**“The Bible Has Lies In It”**

Jarrod Jacobs

 Does the title above surprise you? Would it surprise you to learn that when said in its proper context, the above is true? I realize some folks say this in an effort to denounce the Bible. This is obviously not my purpose. However, when we spend time reading and studying God’s word, it will not take long before we notice several lies recorded for us in the Bible. Let us study a few examples together and make some applications.

 Satan lied when he told Eve that she and her husband could eat of the forbidden fruit and “shall not surely die” after God had said they would die if they ate of that fruit (Gen. 3:4, 2:17). Because of this, we read where Christ called Satan the “father” of lies (Jn. 8:44). Satan was the author, or originator of lies, and many of his lies are recorded in the Bible.

 Many prophets have lied through the years. For example, the old prophet of I Kings 13 lied when he told the young prophet an angel had spoken to him and told the young prophet to eat at his house (I Kings 13:18). Hananiah was a false prophet who “made this people (Judah) trust in a lie” (Jer. 28:2-3, 11, 15). The apostle Peter said, “false prophets also arose among the people ...” (II Pet. 2:1). Yes, the lies of many false prophets are recorded in the Bible that we might hear and fear!

 Ananias and Sapphira lied when they made it seem like they had given all their money to the apostles for the benefit of the poor saints. In fact, they didn’t do that, but lied to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-11).

 Paul warned Timothy about Hymenaeus and Philetus who lied to Christians when they taught them that “the resurrection has already happened” and overthrew some folks’ faith (II Tim. 2:17-18).

 When John wrote to the Christians, he said that one who would deny that Jesus is the Christ “is a liar” (I Jn. 2:22). Did this happen at times? Peter said there were some who went that far in their false teaching (II Pet. 2:1).

 These are just a few examples of the lies which can be found in the Bible. Yet, what is their purpose for being in the Bible? Let me suggest that many times, when folks lied, they were exposed for the lies they told. Thus, when the lies were exposed, it caused the truth to shine that much brighter. Another thing to consider is that sometimes, those who lied were God’s people (ex: Abraham, Gen. 12:13, 20:2; Peter, Matt. 26:69-75). Such impartiality by God (Rom. 2:11; Col. 3:25), lets us see these folks, “warts and all” and allows us to learn from their mistakes (Rom. 15:4) so we don’t make those mistakes, ourselves.

 Yes, the Bible records lies, but for all of the lies, we find the Truth is there to defeat every lie (Jn. 17:17)! Make no mistake, if folks tell lies and are unrepentant, they will “have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8). Though men are susceptible to lying, God still remains opposed to it. God cannot lie (Titus 1:2), and He expects us to be honest as well (Eph. 4:25)! Let us be like God (Rom. 12:2) and tell the truth (Col. 3:9)!

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