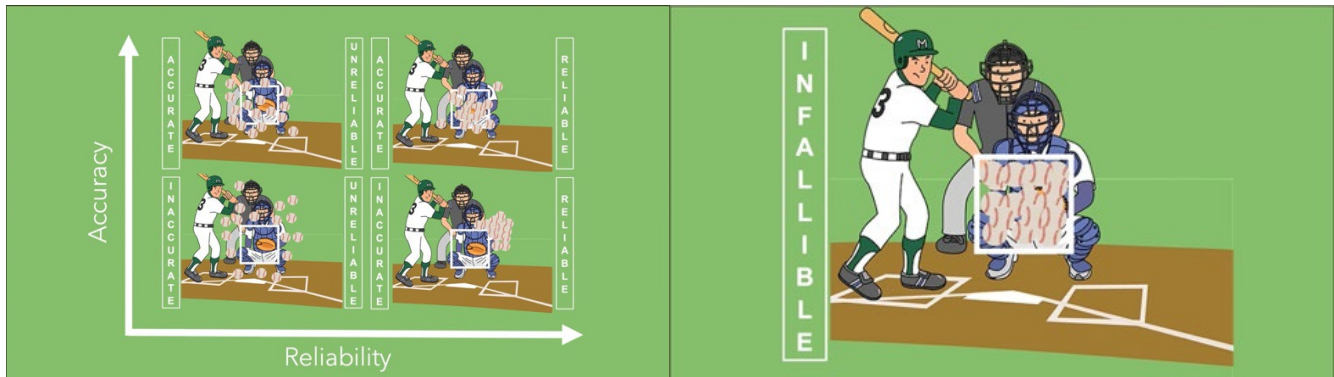


God Wrote a Book: Supposed Contradictions

None of the _____ in the Bible remain once they are carefully examined.

Definitions:

- Reliable: The Bible's is consistent.
- Accurate: The Bible's message is true.
- Infallible: The Bible is truth without any mixture of error.



Ten false assumptions critics make when identifying contradictions in the Bible:

1. Assuming the Bible is guilty until proven innocent.

2. Assuming the context of the passage does not impact the meaning of the passage.

And Joab gave the sum of the numbering of the people to the king: in Israel there were 800,000 valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were 500,000. **2 Samuel 24:9**

And Joab gave the sum of the numbering of the people to David. In all Israel there were 1,100,000 men who drew the sword, and in Judah 470,000 who drew the sword. But he did not include Levi and Benjamin in the numbering, for the king's command was abhorrent to Joab.

1 Chronicles 21:5-6

3. Assuming that different accounts are false accounts.

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. **Matthew 9:9**

As he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. **Mark 2:14**

4. Assuming that a partial report is a full report.

Those who were crucified with him also reviled him. **Mark 15:32**

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." **Luke 23:39-41**

5. Assuming all passages use the same level of precision.

They went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street . . . and they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. **Mark 11:5-7**

“Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me” . . . The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. **Matthew 21:2-7**

And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.” **Matthew 9:27**

When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!” **Matthew 27:54**

When the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” **Mark 15:39**

6. Assuming perspective does not change description.

Theological Perspective

Again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, “Go, number Israel and Judah.” **2 Samuel 24:1**

Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel.
1 Chronicles 21:1

Historical Perspective

Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Athaliah; she was a granddaughter of Omri king of Israel. **2 Kings 8:26**

Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother’s name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri. **2 Chronicles 22:2 KJV**

7. Assuming the author’s purpose does not change description.

All the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. **2 Chronicles 26:1**

Joram the father of Uzziah. **Matthew 1:8**

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. **Matthew 1:17**

Behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” **Matthew 9:18**

Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” **Mark 5:22-23**

John 2:13-24 compared to the synoptics

As the cloud fades and vanishes, so he who goes down to Sheol does not come up. **Job 7:9**

An hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. **John 5:28-29**

8. Assuming what applies to one person at one time always applies to all people.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. **Exodus 20:8**

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. **Romans 14:5**

This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. **Genesis 17:10**

Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. **Galatians 5:2**

9. Assuming better manuscript evidence does not correct contradictions.

So Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, "Shall three (*one manuscript says "seven"*) years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? **2 Samuel 24:13**

So Gad came to David and said to him, "Thus says the Lord, 'Choose what you will: either three years of famine, or three months of devastation by your foes while the sword of your enemies overtakes you, or else three days of the sword of the Lord, pestilence on the land, with the angel of the Lord destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.'

1 Chronicles 21:11-12

10. Assuming we understand the biblical world better than those who lived in the biblical world.

Genesis 6:19-7:10

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