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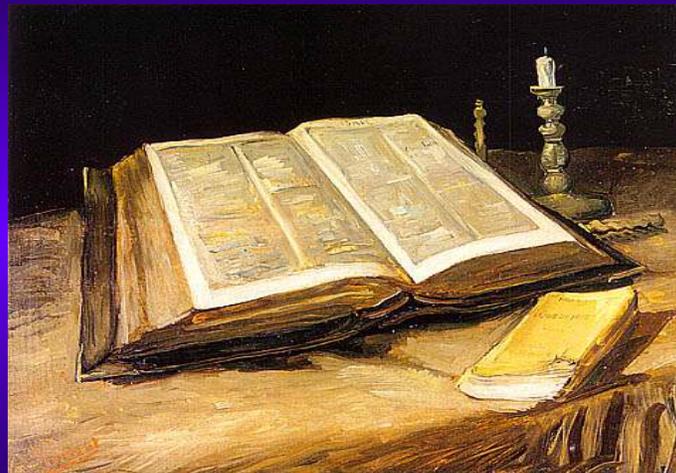


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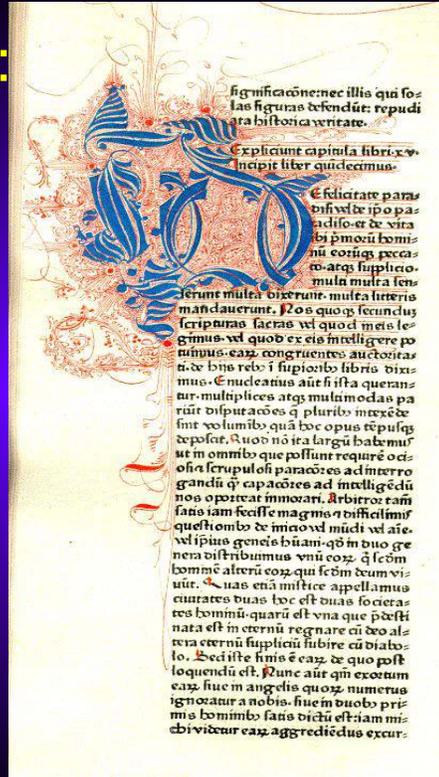
The Bible



How do we handle Bible Difficulties and
“Contradictions”?

St. Augustine's Dictum:

“If we are perplexed by any apparent contradiction in Scripture, it is not allowable to say, The author of this book is mistaken; but either [1] the manuscript is faulty, or [2] the translation is wrong, or [3] you have not understood.” (Augustine, Reply to Faustus 11.5)



The Errors of the Critics

"The Bible is without errors...

the critics are not."

But

Error # 1 of the Critics: Presuming the Bible Guilty Until Proven Innocent.

Like an American citizen, the Bible should be presumed innocent until it is proven guilty.



What if we presumed...

- Road signs were wrong?
- Traffic signals were not right?
- Labels on food were incorrect?
- Numbers on currency were wrong?
- Signs on restrooms were reversed?
- **Disaster would result!!!**

Gentlemen



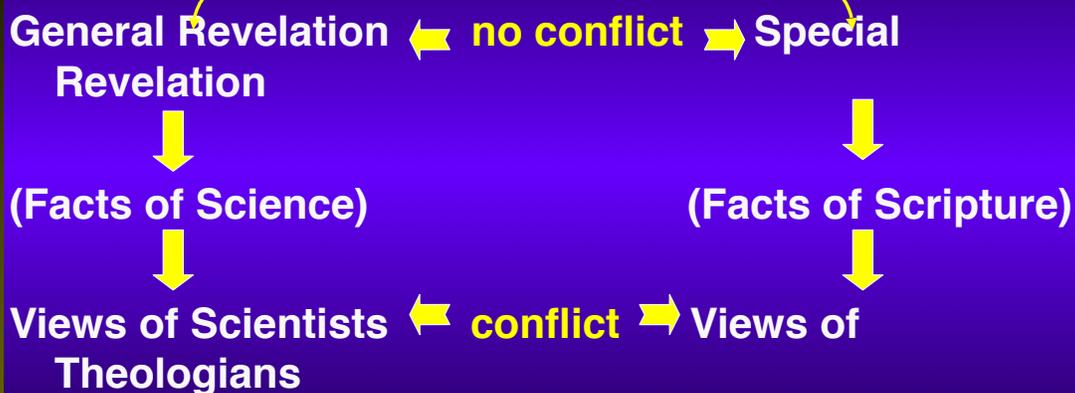
Error # 2 of the Critics: Confusing Our Fallible Interpretation with God's Infallible Revelation?

The Bible cannot be wrong, but--
Our interpretation of it can be wrong.

The Bible is infallible, but--

we are not!

GOD



Error # 3 of the Critics: Assuming That the Unexplained is not Explainable.

Science once had no explanation for meteors, eclipses, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, or how the bumblebee could fly.

All these are now explained.

More will be explained in the future.

THE SAME IS TRUE OF BIBLE DIFFICULTIES!

Error # 4 of the Critics: Assuming that a Partial Report is a False Report

Example: The Inscription on the Cross:

• Matthew- THIS IS JESUS _____ THE KING OF THE JEWS.

• Mark - _____ THE KING OF THE JEWS.

• Luke - THIS IS _____ THE KING OF THE JEWS.

• John - _____ JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

COMPLETE: THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Note:

- Each has the essential part of it.
- All together gives the whole statement.

Error # 5 of the Critics: Assuming That Divergent Accounts are False Ones

Example # 1:

Matthew (28:5) said there **was one** angel at the tomb.

John (20:12) said there **were two** angels there.

Resolution: Wherever there **are two**, there is **always one**. **It Never Fails!**

Note: Matthew did not say there was **only** one angel there.

Example # 2

Matthew (27:5): Judas "hanged himself."

Acts (1:18): "...falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out."

Resolution: Sometime after hanging himself, his body was discovered, the rope cut, and the body fell on sharp rocks and it burst open.

Error # 6 of the Critics: Forgetting That the Bible Uses Non-technical, Everyday Language

- The Bible was written for the common man in common language.
- It uses everyday, observational language.
- This is not **un**scientific; it is merely **pre**scientific.

Illustrations: It speaks of the sun "**standing still**" (Josh. 10:12) and the sun "**rising**." (Josh. 1:16)

**But even contemporary meteorologists
speak of "sunrise" and "sunset."**



**No scientist says: "Honey, look at the beautiful
earth rotation!"**

**Error # 7 of the Critics: Assuming That
Round Numbers Are False**

3.14159265...

**The Bible presents Pi as 3 (not 3.14159265....).
(2 Chrn. 4:2)**

**But even scientists round off pi to a limited
number of points.**

**Pi goes on indefinitely and, so, even scientists
are not precise, since even they round it off.**

Error # 8 of the Critics: Presuming That the Bible Approves of All it Records

Things the Bible **records but does **not** **approve**.**

- 📖 Satan's lie (Gen. 3:4; cf. John 8:44);
- 📖 David's Adultery (2 Sam 11);
- 📖 Solomon's Polygamy (1 Kings 11:1);
- 📖 That Fools say "There is no God" (Psa. 14:1).

Error # 9 of the Critics: Taking Figures of Speech Literally.

**All the Bible is literally true, but--
Not all the Bible is true literally (vs. figuratively)**

Poetry-- "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:7)

Parables-- "There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man. And he said `because this widow troubles me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" (Lk. 18:1-5)

Allegory--"Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.... Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants." (Gal. 4:24)

Metaphors--"And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity...and sets on fire the course of nature." (Js. 3:6)

Similes--"The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field." (Mt. 13:31)

Hyperboles--"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written." (Jn. 21:25)

Satire --"Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel." (Mt. 19:24)

Figures of speech--"O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings." (Psa. 36:7)

Anthropomorphism--"God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not." (Jonah 3:10) But God does not repent: "The strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent." (1 Sam. 15:29)

Error # 10: Forgetting That Only the Original Text, Not Every Copy of Scripture, is Without Error

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| ▪ Ahaziah was 42.
(2 Chrn. 22:2) | ▪ Ahaziah was 22.
(2 Kings 8:26 KJV] |
| ▪ Solomon had 40,000 stalls.
(1 Kings 4:26) | ▪ Solomon had 4,000 stalls.
(2 Chrn. 9:25) |

Note Several Important Things:

- 1. These errors are found in copies, not in the originals.**
- 2. They are rare.**
- 3. They affect no doctrine of Scripture.**
- 4. We usually know which one is correct by the context.**

What if you received this message?

"Y#U HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

Would you collect the money?

What if you received this message?

"Y#U HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

"YO# HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

And if you received this message, you would have no doubt!

"Y#U HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

"YO# HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

"YOU #AVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

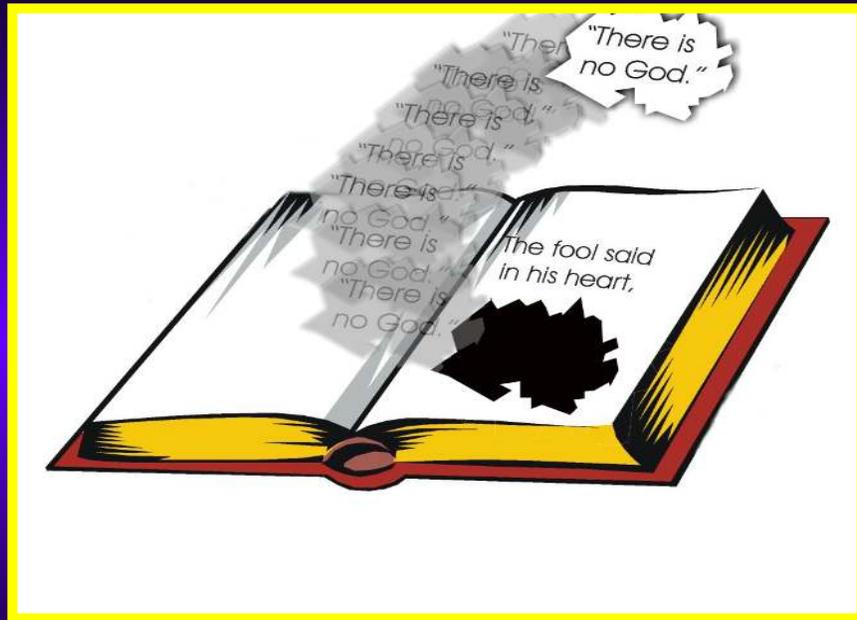
Note:

- 1. Even with mistakes, 100% of the message comes through.**
- 2. The more errors, the more sure you are of the message.**
- 3. The Bible has many less errors in the copies than this message does.**

Error # 11 of the Critics: Failing to Understand the Context of the Passage

An old adage: "A text out of context is a pretext."

For Example



The Bible says "there is no God." (Psa. 14:1)

The Context: The "fool" said this.

Other Examples of a text out of context:

The Bible says: "The mustard seed...is the smallest of all seeds." (Mt. 13:31-32)

But science says it is the orchid seed.

The Context: However, the mustard seed was the smallest one "which a man took and **sowed in his field**" (Mt. 13:31), not the smallest in the world.

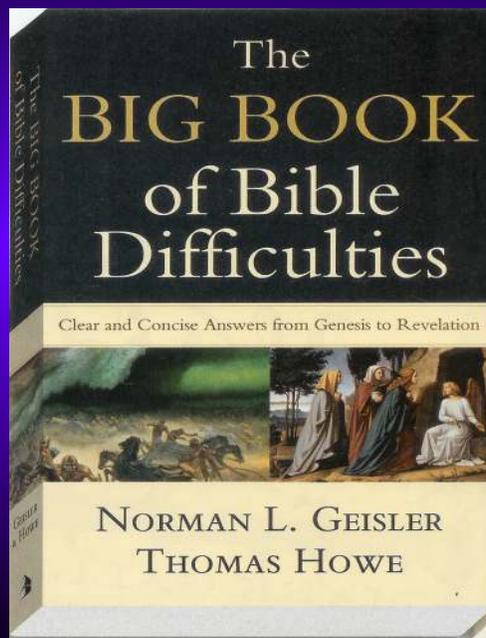
A Text out of Context

The Bible says: Paul's companions "heard" the voice (Acts 9:7), but also that they did not "hear" the voice (Acts 22:9).

The Context: They heard **the sound**, but did not hear (i.e., understand) **the meaning**.

Illustration: "I can't hear you. Please speak louder." You heard the sound but not the meaning.

**For 800 More Errors of the Critics, See
The Big Book of Bible Difficulties.**



Mark Twain said: It is not the part of the Bible I don't understand that troubles me the most. It is the part of the Bible I do understand that troubles me the most.

Turning the Logic Right Side Up:

We should not criticize the Bible;
We should let the Bible criticize **us!**

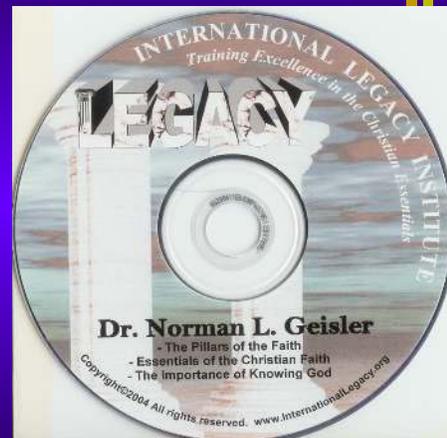
"For **the word of God is** alive, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword...and is **a discerner (Lt. critic) of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**" (Heb. 4:12)

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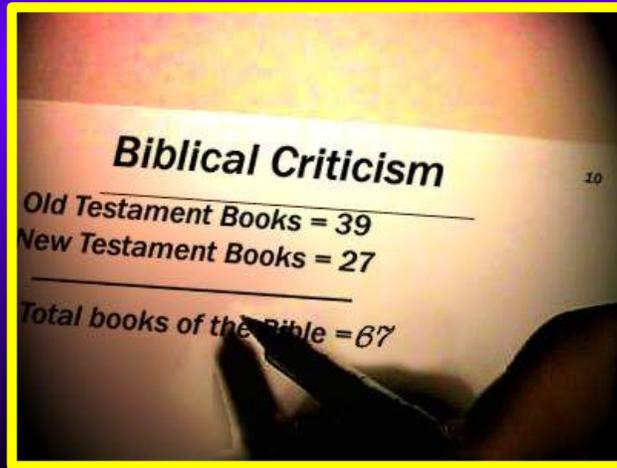
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- Answering Other World Views
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- Understanding the Bible
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**No one has ever demonstrated an error in the Bible, but--
We have seen that there are many errors in the critics.**



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