

# Questions About the Bible

## Alleged contradiction #1

1. **God did** (2 Samuel 24:1) - *"Now again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and it incited David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah."*
2. **Satan did** (1 Chronicles 21:1) - *"Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel."*

Is this a contradiction? Not at all. In 2 Samuel 24:1, God incited David to number Israel because God was angry with David. Ultimately, God wanted to teach David not to trust in his number of fighting men, but to trust in Him. So, He moved to let David count the fighting men of Israel. He used Satan to do it which is why in 1 Chronicles 21:1, it says Satan moved David to count the men. Both are true. God most probably either sent Satan or allowed Satan to do incite David. But, how can God send Satan to do a job and yet God is not responsible for the sin? Simple.

God's authority extends even over Satan. God can use Satan to accomplish His ultimate will by simply giving permission to Satan to do that which Satan already desires to do. We see this in the crucifixion of Christ where evil men brought Jesus to death. Yet, at the same time, it was the predetermined plan of God that this be done. Furthermore, we see in Job that God allowed Satan to test Job and demonstrate Job's character (Job 1:8-13). We see in John 13:25-27 that Satan entered into Judas to betray Jesus, but it was the plan of God that Jesus be betrayed as Acts 4:27-28 above tells us.

God allows the evil one to work His evil yet that word is ultimately used for the glory of God. All this is done without God sinning and it demonstrates God's absolute sovereignty over all creation.

## Alleged contradiction #2

1. 40,000 stalls (I Kings 4:26) – *"And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen."*
2. 4,000 stalls (II Chron. 9:25) – *"And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen;"*

### Explanation of supposed contradiction:

A careful reading of these verses (from the KJV) shows that there is no contradiction. Chariot teams typically had ten horses and ten men per chariot. Solomon could easily have had "four thousand stalls for **horses and chariots**," and "forty thousand stalls" for his horses exclusively. Many modern versions of the Bible, including the NIV, try to "fix" what they thought was a mistake (by changing 1 Kings to read "four thousand") and actually created an error. Either way this is a ridiculous "contradiction" to use as an argument to reject the Bible.

## Alleged contradiction #3

1. **An angel of the Lord on the stone** (Matthew 28:1-2) - *"Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. <sup>2</sup>And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it."*
2. **A young man** (Mark 16:5) - *"And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed."*
3. **Two men** (Luke 24:4) - *"And it happened that while they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling apparel."*

4. **Two angels** (John 20:1-2,12) - "Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene \*came early to the tomb, while it \*was still dark, and \*saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And so she \*ran and \*came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and \*said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him. . <sup>12</sup>and she \*beheld two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying."

There is no contradiction here with a careful reading. An angel of the Lord moved the stone and was sitting upon it outside (Matthew 28:2). The two men (Luke 24:4) were angels (John 20:12). Neither is Mark 16:5 a problem here. If there were two angels in the tomb, then there was at least one. He never says there was only one. Only mentioning one does not contradict another account that mentions both. This one was on the right. Therefore, we see that there was one angel outside and two on the inside of the tomb.

**From Yahoo Answers:**

*The last supper accounts are hopelessly in contradiction.*

*John has a foot-washing and the others do not.*

*They have a Eucharist-like meal, and John does not. Paul echoes the words of institution, so we have these in four different accounts, but in four differing forms. Most of the differences are minor, but even a minor grammatical difference proves that there is a contradiction, and any contradiction overturns the infallible Bible assertion.*

*Now before anyone says that it just happens that differing accounts talk about different things, let me just say that if Jesus washed the disciples (sic) feet, everyone -- every account -- would have reported it. The notion that writers would leave that event out is an idea that simply can't stand serious scrutiny. And even though John seems to be well aware of the Eucharistic tradition in the Church, he doesn't mention that it happened at the Last supper. Did it happen, but he just decided not to mention it? I don't think that is a credible suggestion.*

*And there's always the day Jesus was actually crucified. John's day is different from the others by one day.*

### 3 Days and 3 Nights?

- John 19:31 – Passover was a special Sabbath
- Passover was a floating day
- John 12:1 – Regular Sabbath was six days before Passover
- John 12:12 – “The next day” was Palm Sunday
- Six days hence would put Passover on a Friday
- Matthew 28:1 – The women came to the tomb at dawn, indicating that Jesus rose before dawn

### 3 Days and 3 Nights

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			
Ninth hour (3 p.m.) Jesus died during the Passover Preparation Day when the Passover lambs were being slaughtered and was buried before the sun had set	Passover (Special Sabbath) Sunset 	Sabbath Sunset 	Resurrection Day Sunset Before Sunrise
	Passover (Special Sabbath) Sunrise	Sabbath Sunrise	

## Biblical Manuscripts

### Primary Points

1. More manuscripts than any ancient text by far
2. Manuscripts that are closer to autographs than any ancient text by far
3. Written within the lifetime of many eyewitnesses
4. Manuscripts from all over the world are about 99% in agreement
5. The textual variants are all very minor
6. The peculiarity of Koine Greek means that it couldn't been forged at a later date
7. The supposed other gospels were all written at least 100 years later and have numerous other problems, including they had not legitimate association with the apostles

### Did you Know?

- Over 99% of manuscripts say the same thing?
- There are over 8x the amount of biblical manuscripts than any other famous ancient document in the world (and if we include translations it goes up to more than 37x).
- They have manuscripts that are less than 100 years from the original which is less than any other ancient manuscript by more than 400 years at best.
- The only New Testament passages that are unsure because of manuscript variances are extremely minor things that have NO impact on any biblical doctrine or practice.

## The Old Testament and the Christian

