

In other words eye witnesses of the same event can have different perspectives. So the person standing on the top right corner will have a different perspective than a

person standing at the bottom left corner, even though they both witnessed the same exact event. And if they report different things about the same event, no one would question the fact that the accident occurred. Why? Because perspective is taken into account.

So also is the case in the Gospel accounts. For example, some critics point to the ‘contradiction’ in the number of angels at the tomb of Christ. St. Matthew reports one angel (Mt 28:5) , while St. John reports two (Jn 20:12). So there must be a ‘contradiction’; NO, first let us consider ‘perspective’. You see St. Matthew does not say ONLY one angel, but mentions the angel who spoke, while St. John refers to the number of angels at the tomb. Just a different perspective! So let’s review our strategy when facing a problem.

- 1. Be sure to know what the text says.**
- 2. Be sure to know what the text means.**
- 3. Be sure to consider perspective.**

Let's consider some perceived mistakes and contradictions in the Holy Bible and see how you would answer the following.



Problem #1 THE MUSTARD SEED

Didn't Christ make a mistake when referring to the

mustard seed as the smallest of seeds? (Mat 13:31) Today, scientists tell us that it is not the smallest seed. What would you say? What is the solution to this perceived mistake? Well, we know that our Lord was speaking to farmers and simple people and would always use familiar things to illustrate His point (Matt 13:34). So we can say that HE was not referring to all the seeds in the world, but to only those that a farmer from that time would be familiar with.

Problem #2 NOAH'S ARK



Scientists inform us that there are between one half billion to over a billion species of animals. How could Noah's ark hold this great number of species? And could a boat made of wood be able to withstand a violent rain storm? What would you say? What is the solution to this perceived mistake?

First of all the Ark was a huge structure, 45 feet high, 75 feet wide and 450 feet long, with 3 stories (Gen 6:15). That equals 4,556,250 cubic square feet. That is a lot of space! Also the number of species that exist today are more numerous than the time of Noah.

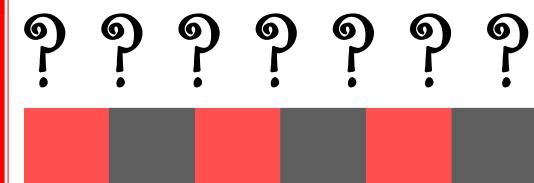
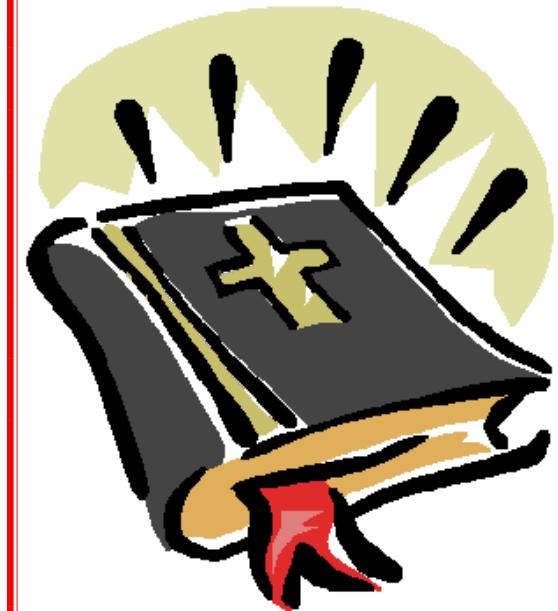
For example a mule is a cross between a horse and a donkey. A Golden retriever is a cross between a yellow-colored retriever with a Tweed Water Spaniel. Also, Noah could have taken younger animals of the larger animals, such as a giraffe or an elephant. And as far as the Ark's ability to withstand a violent storm, US Navy architects say that a long box-shaped ship is very stable in turbulent waters. And it is not a coincidence that modern ocean liners follow the same dimensions and proportions of Noah's Ark. We have every reason to believe that the Holy Bible is the Word of God free from ‘contradictions’. We also hope that anyone who is faced with what seems to be a contradiction or a conflicting account will be honest in attempting to find an explanation.



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HOW TO DEAL WITH BIBLE DIFFICULTIES



HOW DO WE DEAL WITH BIBLE DIFFICULTIES ?

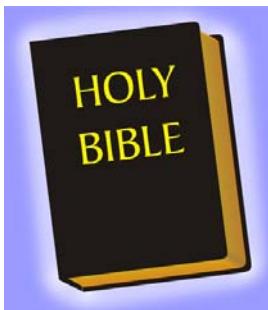
Today more than ever, the authority, authenticity and veracity of the Holy Bible is being questioned. Everywhere you turn, whether on a bill board, on TV, or in the movie theatres, the Holy Book of Christianity is accused of being a fraud, or at least a man-made book. What gives strength to the arguments of the critics? Well, many will say it is the seemingly many 'difficulties' or what some people call 'contradictions' found in the Holy Bible. What is a Christian to do in the face of this onslaught? How is the Christian, who believes that the Bible is the inspired word of God which is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, [and] for instruction in righteousness..." (2 Tim 3:16), to deal with the 'difficulties' and 'contradictions'?

It is obvious that all 'difficulties' and 'contradictions' can not be addressed in this pamphlet. However, we can establish a few guidelines to use in order to deal with the, so called, 'difficulties' and 'contradictions'.

Let us consider the following points which can help us.

1. Be sure you know what the text actually says!!!

This is probably the biggest obstacle for many Christians. We would be willing to bet our lives on the Bible and to die for it, but we really don't know it. Isn't that the case? Our lack of knowledge of the Scripture is our biggest



weakness and the critics know that and take advantage of this weakness of ours. So the first step we, Bible believing Christians, must take is to read, memorize, love and live our Bibles. If we do that we will be able to deal more effectively with the questions that come up.

Why is it important to know what the Bible says? Well, we must remember that many people today are misled by misquoted verses. For example, we have all heard the popular saying, "Money is the root of all evil". However, that is a misquote. The verse actually says...

"the love of money is the root of all evil" 
—1 Tim 6:10

Take for example another common saying "God helps those who help themselves." This saying is repeated by thousands of people all over the world and most of them think it is taken from the Bible. It is NOT a Bible verse but it has taken on almost as much authority as one. You may ask, what is wrong with this cliché? Well it is off the mark and is diametrically opposite to what the Bible teaches. Actually, God is a helper especially to those who cannot help themselves. The simple, the fatherless and the widows are all promised special help from God because of their helplessness.

"...a father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God..."

—Psalm 68:5

We must know our Bible!

2. Be sure you know what the text means!!!

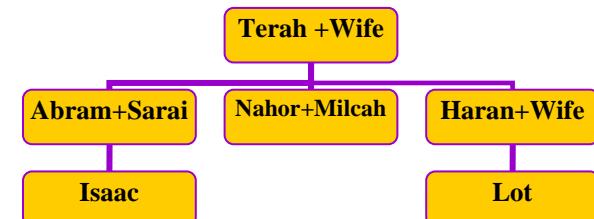
Not only must we know what the text says, but we should also know what it means. Why is this so important? Well, we must remember that the Holy Bible uses some words and expressions that may carry a different meaning all together. For example it says in Mt 12:46

"While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold His mother and brothers stood outside..."

What does this verse 'seem' to say? It seems to say that Christ had brothers. Now, if we don't understand what the word 'brother' really meant in those days, then we will not be able to defend the Orthodox belief that St. Mary is an Ever-Virgin. Do you see why we need to know what the text actually means and not what it seems to say? Let us examine some verses to help us understand the true meaning of the word "brother".

"So he [Abram] brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot..."

—Gen 14:16



The word used to describe the relationship between Lot and Abram is "brother". However, in reality they were not brothers. Lot was Abram's nephew as you can see in the above genealogy diagram! (Gen 11:27) So we must know what the text actually means!!!

3. Be sure to consider Perspective!!!

Many times there are 'conflicting' or 'contradicting' accounts in the Holy Bible about the very same event. This is seen especially in the New Testament Gospels. But does this mean that the Holy Bible 'contradicts' itself? And if it does, then the critics will be quick to point out that the Bible can not be the Word of God. And if it is not the Word of God, then Christianity is false. How can we deal with this? Well... we must consider 'Perspective'. What does it mean to consider 'Perspective'? We know that two people can witness the same event and report different things about that same event. For example, if two people witness a car accident, but are standing in different places. It is not unusual for the same two people to report different things.

