Biblical Contradictions

Here is a short and incomplete list of Biblical contradictions which were obtained from postings in internet newsgroups. Unfortunately I did not record who posted them or if they have a web site with a longer and more complete list. If you like this page you might also like Contradictions of the Gospel and this List of Biblical Contradictions at www.infidels.org

If the Bible was divinely inspired, then why would it have so many really obvious contradictions?

Theological doctrines:

1. God is satisfied with his works   Gen 1:31
   God is dissatisfied with his works.   Gen 6:6

2. God dwells in chosen temples   2 Chron 7:12,16
   God dwells not in temples   Acts 7:48

3. God dwells in light   Tim 6:16
   God dwells in darkness   1 Kings 8:12/ Ps 18:11/ Ps 97:2

   God is invisible and cannot be heard   John 1:18/ John 5:37/ Ex 33:20/ 1 Tim 6:16

5. God is tired and rests   Ex 31:17/ Jer 15:6
   God is never tired and never rests   Is 40:28

6. God is everywhere present, sees and knows all things   Prov 15:3/ Ps 139:7-10/ Job 34:22,21
   God is not everywhere present, neither sees nor knows all things   Gen 11:5/ Gen 18:20,21/ Gen 3:8

7. God knows the hearts of men   Acts 1:24/ Ps 139:2,3
   God tries men to find out what is in their heart   Deut 13:3/ Deut 8:2/ Gen 22:12

8. God is all powerful   Jer 32:27/ Matt 19:26
   God is not all powerful   Judg 1:19

   God is changeable   Gen 6:6/ Jonah 3:10/ 1 Sam 2:30,31/ 2 Kings 20:1,4,5,6/ Ex 33:1,3,17,14


    God is not the author of evil   1 Cor 14:33/ Deut 32:4/ James 1:13

    God withholds his blessings and prevents men from receiving them   John 12:40/ Josh 11:20/ Is 63:17

13. God is to be found by those who seek him   Matt 7:8/ Prov 8:17
    God is not to be found by those who seek him   Prov 1:28

14. God is warlike   Ex 15:3/ Is 51:15
    God is peaceful   Rom 15:33/ 1 Cor 14:33
15. God is cruel, unmerciful, destructive, and ferocious  
   Jer 13:14/ Deut 7:16/ 1 Sam 15:2,3/ 1 Sam 6:19

   God is kind, merciful, and good  
   James 5:11/ Lam 3:33/ 1 Chron 16:34/ Ezek 18:32/ Ps 145:9/ 
   1 Tim 2:4/ 1 John 4:16/ Ps 25:8

16. God's anger is fierce and endures long  
   Num 32:13/ Num 25:4/ Jer 17:4

   God's anger is slow and endures but for a minute  
   Ps 103:8/ Ps 30:5

17. God commands, approves of, and delights in burnt offerings, sacrifices, and holy days  
   Ex 29:36/ Lev 23:27/ Ex 29:18/ Lev 1:9

   God disapproves of and has no pleasure in burnt offerings, sacrifices, and holy days.  
   Jer 7:22/ Jer 6:20/ Ps 50:13,4/ Is 1:13,11,12

18. God accepts human sacrifices  
   2 Sam 21:8,9,14/ Gen 22:2/ Judg 11:30-32,34,38,39

   God forbids human sacrifice  
   Deut 12:30,31

19. God tempts men  
   Gen 22:1/ 2 Sam 24:1/ Jer 20:7/ Matt 6:13

   God tempts no man  
   James 1:13

20. God cannot lie  
   Heb 6:18

   God lies by proxy; he sends forth lying spirits to deceive  
   2 Thes 2:11/ 1 Kings 22:23/ Ezek 14:9

21. Because of man's wickedness God destroys him  
   Gen 6:5,7

   Because of man's wickedness God will not destroy him  
   Gen 8:21

22. God's attributes are revealed in his works.  
   Rom 1:20

   God's attributes cannot be discovered  
   Job 11:7/ Is 40:28

23. There is but one God  
   Deut 6:4

   There is a plurality of gods  
   Gen 1:26/ Gen 3:22/ Gen 18:1-3/ 1 John 5:7

Moral Precepts

24. Robbery commanded  
   Ex 3:21,22/ Ex 12:35,36

   Robbery forbidden  
   Lev 19:13/ Ex 20:15

25. Lying approved and sanctioned  
   Josh 2:4-6/ James 2:25/ Ex 1:18-20/ 1 Kings 22:21,22

   Lying forbidden  
   Ex 20:16/ Prov 12:22/ Rev 21:8

26. Hatred to the Edomite sanctioned  
   2 Kings 14:7,3

   Hatred to the Edomite forbidden  
   Deut 23:7

27. Killing commanded  
   Ex 32:27

   Killing forbidden  
   Ex 20:13

28. The blood-shedder must die  
   Gen 9:5,6

   The blood-shedder must not die  
   Gen 4:15

29. The making of images forbidden  
   Ex 20:4

   The making of images commanded  
   Ex 25:18,20

30. Slavery and oppression ordained  
   Gen 9:25/ Lev 25:45,46/ Joel 3:8

   Slavery and oppression forbidden  

31. Improvidence enjoyed  

   Improvidence condemned  
   1 Tim 5:8/ Prov 13:22
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<td>The Sabbath instituted because God rested on the seventh day</td>
<td>Ex 20:11</td>
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<td>The Sabbath instituted because God brought the Israelites out of Egypt</td>
<td>Deut 5:15</td>
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<td>43.</td>
<td>No work to be done on the Sabbath under penalty of death</td>
<td>Ex 31:15/ Num 15:32,36</td>
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<td>Jesus Christ broke the Sabbath and justified his disciples in the same</td>
<td>John 5:16/ Matt 12:1-3,5</td>
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<td>Every kind of animal allowed for food.</td>
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<td>Certain kinds of animals prohibited for food.</td>
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<td>Taking of oaths forbidden</td>
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<td>Marriage approved</td>
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<td>Marriage disapproved</td>
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<td>Adultery forbidden</td>
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<td>Adultery allowed</td>
<td>Num 31:18/ Hos 1:2; 2:1-3</td>
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50. Marriage or cohabitation with a sister denounced Deut 27:22/ Lev 20:17
   Abraham married his sister and God blessed the union Gen 20:11,12/ Gen 17:16

51. A man may marry his brother's widow Deut 25:5
    A man may not marry his brother's widow Lev 20:21

52. Hatred to kindred enjoined Luke 14:26
    Hatred to kindred condemned Eph 6:2/ Eph 5:25,29

53. Intoxicating beverages recommended Prov 31:6,7/ 1 Tim 5:23/ Ps 104:15
    Intoxicating beverages discountenanced Prov 20:1/ Prov 23:31,32

54. It is our duty to obey our rulers, who are God's ministers and punish evil doers only Rom 13:1-3,6
    It is not our duty to obey rulers, who sometimes punish the good and receive
    unto themselves damnation therefor Ex 1:17,20/ Dan 3:16,18/ Dan 6:9,7,10/ Acts 4:26,27/
    Mark 12:38,39,40/ Luke 23:11,24,33,35

55. Women's rights denied Gen 3:16/ 1 Tim 2:12/ 1 Cor 14:34/ 1 Pet 3:6

56. Obedience to masters enjoined Col 3:22,23/ 1 Pet 2:18
    Obedience due to God only Matt 4:10/ 1 Cor 7:23/ Matt 23:10

57. There is an unpardonable sin Mark 3:29
    There is not unpardonable sin Acts 13:39

Historical Facts

58. Man was created after the other animals Gen 1:25,26,27
    Man was created before the other animals Gen 2:18,19

59. Seed time and harvest were never to cease Gen 8:22
    Seed time and harvest did cease for seven years Gen 41:54,56/ Gen 45:6

60. God hardened Pharaoh's heart Ex 4:21/ Ed 9:12
    Pharaoh hardened his own heart Ex 8:15

61. All the cattle and horses in Egypt died Ex 9:3,6/ 14:9
    All the horses of Egypt did not die Ex 14:9

62. Moses feared Pharaoh Ex 2:14,15,23; 4:19
    Moses did not fear Pharaoh Heb 11:27

63. There died of the plague twenty-four thousand Num 25:9
    There died of the plague but twenty-three thousand 1 Cor 10:8

64. John the Baptist was Elias Matt 11:14
    John the Baptist was not Elias John 1:21

65. The father of Joseph, Mary's husband was Jacob Matt 1:16
    The father of Mary's husband was Heli Luke 3:23

66. The father of Salah was Arphaxad Gen 11:12
    The father of Salah was Cainan Luke 3:35,36
67. There were fourteen generations from Abraham to David  Matt 1:17  
There were but thirteen generations from Abraham to David  Matt 1:2-6

68. There were fourteen generations from the Babylonian captivity to Christ.  Matt 1:17  
There were but thirteen generations from the Babylonian captivity to Christ  Matt 1:12-16

69. The infant Christ was taken into Egypt  Matt 2:14,15,19,21,23  
The infant Christ was not taken into Egypt  Luke 2:22, 39

70. Christ was tempted in the wilderness  Mark 1:12,13  
Christ was not tempted in the wilderness  John 2:1,2

71. Christ preached his first sermon on the mount  Matt 5:1,2  
Christ preached his first sermon on the plain  Luke 6:17,20

72. John was in prison when Jesus went into Galilee  Mark 1:14  
John was not in prison when Jesus went into Galilee  John 1:43/ John 3:22-24

73. Christ's disciples were commanded to go forth with a staff and sandals  Mark 6:8,9  
Christ's disciples were commanded to go forth with neither staffs nor sandals.  Matt 10:9,10

74. A woman of Canaan besought Jesus  Matt 15:22  
It was a Greek woman who besought Him  Mark 7:26

75. Two blind men besought Jesus  Matt 20:30  
Only one blind man besought Him  Luke 18:35,38

76. Christ was crucified at the third hour  Mark 15:25  
Christ was not crucified until the sixth hour  John 19:14,15

77. The two thieves reviled Christ.  Mark 15:32  
Only one of the thieves reviled Christ  Luke 23:39,40

78. Satan entered into Judas while at supper  John 13:27  
Satan entered into him before the supper  Luke 22:3,4,7

79. Judas committed suicide by hanging  Matt 27:5  
Judas did not hang himself, but died another way  Acts 1:18

80. The potter's field was purchased by Judas  Acts 1:18  
The potter's field was purchased by the Chief Priests  Matt 27:6,7

81. There was but one woman who came to the sepulchre  John 20:1  
There were two women who came to the sepulchre  Matt 28:1

82. There were three women who came to the sepulchre  Mark 16:1  
There were more than three women who came to the sepulchre  Luke 24:10

83. It was at sunrise when they came to the sepulchre  Mark 16:2  
It was some time before sunrise when they came.  John 20:1

84. There were two angels seen by the women at the sepulchre, and they were standing up.  Luke 24:4  
There was but one angel seen, and he was sitting down.  Matt 28:2,5
85. There were two angels seen within the sepulchre. John 20:11,12
   There was but one angel seen within the sepulchre Mark 16:5

86. Christ was to be three days and three nights in the grave Matt 12:40
   Christ was but two days and two nights in the grave Mark 15:25,42,44,45,46; 16:9

87. Holy ghost bestowed at pentecost Acts 1:8,5
   Holy ghost bestowed before pentecost John 20:22

88. The disciples were commanded immediately after the resurrection to go into Galilee Matt 28:10
   The disciples were commanded immediately after the resurrection to go tarry at Jerusalem Luke 24:49

89. Jesus first appeared to the eleven disciples in a room at Jerusalem Luke 24:33,36,37/ John 20:19
   Jesus first appeared to the eleven on a mountain in Galilee Matt 28:16,17

90. Christ ascended from Mount Olivet Acts 1:9,12
   Christ ascended from Bethany Luke 24:50,51

91. Paul's attendants heard the miraculous voice, and stood speechless Acts 9:7
   Paul's attendants heard not the voice and were prostrate Acts 26:14

92. Abraham departed to go into Canaan Gen 12:5
   Abraham went not knowing where Heb 11:8

93. Abraham had two sons Gal 4:22
   Abraham had but one son Heb 11:17

94. Keturah was Abraham's wife Gen 25:1
   Keturah was Abraham's concubine 1 Chron 1:32

95. Abraham begat a son when he was a hundred years old, by the interposition of Providence
   Gen 21:2/ Rom 4:19/ Heb 11:12
   Abraham begat six children more after he was a hundred years old without any interposition of providence
   Gen 25:1,2

96. Jacob bought a sepulchre from Hamor Josh 24:32
   Abraham bought it of Hamor Acts 7:16

97. God promised the land of Canaan to Abraham and his seed forever Gen 13:14,15,17; 17:8
   Abraham and his seed never received the promised land Acts 7:5/ Heb 11:9,13

98. Goliath was slain by Elhanan 2 Sam 21:19 *note, was changed in translation to be correct. Original
   manuscript was incorrect
   The brother of Goliath was slain by Elhanan 1 Chron 20:5

99. Ahaziah began to reign in the twelfth year of Joram 2 Kings 8:25
   Ahaziah began to reign in the eleventh year of Joram 2 Kings 9:29

100. Michal had no child 2 Sam 6:23
    Michal had five children 2 Sam 21:8

101. David was tempted by the Lord to number Israel 2 Sam 24:1
    David was tempted by Satan to number the people 1 Chron 21:1
102. The number of fighting men of Israel was 800,000; and of Judah 500,000 2 Sam 24:9
   The number of fighting men of Israel was 1,100,000; and of Judah 470,000 1 Chron 21:5

103. David sinned in numbering the people 2 Sam 24:10
    David never sinned, except in the matter of Uriah 1 Kings 15:5

104. One of the penalties of David's sin was seven years of famine. 2 Sam 24:13
    It was not seven years, but three years of famine 1 Chron 21:11,12

105. David took seven hundred horsemen 2 Sam 8:4
    David took seven thousand horsemen 1 Chron 18:4

106. David bought a threshing floor for fifty shekels of silver 2 Sam 24:24
    David bought the threshing floor for six hundred shekels of gold 1 Chron 21:25

107. David's throne was to endure forever. Ps 89:35-37
    David's throne was cast down Ps 89:44

Speculative Doctrines

108. Christ is equal with God John 10:30/ Phil 2:5
    Christ is not equal with God John 14:28/ Matt 24:36

109. Jesus was all-powerful Matt 28:18/ John 3:35
    Jesus was not all-powerful Mark 6:5

110. The law was superseded by the Christian dispensation Luke 16:16/ Eph 2:15/ Rom 7:6
    The law was not superseded by the Christian dispensation Matt 5:17-19

111. Christ's mission was peace Luke 2:13,14
    Christ's mission was not peace Matt 10:34

112. Christ received not testimony from man John 5:33,34
    Christ did receive testimony from man John 15:27

113. Christ's witness of himself is true. John 8:18,14
    Christ's witness of himself is not true. John 5:31

114. Christ laid down his life for his friends John 15:13/ John 10:11
    Christ laid down his life for his enemies Rom 5:10

115. It was lawful for the Jews to put Christ to death John 19:7
    It was not lawful for the Jews to put Christ to death John 18:31

116. Children are punished for the sins of the parents Ex 20:5
    Children are not punished for the sins of the parents Ezek 18:20

117. Man is justified by faith alone Rom 3:20/ Gal 2:16/ Gal 3:11,12/ Rom 4:2
    Man is not justified by faith alone James 2:21,24/ Rom 2:13

118. It is impossible to fall from grace John 10:28/ Rom 8:38,39
    It is possible to fall from grace Ezek 18:24/ Heb 6:4-6, 2 Pet 2:20,21
119. No man is without sin 1 Kings 8:46/ Prov 20:9/ Eccl 7:20/ Rom 3:10
Christians are sinless 1 John 3: 9,6,8

120. There is to be a resurrection of the dead 1 Cor 15:52/ Rev 20:12,13/ Luke 20:37/ 1 Cor 15:16
There is to be no resurrection of the dead Job 7:9/ Eccl 9:5/ Is 26:14

121. Reward and punishment to be bestowed in this world Prov 11:31
Reward and punishment to be bestowed in the next world Rev 20:12/ Matt 16:27/ 2 Cor 5:10

122. Annihilation the portion of all mankind Job 3: 11,13-17,19-22/ Eccl 9:5,10/ Eccl 3:19,20

123. The Earth is to be destroyed 2 Pet 3:10/ Heb 1:11/ Rev 20:11
The Earth is never to be destroyed Ps 104:5/ Eccl 1:4

124. No evil shall happen to the godly Prov 12:21/ 1 Pet 3:13
Evil does happen to the godly Heb 12:6/ Job 2:3,7

125. Worldly good and prosperity are the lot of the godly Prov 12:21/ Ps 37:28,32,33,37/ Ps 1:1,3/ Gen 39:2/ Job 42:12
Worldly misery and destitution the lot of the godly Heb 11:37,38/ Rev 7:14/ 2 Tim 3:12/ Luke 21:17

126. Worldly prosperity a reward of righteousness and a blessing Mark 10:29,30/ Ps 37:25/ Ps 112:1,3/ Job 22:23,24/ Prov 15:6

127. The Christian yoke is easy Matt 11:28,29,30
The Christian yoke is not easy John 16:33/ 2 Tim 3:12/ Heb 12:6,8

128. The fruit of God's spirit is love and gentleness Gal 5:22
The fruit of God's spirit is vengeance and fury Judg 15:14/ 1 Sam 18:10,11

129. Longevity enjoyed by the wicked Job 21:7,8/ Ps 17:14/ Eccl 8:12/ Is 65:20
Longevity denied to the wicked Eccl 8:13/ Ps 55:23/ Prov 10:27/ Job 36:14/ Eccl 7:17

Riches a blessing Prov 10:15/ Job 22:23,24/ Job 42:12
Neither poverty nor riches a blessing Prov 30:8,9

131. Wisdom a source of enjoyment Prov 3:13,17
Wisdom a source of vexation, grief and sorrow Eccl 1:17,18

132. A good name is a blessing Eccl 7:1/ Prov 22:1
A good name is a curse Luke 6:26

133. Laughter commended Eccl 3:1,4/ Eccl 8:15
Laughter condemned Luke 6:25/ Eccl 7:3,4

134. The rod of correction a remedy for foolishness Prov 22:15
There is no remedy for foolishness Prov 27:22

135. A fool should be answered according to his folly Prov 26:5
A fool should not be answered according to his folly Prov 26:4
136. Temptation to be desired  James 1:2
    Temptation not to be desired  Matt 6:13

137. Prophecy is sure  2 Pet 1:19
    Prophecy is not sure  Jer 18:7-10

138. Man's life was to be one hundred and twenty years  Gen 6:3/ Ps 90:10
    Man's life is but seventy years  Ps 90:10

139. The fear of man was to be upon every beast  Gen 9:2
    The fear of man is not upon the lion  Prov 30:30

140. Miracles a proof of divine mission  Matt 11:2-5/ John 3:2/ Ex 14:31

141. Moses was a very meek man  Num 12:3
    Moses was a very cruel man  Num 31:15,17

142. Elijah went up to heaven  2 Kings 2:11
    None but Christ ever ascended into heaven  John 3:13

143. All scripture is inspired  2 Tim 3:16
    Some scripture is not inspired  1 Cor 7:6/ 1 Cor 7:12/ 2 Cor 11:17