

# ALLEGED BIBLE CONTRADICTIONS

## Handout for Lesson 18 of *Thought Provoking Questions*

### THE BIBLE IS UNDER ATTACK!

- » Satan has attacked the word of God from the very beginning, and he continues the attack today.
- » Men have also long attacked the word of God.
- » Famous infidels thought they could do away with the Bible permanently.
  - ☛ Voltaire, the French writer and atheist, said “Fifty years from now the world will hear no more of the Bible.” But 50 years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society was printing Bibles in his former house!
- » Political correctness today wants to do away with the Bible.
  - ☛ In 2004, a Swedish Pentecostal preacher was sentenced to a month in jail for preaching a sermon and publishing an article that summarized what the Bible has to say on the subject of homosexuality. A local gay activist was quoted as saying that the sentence should have been much longer.
- » Today the Bible is being attacked as much by its supposed proponents than by its opponents.

“Until recently the great controversy concerning the Scriptures was most frequently fought between skeptics outside the church and Christians. Now skeptics inside the church espouse the heresy that the Bible contains errors.”

### THE DEFENSIVE POSTURE

- » We are told that the Bible we have today is so different from the original manuscripts that we can never be sure of what God really said. Wrong!
- » We are told that the Bible is full of scientific and historical errors, and so — while we may be able to trust it on theological matters — it is not to be trusted on these other matters. Wrong!
- » We are told that the Bible is full of internal contradictions and inconsistencies. Wrong!

Augustine: “If we are perplexed by any apparent contradiction in Scripture, it is not allowed to say the author of this book is mistaken; but either the manuscript is faulty, or the translation is wrong, or you have not understood.”

### THE OFFENSIVE POSTURE

- » First we should point out the bias of the attackers.

“While insisting on their right to treat the Bible ‘like any other book,’ some critics proceed to treat it like no other book, by bathing it in the acid solution of their skepticism and historical pessimism.”
- » Second, we should remind them of their own errors. They have been proved wrong again and again in their attempts to discredit the Bible.
- » Third, we should remember that the Bible is powerful.
- » The Bible is unique among the religious books of the world.

“Pile them, if you will, on the left side of your study table, but place your own Holy Bible on the right side, all by itself and with a wide gap between them, for there is a gulf between it and the so-called sacred books of the East that severs the one from the other utterly, hopelessly, and forever.”
- » The unity of the Bible is undeniable.

### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ITSELF?

- » The Bible says that it is one of two ways in which God presently reveals himself to man.
- » The Bible says that it is the inspired word of God.
  - ☛ The Bible records the thoughts of God rather than the thoughts of men.
  - ☛ The Bible is the word of God rather than the word of man.
  - ☛ Inspiration is not a high level of human achievement.
  - ☛ Inspiration is not only in the thoughts of the writers.
  - ☛ Inspiration is not the act of God upon the reader.
  - ☛ Inspiration is not just something that applies to some topics in the Bible but not to others.
  - ☛ Inspiration is not mechanical dictation.
  - ☛ The Bible is inspired in the sense that each word of the original autograph copies of Scripture was a word that God provided

and that was recorded through the use of a human instrument.

- ☛ Inspiration requires inerrancy. Absent inerrancy there can be no inspiration.
- » The Bible says that God’s word is unchanging and eternal.
- » The New Testament is Scripture just as is the Old Testament.
- » Jesus is the word made flesh.

### WHAT DOES JESUS SAY ABOUT THE BIBLE?

- » Jesus says that the Old Testament events were actual historical events.
- » Jesus says that the Bible is true.
- » Jesus says that the Bible cannot be broken.
- » Jesus says that the Bible will never pass away.

### WHY WE CAN TRUST THE BIBLE:

- » We can trust the Bible because it is historically accurate.

“The Bible is itself an archaeological document of the highest caliber. It is simply crass bias for critics to hold that whenever a pagan record disagrees with the biblical account, it must be the Hebrew author that was in error. Pagan kings practiced self-laudatory propaganda, just as their modern counterparts do; and it is incredibly naive to suppose that simply because a statement was written in Assyrian cuneiform or Egyptian hieroglyphics it was more trustworthy and factual than the Word of God composed in Hebrew. No other ancient document in the B.C. period affords so many clear proofs of accuracy and integrity as does the Old Testament; so it is a violation of the rules of evidence to assume that the Bible statement is wrong very time it disagrees with a secular inscription or manuscript of some sort.”
- » We can trust the Bible because it is scientifically accurate.
- » We can trust the Bible because its prophecies have never failed.
- » We can trust the Bible because we can trust God.