

Bible Study

Miami and West Palm Beach

December 24, 2020

7:30 PM

Difficult Scripture Series

Does the Bible contradict itself?

NO!

The Sabbath Day

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” — Exodus 20:8

“One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.” — Romans 14:5

❖ The topic/dispute is not the Sabbath Day or Holy Day, but a day that a man esteems. God esteems the Sabbath and Holy Days as Holy, not man. A man can esteem or make special or set aside a day which he dedicates to the Lord for fasting...that has no bearing on anyone else. We should not judge a person who does so.

❖ Reading the next verse helps to understand what is being said.

Romans 14:5–6 (NKJV)

5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it...

❖ Both scriptures are true.

The Permanence of Earth

“... the earth abideth for ever.” — Ecclesiastes 1:4

“... the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” — 2Peter 3:10

Forever = ‘ôlâm, o-lawm) עולם 6409‘ô·lām): everlasting, forever, eternity, i.e., pertaining to an unlimited duration of time, usually with a focus on the future (Ge 3:22); 2. ancient, old, i.e., existing for a long time in the relative past (1Sa 27:8; Ps 119:52); 3. lasting, for a duration, i.e., an undetermined duration of time without reference to other points of time, with a focus of no anticipated end, but nevertheless may have limits (Nu 25:13; Jer 18:16)

❖ The earth has not always existed, it was created (Gen 1:1), and the Bible is clear that the kingdom of God will, in the future, come to the earth which will have been purified by fire and made new.

Revelation 21:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

❖ Both scriptures are true!

Seeing God

“... I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.” — Genesis 32:30

“No man hath seen God at any time...” — John 1:18

❖ We understand clearly that there is God the Father who is God, and Jesus Christ who is God.

❖ No human has seen God the Father at any time, except Christ:

John 6:46 (NKJV)

46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.

❖ But Jesus Christ in the Old Testament appeared to Abraham, seeing him face to face.

Exodus 6:3 (NKJV)

3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them.

John 8:56–58 (NKJV)

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.”

57 Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”

58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

❖ Both scriptures are absolutely true.

The Power of God

“... with God all things are possible.” — Matthew 19:26

“...The LORD was with Judah; and he drove out the inhabitants of the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron.” — Judges 1:19

❖ The “he” in Judges 1:19 is not speaking of the LORD, but of Judah. Judah could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley...

Judges 1:19–21 (NKJV)

19 So the LORD was with Judah. And they drove out the mountaineers, but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the lowland, because they had chariots of iron. 20 And they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had said. Then he expelled from there the three sons of Anak. 21 But the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem; so the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

❖ Also, just because all things are possible with God does not mean that God will choose to bring something about.

❖ Both scriptures are true.

Personal Injury

“...thou shalt give life for life, Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.” — Exodus 21:23-25

“...ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.” — Matthew 5:39

❖ Exodus 21 is a section on the “Law of Servants” to the physical nation of Israel. There was punishment or recompense dealt out for wrongdoing, done intentionally or unintentionally.

Expositors: The ...situation describes men who are fighting, and one of them somehow unintentionally strikes a pregnant woman (perhaps a concerned wife who tried to intervene on her husband’s behalf) so that her labor was immediately induced.

For the accidental assault, the offender must still pay some compensation, even though both mother and child survived (as in vv.18–19). The fee would be set by the woman’s husband and approved by a decision of the court. Should the pregnant woman or her child die, the principle of talio is invoked, demanding “life for life” (v.23). (1) the talion principle (vv.23–25) is a stereotype formula that states simply that the punishment must match, but not exceed, the damage done; The lex talionis of vv.23b–25? does impose a strict limit on the amount of damages anyone could collect; in modern terms it would read: car bumper for car bumper and car fender for car fender. No one was to try to get rich quick off such situations.

❖ Matthew 5:39 is speaking of the heart and mind of a Christian. Retaliation with evil for evil had become the focus of talio. Christ wants us to consider our attitude when wrong is done to us. It is not speaking of compensation for wrong that has been done. Even if wrong has been done, our attitude must not be to return evil for evil, even though compensation may be pursued. (1 Peter 3:9)

Circumcision

“This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.” — Genesis 17:10

“...if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.” — Galatians 5:2

❖ The early Church understood that circumcision was not done away, but that it had to be administered in a different way

LHT: “Circumcision: Change in God’s Law?”

But after much discussion (*Acts 15*), study and consideration of the evidence of how God was working with gentiles the apostles recognized God’s clear will in the matter. God, they came to understand, had magnified the law of circumcision beyond the mere physical act to its broader spiritual intent.

They recognized that was exactly what Moses meant when he told the Israelites, “Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer” (*Deuteronomy 10:16*).

James summarized the apostles’ decision: “Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God” (*Acts 15:19*).

❖ Physical circumcision was not necessary for salvation, but converts were to be reminded of their obligation to have a right heart with their Creator—to have a “circumcised heart” that would willingly obey God’s law.

The apostles knew that God had said, “I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (*Jeremiah 31:33*). They also recognized the relationship of that prophecy to the scripture that said, “Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart” (*Deuteronomy 10:16*).

Circumcision...continued

“This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.” — Genesis 17:10

“...if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.” — Galatians 5:2

Galatians 5:1–6 (NKJV)

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. 2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

Galatians 5:2–3 (NLT)

2 Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: If you are counting on circumcision to make you right with God, then Christ will be of no benefit to you. 3 I'll say it again. If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses.

❖ Circumcision of the flesh does not profit towards righteousness. God wants a change in the heart, circumcision of the heart...and not just for the men, but also for the women. We must keep God's law while recognizing that it is through Christ's blood that we must be saved. Circumcision was magnified by Christ to the place of its original intent.

Trusting God

“A good man obtaineth favour of the LORD...” — Proverbs 12:2

Now consider the case of Job. After commissioning Satan to ruin Job financially and to slaughter his shepherds and children to win a petty bet with Satan. God asked Satan:

“Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.” — Job 2:3

❖ God did not commission Satan to destroy Job in a petty bet. We simply must read what it says!

Job 1:6–12 (NKJV)

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?”

So Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

8 Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”

9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing?”

❖ Satan had been spending time looking for an opportunity to destroy Job. God had protected Job from Satan.

10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

Trusting God

❖ God did not commission Satan to destroy Job in a petty bet.

Job 1:11–12 (NKJV)

11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”

❖ Satan did not understand the faithfulness and character of Job that God would perfect during his trial.

12 And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.”

So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

❖ God only allowed Satan to do as much as God allowed.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)

13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Trusting God

God did not commission Satan to destroy Job in a petty bet.

Job 2:1–6 (NKJV)

1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. 2 And the LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?”

Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

3 Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause.”

4 So Satan answered the LORD and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. 5 But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”

6 And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.”

- ❖ This was not a bet between Satan and God, but Satan desiring to destroy Job, which he is doing in our life as well. God, at times, will allow Satan access to us for the purpose of perfecting us.
- ❖ God restored to Job all that he had and more. God promises to do the same for us as we faithfully endure the trials and tests of life. If the restoration does not occur in this life, it will at Christ's return.

Punishing Crime

“The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father...” — Ezekiel 18:20

“I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation...” — Exodus 20:5

- ❖ There are sins that reoccur in families (alcoholism, incest, greed, cursing, hatred) because the next generation mimics what they have experienced or seen in the prior generation.
- ❖ God **visits** (*paqad* - attend to, inspects, looks at, command, search), sees and deals with generational sins. But God does not curse a child for what his father has done, nor curse the father for what the son has done.

Ezekiel 18:2–4 (NKJV)

2 “What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying:

‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children’s teeth are set on edge’?

3 “As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel.

4 “Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father, As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.

- ❖ Both verses are true!

Family Relationships

“Honor thy father and thy mother...” – Exodus 20:12

“If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. ” — Luke 14:26

Honor = kabed; numerous, rich, honorable, make weighty, abound with

Hate = misěō, mis-eh´-o; to *love less*:—hate (-ful). **love less**, formally, hate; a semitic comparison referring to divine choice of clans

❖ We should not love anything or anyone, including ourselves, more than God. Loving God more does not mean we dishonor our father or mother.

❖ Both verses are true!

Resurrection of the Dead

“...he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more.” — Job 7:9

“...the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth...” — John 5:28-29

❖ Job is referencing the truth regarding physical death. He, under his own power or will, cannot come back from the grave.

Job 7:7–10 (NKJV)

7 Oh, remember that my life is a breath! My eye will never again see good. 8 The eye of him who sees me will see me no more; While your eyes are upon me, I shall no longer be. 9 As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, So he who goes down to the grave does not come up. 10 He shall never return to his house, Nor shall his place know him anymore.

❖ But Job understood the power and truth of the resurrection as stated in John 5.

Job 14:14–15 (NKJV)

14 If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes.

15 You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands.

❖ Both scriptures are true!

Temptation

“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.” — James 1:13

“And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham...” — Genesis 22:1

James 1:13 **Tempteth** - **pěirazō**, pi-rad'-zo; to test (obj.), i.e. entice, tempt (-er), try.

❖ God does not tempt us to do evil, nor is God tempted to do evil.

Gen 22:1 **Tempt** – **nsh**; test, try, prove, exercise, train

❖ God does test, prove, exercise, and train us.

❖ The NKJV used the word “tested”

Genesis 22:1 (NKJV)

1 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!”

And he said, “Here I am.”

❖ It is important to understand the context and what is stated in the Greek or Hebrew. Greek and Hebrew words can have several different meanings.

Incest

“Cursed be he that lieth with his sister, the daughter of his father, or the daughter of this mother...” — Deuteronomy 27:22

“And if a man shall take his sister, his father’s daughter, or his mother’s daughter...it is a wicked thing...” — Leviticus 20:17

“But indeed she is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.” -- Genesis 20:12 (NKJV)

[But what was god’s reaction to Abraham, who married his sister — his father’s daughter?]

“And God said unto Abraham, As for Sara thy wife...I bless her, and give thee a son also of her...” — Genesis 17:15-16

SOLUTION: Abraham was not beyond sin, as his lie about Sarah to king Abimelech reveals (Gen. 20:4–5). And Abraham did admit that Sarah was “the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife” (Gen. 20:12). However, even granting this, there is no real proof Abraham violated any law for two reasons. First, the incest laws were not given by Moses until some 500 years after Abraham. So he surely could not be held responsible for laws that had not yet been promulgated. Second, the terms “sister” and “brother” are used with great latitude in the Bible, just as the terms “father” and “son.” Jesus, for example, was the “son” (i.e., descendant) of David (Matt. 21:15). “Sister” means a near relative, but it does not as such indicate the degree of nearness we understand by the word “sister.” Lot, Abraham’s nephew, is called a “brother” (Gen. 14:12, 16). Likewise, “daughter” can mean granddaughter or great granddaughter.

Considering the age to which Abraham lived (175, Gen. 25:7), it is possible that he married only a granddaughter on his father’s side, or even a niece or grand niece. In any event, there is no proof that Abraham’s marriage to Sarah violated any existing incest law. But if it did, the Bible simply gives us a true record of Abraham’s error. When God called Sarah Abraham’s “wife” (Gen. 17:15), He was not legitimizing any alleged incest, but merely stating a fact.

The Holy Lifestyle

“Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart...” — Ecclesiastes 9:7

“...they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not...” — 1 Corinthians 7:30

- ❖ Reading these scriptures in their context shows that in both verses God is encouraging us to live a righteous life. If we are married, rejoice.
- ❖ There will be times in life or in the future when living will be so difficult, that the unmarried may choose to devote their lives to God instead of being married and devoting their lives to a wife or husband. These scriptures support each other and are not contradictory at all.

Ecclesiastes 9:7–9 (NKJV)

7 Go, eat your bread with joy, And drink your wine with a merry heart; For God has already accepted your works. 8 Let your garments always be white, And let your head lack no oil.

9 Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that is your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun.

1 Corinthians 7:29–33 (NKJV)

29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, 30 those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, 31 and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away.

32 But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. 33 But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please his wife.

The End of the World - The world went on, as usual, indifferent to the spouting's of yet another batch of doomsday prophets with visions of messiahs dancing in their deluded brains. The world, by surviving, makes the above passages contradictions.

- ❖ That is a very sad and unfortunate statement from someone who does not believe in God or the Bible.
- “Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.” — Matthew 16:28 (Fulfilled in Matt 17 with Peter, James and John in vision of the transfiguration.)
- “Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.” — Luke 21:32-33 (This generation...the generation that is present at that time in the future.)
- “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.” — Romans 13:11-12 (Our salvation is absolutely nearer now than we we first believed.)
- “Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” — James 5:8 (Timing by God is different than our timing...but Christ’s return does draw nigh, and at our death, time stands still.)
- “Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.” — 1 John 2:18 (There are many events happening today that shows us we are in the last times. Hopefully we can all see them.)
- “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.” — 1 Peter 4:7 (We must absolutely watch and pray!)

Position Statements: The Bible does NOT contradict itself. The Bible IS inspired by God!

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Difficult Scripture Series

Does the Bible contradict itself?

NO!

Bible Study

Miami and West Palm Beach

Rest Well! And have a
wonderful Sabbath to come!