

The Old Paths

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“The Bible Has Lies In It!”

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Does the title above surprise you? Would it surprise you to learn that when said in its proper context, the above is a *true* statement? I realize some folks say things like “the Bible has lies in it” in an effort to denounce the Bible, and to put it on the level of a work of man rather than a work of God (II Tim. 3:16-17). This is obviously not my purpose. When we spend time reading and studying God’s word, however, it will not take long before we notice several whose lies are recorded for us in the Bible. Let us study a few examples together and make some applications:

1. 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). Due to this event, we read where Christ called Satan the “*father*” of lies (Jn. 8:44). Satan was the author, or originator of lies on earth. The Bible records the first lie in Genesis 3:4, and many more of his lies are recorded in the Bible.

2. Many prophets have lied through the years. For example, the old prophet in I Kings 13 lied when he told the young prophet an angel had spoken to him and said he wanted 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*” when he told king Zedekiah and the people that God would break the yoke of Babylon and that the people would return “*within two full years*” (Jer. 28:2-3, 11, 15).

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!

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

4. Paul warned Timothy about the lying of certain ones, specifically naming Hymenaeus and Philetus as two who lied to Christians when they taught the brethren that “*the resurrection has already happened*” and overthrew some folks’ faith (II Tim. 2:17-18).

5. 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? Evidently, it did, for 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? I don’t know that there is a single reason the Bible reveals for including these lies. However, I would like to suggest a couple of reasons I see for God recording lies in the Bible:

1) Every time folks lied, they were exposed for the lies they told. Sometimes the “*exposing*” came quickly. At other times, they seemed to have gotten away with it for the moment. However, as we study the Bible, we are able to expose all those who lied and know the truth today. When the lies are exposed, it causes the truth to shine that much brighter. God’s word (truth, Jn. 17:17) is so diametrically opposed to error and falsehood, that when lies are exposed, the difference between truth and falsehood becomes even more apparent.

2) Take note that sometimes, those who lied were God’s people (ex: Abraham, Gen. 12:13, 20:2; Peter, Matt. 26:69-75, etc.). Such impartiality by God (Rom. 2:11; Col. 3:25), lets us see these characters, “*warts and all*” and allows us to learn from their mistakes (Rom. 15:4) so we don’t make those mistakes, ourselves.

Conclusion

Yes, the Bible records many who lied, but for all of the lies, we find the Truth is there to defeat and denounce each and 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 cannot lie (Titus 1:2). He expects us to be honest (Eph. 4:25)! Let us be like God (Rom. 12:2) and tell the truth (Col. 3:9)!

Bible Authority- General And Specific

Aric Russell

As members of the church of Christ, we believe every action we perform in worship and in our everyday life must be authorized by the Word of God. We establish authority in three ways. By direct command/statement, apostolic-approved example, and necessary inference. In establishing Bible authority, we also need to understand that when anything is authorized in the Bible, it usually contains some general instructions and some specific instructions. Understanding this difference is important to successfully establishing authority for all things. Let us study an example of this.

In Matthew 28:19-20, we find both general and specific commands given to us. The text reads, *“Go therefore and teach all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”* Jesus’ commands to “go” and to “teach” illustrate this principle of general authority. Both statements are a command to do something, but the details of “how” are left to us. For example, we are to “go”, but it does not say how. Therefore, we can walk, drive, fly in a plane, etc. All of these would be authorized. General authority allows for anything that falls within the general instruction, “go.” “Teach” also tells us what to do, but there is

not specific mention of how to accomplish this. We could teach publicly, privately in the home, or in groups and classes. We could use classbooks, papers, projectors, chalkboards or markerboards, etc. The use of these have not added to the command to teach, and therefore, are authorized by the general instruction to teach.

In Matthew 28:19-20, we also find specific authority. When the disciples were told to teach the nations, Christ expected the taught people to be baptized. The apostles were told to, *“baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”* They also were not allowed to teach anything they wanted. Jesus specified what they were to teach when He said, *“teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”* In this same passage, we see both the general and specific authority coming from Christ.

As in all things, let us follow the authority given through the Word of God. Where specific instructions are given, let us follow. Where we have general instructions given, let us follow by making sure there are no other commands broken. Our desire is follow the will of God as illustrated through His word.

Before your child has
come to seven,
Teach him well the way to
Heaven.
Better still the truth will
thrive,
If he knows it when he is
five.
Better yet, if at your knee,
He learn it when he is only
three.
Best of all is when you
have begun
To teach of Jesus before he
is one!

Author Unknown
(Source: Kachelman, Jr., John,
Studies In Judges, p. 100)

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