b. Don't fear being wrong – Rom 3:4
- c. Difference *def.* ~ Distinction, being unlike another.
- d. Differences are not always contradictions: The fool Pro 26:4-5; Foundations? Job 38:4
- e. Contradiction *def.* ~ A contrary statement or inconsistency
- f. Mistake *def.* ~ An error; a fault; to take wrong
- g. Infallibility ~ Without mistakes, not capable of making mistakes
- h. The Bible is without flaws; it has a unified purpose → Eph 1:10, 2 Tim 3:16
- i. God is infallible; his words are infallible; it can be preserved without mistakes
- j. The Bible has differences & contradictions, but not mistakes – Jer 9:15-16, 31:10-12

3. Faith Explains Contradictions

- a. No one likes being wrong. Be charitable. Don't water it down.
- b. Sometimes the difference between a contradiction and a mistake is faith. Trust God!
- c. 'Easter' is not a mistake - Acts 12:4 (see Lev 23:5-6)
- d. The Creation accounts are not mistakes – Genesis 1 and 2
- e. What shall they take? - Mark 6:8-9 vs. Matt 10:10

4. Use Contradictions Teach Right Division

- a. Teach context - Plowshares and pruning hooks – Joel 3:10, Micah 4:3
 - i. Peace on Earth... or not – Luke 2:14, Luke 12:51, Matt 24:21
 - ii. Don't judge! ... unless you are supposed to – Matt 7:1-2, 1 Cor 2:15
 - iii. Work like the ant or the raven? – Prov 6:6-8, Lk 12:22-24
- b. Teach changing instructions – Luke 9:3 vs. Luke 22:35
 - i. Peace or no peace; sword or no sword - Mat 10:34-35 vs. Mat 26:52(Lk 22:36)
 - ii. Food: changing diet – Gen 1:29, Gen 9:2-3, Lev 11:2-8, Acts 10:9-15, 1Ti 4:4
- c. Teach mystery vs. prophecy – Acts 3:21,24, Romans 16:25
 - i. See the contradiction again in Luke 24:44, Acts 3:24 and Eph 3:2-5
 - ii. The gospel Paul had Gal 2:7, Eph 6:19 they did not know - Lu 18:34, Act 2:38
 - iii. Different purposes - Luke 1:68-75; Col 1:25-28
 - iv. Forgiveness – Lev 4:26, Mat 6:15, Acts 3:19, Act 13:38-39, Eph 4:32, Col 2:13

Dealing with “Contradictions” in Genesis 2

1. Addressing foolish comments is necessary so foolishness doesn't spread - Pro 26:4-5
2. Gen 2:4 begins a new section; it is not a second account of creation chronology.
3. Gen 2:5 is speaking about field plants and tilling them, not the plants in Gen 1:11.
4. Gen 2:8 is simply telling that God planted the garden, not when.
5. Gen 2:10-14 are names given later, and the later rivers/people named after them
6. Gen 2:16-17 - Is an exception to the rule of Gen 1:29 not a contradiction.
7. Gen 2:19 does not need to be chronological, but factual.
8. Gen 2:19-20 - he named the cattle and beast of the field not whole earth and seas
9. Male and female were both created on day 6 - Gen 1:28 - no contradictions.