

BIBLE PROBLEMS

**SOME CONTRADICTIONS,
FACTUAL ERRORS, AND
EVIL MORAL TEACHINGS
IN THE BIBLE**

BY JAYSON X

Updated on November 24, 2013

CONTENTS

Title Page: 1

Contents: 2

Introduction: 3

Contradictions: 4-40

Factual Errors: 41-64

Evil Moral Teachings: 65-101

Works Cited: 102

INTRODUCTION

I used to be a devout Christian, and, as such, I was convinced that every assertion in the Bible was somehow true. It might not be literally true, but it was at least figuratively or allegorically true. Then I came to the conclusion that the Bible is probably a very flawed book with many contradictions, factual errors, and evil moral teachings. Inside the cover of one of my Bibles, I started recording Bible verses which seemed to me obviously false and/or evil. I did this to embrace the truth and free my mind from the childish trust I had in the Bible. In other words, I wanted to completely break the spell that kept me from thinking honestly and freely.

Contradictions and factual errors are closely related, because if two assertions contradict each other, then at least one of them is a factual error. Unlike the "Contradictions" section, the section entitled "Factual Errors" does not deal with contradictions between Bible verses. It deals with contradictions between the Bible and reality, as we know reality through credible science and history.

By no means is this book an exhaustive list of the obviously false and/or evil verses I have become aware of. These are basically the verses I recorded in my Bible with some commentary. The Revised Standard Version has been used throughout this writing, because I regard it as the best English translation because it is both accurate and understandable.

When the word *Yahweh* is used in this book, it refers to the main deity of the Bible. *Yahweh* is used instead of *God* for that deity because the two are not necessarily the same. According to the Bible, Yahweh created the universe, punished all humans for the sin of the first man and woman with suffering and death, flooded the entire Earth to kill most air-breathing creatures, established the nation of Israel to teach other nations and beget the Messiah, became incarnate as a human being through a virgin, atoned for humanity's sins through His own sacrificial death to Himself, resurrected from the dead, and ascended to Heaven. Yet according to many philosophers, God exists but Yahweh does not. God created the universe but did not do all the other things Yahweh is said to have done. Unless I am quoting the Bible, when I use the word *God*, I mean the real creator of the universe, which is probably not Yahweh. I mean God in the Deist sense.

I hope that this writing helps you to think honestly and freely.

CONTRADICTIONS

Genesis 1:1-31 versus Genesis 2:4

How long did it take God to create the universe? Genesis 1:1-31 says that God created the universe in six days, but Genesis 2:4 says that God created the universe in just one day.

Genesis 1:1-31

- [1] In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- [2] The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.
- [3] And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
- [4] And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.
- [5] God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.
- [6] And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."
- [7] And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so.
- [8] And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.
- [9] And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.
- [10] God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.
- [11] And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so.
- [12] The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.
- [13] And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.
- [14] And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,
- [15] and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so.
- [16] And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also.
- [17] And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth,
- [18] to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.
- [19] And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.
- [20] And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens."
- [21] So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with

which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

[22] And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

[23] And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

[24] And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so.

[25] And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

[26] Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

[27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

[28] And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

[29] And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.

[30] And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

[31] And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

Genesis 2:4

[4] These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

Genesis 1:11-13, 20-27 versus Genesis 2:4-9, 18-19

In what order were plants, animals, and humans created? Genesis 1:11-13, 20-27 says that plants were created first, then animals, and then the first human; but Genesis 2:4-9, 18-19 says the first human, then plants, and then animals.

Genesis 1:11-13, 20-27

[11] And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so.

[12] The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

[13] And there was evening and there was morning, a third day. . . .

[20] And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens."

[21] So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

[22] And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

[23] And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

[24] And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so.

[25] And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

[26] Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

[27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:4-9, 18-19

[4] These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

[5] when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up -- for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no man to till the ground;

[6] but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground --

[7] then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

[8] And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man

whom he had formed.

[9] And out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. . . .

[18] Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

[19] So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

Genesis 2:16-17 versus Genesis 5:5

When did Adam die? Genesis 2:16-17 says that Adam would die in the day that he ate the forbidden fruit, but Genesis 5:5 says that Adam lived long after that.

Genesis 2:16-17

[16] And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;

[17] but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Genesis 5:5

[5] Thus all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.

Genesis 6:19 versus Genesis 7:2

How many animals did Yahweh tell Noah to load on the ark before the flood? Genesis 6:19 says two of "every living thing of all flesh," but Genesis 7:2 says "seven pairs of all clean animals."

Genesis 6:19

[19] And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.

Genesis 7:2

[2] Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate;

Genesis 11:12 versus Luke 3:35-36

Who was Shelah the son of? Genesis 11:12 says that his father was Arpach'shad, but Luke 3:35-36 says Ca-i'nan.

Genesis 11:12

[12] When Arpach'shad had lived thirty-five years, he became the father of Shelah;

Luke 3:35-36

[35] the son of Serug, the son of Re'u, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah,

[36] the son of Ca-i'nan, the son of Arphax'ad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,

Exodus 20:1-17, 32:19 versus Exodus 34:1, 14-28

What are the real Ten Commandments? Exodus 20:1-17, 32:19 and Exodus 34:1, 14-28 are very different.

Exodus 20:1-17, 32:19

[20:1] And God spoke all these words, saying,
[2] "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
[3] "You shall have no other gods before me.
[4] "You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;
[5] you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,
[6] but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
[7] "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.
[8] "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
[9] Six days you shall labor, and do all your work;
[10] but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates;
[11] for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.
[12] "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God gives you.
[13] "You shall not kill.
[14] "You shall not commit adultery.
[15] "You shall not steal.
[16] "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
[17] "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor's." . . .
[32:19] And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tables out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.

Exodus 34:1, 14-28

[1] The LORD said to Moses, "Cut two tables of stone like the first; and I will write upon the tables the words that were on the first tables, which you broke. . . .
[14] (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a

jealous God),

[15] lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they play the harlot after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and one invites you, you eat of his sacrifice,

[16] and you take of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters play the harlot after their gods and make your sons play the harlot after their gods.

[17] "You shall make for yourself no molten gods.

[18] "The feast of unleavened bread you shall keep. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month Abib; for in the month Abib you came out from Egypt.

[19] All that opens the womb is mine, all your male cattle, the firstlings of cow and sheep.

[20] The firstling of an ass you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. All the first-born of your sons you shall redeem. And none shall appear before me empty.

[21] "Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; in plowing time and in harvest you shall rest.

[22] And you shall observe the feast of weeks, the first fruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end.

[23] Three times in the year shall all your males appear before the LORD God, the God of Israel.

[24] For I will cast out nations before you, and enlarge your borders; neither shall any man desire your land, when you go up to appear before the LORD your God three times in the year.

[25] "You shall not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the passover be left until the morning.

[26] The first of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring to the house of the LORD your God. You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk."

[27] And the LORD said to Moses, "Write these words; in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."

[28] And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

The First Tablets (Exodus 20)

1. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me.

2. You shall not make for yourself a graven image. [Y]ou shall not bow

The Second Tablets (Exodus 34)

1. [Y]ou shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

2. You shall make for yourself no molten gods.

down to them or serve them.

3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

5. Honor your father and your mother.

6. You shall not kill.

7. You shall not commit adultery.

8. You shall not steal.

9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

10. You shall not covet.

3. The feast of unleavened bread you shall keep.

4. All that opens the womb is mine.

[Sacrifice firstborn male animals to Yahweh.]

5. Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest..

6. [Y]ou shall observe the feast of weeks, the first fruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering.

7. You shall not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven.

8. [N]either shall the sacrifice of the feast of the passover be left until the morning.

9. The first of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring to the house of the LORD your God.

10. You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk.

Judges 1:19 versus Matthew 19:26

Is Yahweh all-powerful or not? Judges 1:19 says that Yahweh was not powerful enough to defeat iron chariots, but Matthew 19:26 says that Yahweh can do all things.

Some might argue that the word “he” in “but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain” refers to Judah rather than Yahweh. This really does not matter. If the “he” refers to Yahweh, then Yahweh was not powerful enough to defeat iron chariots directly; and if the “he” refers to the tribe of Judah, then Yahweh was not powerful enough to defeat iron chariots indirectly. In either case, Yahweh was not all-powerful. In the later case, if Yahweh was all-powerful, Judah should have defeated the iron chariots because Yahweh supported Judah. An omnipotent Yahweh could have made just one warrior of Judah powerful enough to defeat every iron chariot on the planet.

Judges 1:19

[19] And the LORD was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country, but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain, because they had chariots of iron.

Matthew 19:26

[26] But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

1 Samuel 31:4 versus 2 Samuel 1:1-10 versus 2 Samuel 21:12

Who killed King Saul? 1 Samuel 31:4 says that Saul killed himself, 2 Samuel 1:1-10 says that an Amal'ekite from Saul's camp killed Saul, and 2 Samuel 21:12 says that the Philistines killed Saul.

1 Samuel 31:4

[4] Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and make sport of me." But his armor-bearer would not; for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword, and fell upon it.

2 Samuel 1:1-10

[1] After the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amal'ekites, David remained two days in Ziklag;
[2] and on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes rent and earth upon his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and did obeisance.
[3] David said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel."
[4] And David said to him, "How did it go? Tell me." And he answered, "The people have fled from the battle, and many of the people also have fallen and are dead; and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead."
[5] Then David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?"
[6] And the young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilbo'a; and there was Saul leaning upon his spear; and lo, the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him.
[7] And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.'
[8] And he said to me, 'Who are you?' I answered him, 'I am an Amal'ekite.'
[9] And he said to me, 'Stand beside me and slay me; for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers.'
[10] So I stood beside him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen; and I took the crown which was on his head and the armlet which was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."

2 Samuel 21:12

[12] David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan from the men of Ja'bish-gil'ead, who had stolen them from the public square of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them, on the day the Philistines killed Saul on Gilbo'a;

2 Samuel 24:1 versus 1 Chronicles 21:1

Who incited David to number Israel? Ironically, 2 Samuel 24:1 says that Yahweh incited David to number Israel, but 1 Chronicles 21:1 says that Satan incited David to number Israel.

2 Samuel 24:1

[1] Again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, "Go, number Israel and Judah."

1 Chronicles 21:1

[1] Satan stood up against Israel, and incited David to number Israel.

1 Kings 4:26 versus 2 Chronicles 9:25

How many stalls did Solomon have? 1 Kings 4:26 says forty thousand, but 2 Chronicles 9:25 says four thousand.

1 Kings 4:26

[26] Solomon also had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.

2 Chronicles 9:25

[25] And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

2 Kings 2:11 versus John 3:13

Who has ascended into heaven, Eli'jah, Jesus, or both? 2 Kings 2:11 says that Eli'jah ascended into heaven, but John 3:13 says no one but Jesus Christ ascended into heaven.

2 Kings 2:11

[11] And as they still went on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Eli'jah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

John 3:13

[13] No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man [Jesus Christ].

2 Kings 8:26 versus 2 Chronicles 22:2

How old was Ahazi'ah when he began to reign? 2 Kings 8:26 says that Ahazi'ah was twenty-two years old, but 2 Chronicles 22:2 says that Ahazi'ah was forty-two years old.

2 Kings 8:26

[26] Ahazi'ah was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athali'ah; she was a granddaughter of Omri king of Israel.

2 Chronicles 22:2

[2] Ahazi'ah was forty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athali'ah, the granddaughter of Omri.

Zechariah 11:12-13 versus Matthew 27:9-10

Did the prophet Zechariah or the prophet Jeremiah talk about thirty pieces of silver? Zechariah 11:12-13 says it was Zechariah, but Matthew 27:9-10 says it was Jeremiah.

Zechariah 11:12-13

[12] Then I said to them, "If it seems right to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty shekels of silver.

[13] Then the LORD said to me, "Cast it into the treasury" -- the lordly price at which I was paid off by them. So I took the thirty shekels of silver and cast them into the treasury in the house of the LORD.

Matthew 27:9-10

[9] Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel,

[10] and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

Malachi 3:1 versus Mark 1:2

Did the prophet Malachi or the prophet Isaiah say words to this effect: "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way"? The Gospel of Mark says that it was Isaiah, but it was really Malachi.

Malachi 3:1

[1] "Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts."

Mark 1:2

[2] As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way;"

Mark 15:25 versus John 19:13-16

Was Jesus crucified during the third hour or about the sixth hour? Mark 15:25 says that it was the third hour, but John 19:13-16 says that it was about the sixth hour or even later.

Mark 15:25

[25] And it was the third hour, when they crucified him.

John 19:13-16

[13] When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gab'batha.

[14] Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"

[15] They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

[16] Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Matthew 1:16 versus Luke 3:23

Who was Joseph's father? The Gospel of Matthew says it was Jacob, but the Gospel of Luke says that it was Heli.

Matthew 1:16

[16] [A]nd Jacob [was] the father of Joseph [who was] the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

Luke 3:23

[23] Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli,

Matthew 1:12-16 versus Matthew 1:17

How many generations were there from the Jewish deportation to Babylon until the birth of Jesus Christ? Matthew 1:12-16 says that there were thirteen, but Matthew 1:17 says that there were fourteen.

Matthew 1:12-16

[12] And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah was the father of She-al'ti-el, and She-al'ti-el the father of Zerub'babel,
[13] and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim, and Eli'akim the father of Azor,
[14] and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud,
[15] and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar, and Elea'zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob,
[16] and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

Matthew 1:17

[17] So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

<u>Generation</u>	<u>Matthew 1:1-16</u>
0	The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David,
1	the son of <u>Abraham</u> .
2	Abraham was the father of <u>Isaac</u> ,
3	and Isaac the father of <u>Jacob</u> ,
4	and Jacob the father of <u>Judah</u> and his brothers,
5	and Judah the father of <u>Perez</u> and Zerah by Tamar,
6	and Perez the father of <u>Hezron</u> ,

7 and Hezron the father of Ram,

8 and Ram the father of Ammin'adab,

9 and Ammin'adab the father of Nahshon,

10 and Nahshon the father of Salmon,

11 and Salmon the father of Bo'az by Rahab,

12 and Bo'az the father of Obed by Ruth,

13 and Obed the father of Jesse,

14 and Jesse the father of David the king.

1 And David was the father of Solomon by the wife
of Uri'ah,

2 and Solomon the father of Rehobo'am,

3 and Rehobo'am the father of Abi'jah,

4 and Abi'jah the father of Asa,

5 and Asa the father of Jehosh'aphat,

6 and Jehosh'aphat the father of Joram,

7 and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah,

8 and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham,

9 and Jotham the father of Ahaz,

10 and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah,

11 and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh,

12 and Manas'seh the father of Amos,

13 and Amos the father of Josi'ah,

14 and Josi'ah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers,
at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

1 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah
was the father of She-al'ti-el,

2 and She-al'ti-el the father of Zerub'babel,

3 and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud,

4 and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim,

5 and Eli'akim the father of Azor,

6 and Azor the father of Zadok,

7 and Zadok the father of Achim,

8 and Achim the father of Eli'ud,

9 and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar,

10 and Elea'zar the father of Matthan,

11 and Matthan the father of Jacob,

12 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband
of Mary,

13 of whom Jesus was born, who is
called Christ.

Matthew 2:1-2:23 versus Luke 2:1-7, 39

Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem, and why did Joseph and Mary live in Nazareth? Matthew 2:1-2:23 indicates that Jesus was born in Bethlehem because Mary and Joseph lived there. They then had to immigrate to Nazareth to avoid Herod and Archelaus's persecutions and to fulfill a prophecy.

Luke 2:1-7, 39 has Jesus born in Bethlehem because of a special census. Joseph and Mary then went back to Nazareth because it was where they usually lived.

Matthew 2:1-2:23

[1] Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying,

[2] "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him."

[3] When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

[4] and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

[5] They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

[6] `And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel."

[7] Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared;

[8] and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

[9] When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was.

[10] When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy;

[11] and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

[12] And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

[13] Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

[14] And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt,

[15] and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

[16] Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who

were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men.

[17] Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

[18] "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more."

[19] But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying,

[20] "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead."

[21] And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

[22] But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.

[23] And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Luke 2:1-7, 39

[1] In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.

[2] This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria.

[3] And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city.

[4] And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

[5] to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

[6] And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered.

[7] And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. . . .

[39] And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth.

Matthew 4:1-11 versus Luke 4:1-13

What was the order of the temptations of Jesus in the desert? Matthew 4:1-11 says that Jesus was first tempted to turn stones into bread, then Jesus was tempted to throw himself from the pinnacle of the temple, and then Jesus was tempted to worship Satan. However, Luke 4:1-13 says that Jesus was first tempted to turn stones into bread, then Jesus was tempted to worship Satan, and then Jesus was tempted to throw himself from the pinnacle of the temple.

Matthew 4:1-11

[1] Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

[2] And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry.

[3] And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

[4] But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

[5] Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple,

[6] and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will give his angels charge of you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

[7] Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

[8] Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them;

[9] and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

[10] Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! for it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

[11] Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.

Luke 4:1-13

[1] And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit

[2] for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing in those days; and when they were ended, he was hungry.

[3] The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

[4] And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"

[5] And the devil took him up, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time,

[6] and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.

[7] If you, then, will worship me, it shall all be yours."

[8] And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God,

and him only shall you serve."

[9] And he took him to Jerusalem, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here;

[10] for it is written, 'He will give his angels charge of you, to guard you,'

[11] and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

[12] And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

[13] And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Matthew 17:1 and Mark 9:2 versus Luke 9:28

Jesus supposedly asked his disciples something to this effect: “Who do people say that I am?” Then his disciple, Peter, proclaimed that he is the Messiah. How many days after this passed before Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a high mountain apart from everyone else and was transfigured before them? Matthew 17:1 and Mark 9:2 say that it was six days, but Luke 9:28 say that it was eight days.

Matthew 17:1

[1] And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart.

Mark 9:2

[2] And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves; and he was transfigured before them,

Luke 9:28

[28] Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.

Matthew 17:12 versus John 1:21

Was John the Baptist Elijah? According to Matthew 17:12, Jesus said yes; but according to John 1:21, John said no.

Matthew 17:12

[12] but I [Jesus] tell you that Eli'jah has already come, and they did not know him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of man will suffer at their hands."

[13] Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

John 1:21

[19] And this is the testimony of John [the Baptist], when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

[20] He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

[21] And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."

Matthew 19:16-21 versus Ephesians 2:8-9

What do people need to do to go to Heaven? Jesus says in Matthew 19:16-21 that we have to do good deeds and not do evil deeds, but whoever wrote Ephesians 2:8-9 says that we go to Heaven if we believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

Matthew 19:16-21

[16] And behold, one came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?"

[17] And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments."

[18] He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,

[19] Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

[20] The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?"

[21] Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Ephesians 2:8-9

[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith [in Jesus Christ]; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God --

[9] not because of works, lest any man should boast.

Matthew 27:5-8 versus Acts 1:18-19

How did Judas Iscariot die? Matthew 27:5-8 says that he hung himself, but Acts 1:18-19 says something very different. Perhaps Judas purposefully fell on his own sword.

Matthew 27:5-8

[5] And throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself.

[6] But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money."

[7] So they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

[8] Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

Acts 1:18-19

[18] (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

[19] And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Akel'dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

Mark 14:12-25, 15:25 versus John 19:13-16

Which came first, the Passover or the crucifixion? Passover is a Jewish festival beginning on the evening of the 14th of Nisan and is traditionally celebrated for eight days. It commemorates the escape of the Jews from Egypt. Supposedly, Yahweh “passed over” the homes of the Jews in Egypt, which were protected by lamb's blood, but Yahweh murdered the firstborn children and animals in every Egyptian house (Exodus 12:1-36).

Mark 14:12-25, 15:25 says that Jesus was crucified after the Passover meal, but John 19:13-16 says that Jesus was crucified before the Passover meal because it was the day of the Preparation of the Passover.

“In the Synoptic Gospels [Matthew, Mark, and Luke], the [Last Supper](#) is generally interpreted to be the [Passover](#) meal[citation needed]. In this case Passover would have started on Thursday night. This is highly problematic from a historical standpoint — the first day of Passover is a holy day for Jews, during which no work can be performed and many rituals of [Shabbat](#) are observed, so many events described by the Gospels (particularly, the trial and the execution) could not have taken place.

“According to [the Gospel of] John, however, the Passover meal was to be eaten on the last evening before Jesus was crucified, so that the Last Supper was eaten on the evening of the [14th of Nisan \[16\]](#) and the crucifixion was on the 14th during the following daylight, with Jesus dying approximately at the same time that the lambs for the Passover were being slaughtered in [Herod's Temple of Jerusalem](#) — around 3 PM (“at the ninth hour”), so that the Jews could celebrate the Passover that evening (starting Friday night)” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chronology_of_Jesus#Day_of_death).

Mark 14:12-25, 15:25

[12] And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the passover?"

[13] And he sent two of his disciples, and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him,

[14] and wherever he enters, say to the householder, `The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I am to eat the passover with my disciples?'

[15] And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us."

[16] And the disciples set out and went to the city, and found it as he had told them; and they prepared the passover.

[17] And when it was evening he came with the twelve.

[18] And as they were at table eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

[19] They began to be sorrowful, and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?"

[20] He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me.

[21] For the Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

[22] And as they were eating, he took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "Take; this is my body."

[23] And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it.

[24] And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

[25] Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." . . .

[15:25] And it was the third hour, when they crucified him.

John 19:13-16

[13] When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gab'batha.

[14] Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"

[15] They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

[16] Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

John 2:19-22 versus John 20:8-10

Did Jesus's disciples know that he was supposed to be resurrected or not? John 2:19-22 says that they did, but John 20:8-10 says they did not. It is amazing that there is such a clear contradiction in a single book of the Bible, yet, somehow, millions of Christians believe that all the Bible is literally true. Note that this is not the only contradiction in a single book of the Bible.

John 2:19-22

[19] Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

[20] The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"

[21] But he spoke of the temple of his body.

[22] When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

John 20:8-10

[8] Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

[9] for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

[10] Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Matthew 27:46-50 and Mark 15:34-37 versus Luke 23:46 versus John 19:30

What were Jesus's last words before he died? Matthew 27:46-50 and Mark 15:34-37 agree, but Luke 23:46 and John 19:30 disagree with them and each other.

Matthew 27:46-50

- [46] And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, la'ma sabach-tha'ni?" that is, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"
- [47] And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "This man is calling Eli'jah."
- [48] And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink.
- [49] But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Eli'jah will come to save him."
- [50] And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

Mark 15:34-37

- [34] And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "E'lo-i, E'lo-i, la'ma sabach-tha'ni?" which means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"
- [35] And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Eli'jah."
- [36] And one ran and, filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Eli'jah will come to take him down."
- [37] And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last.

Luke 23:46

- [46] Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

John 19:30

- [30] When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Acts 9:7 versus Acts 22:9

Did those who were traveling with Saul/Paul hear the miraculous voice or not?
Acts 9:7 says they did, but Acts 22:9 says they did not.

Acts 9:7

[7] The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

Acts 22:9

[9] Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

FACTUAL ERRORS

Genesis 1:1-2:3

According to the Genesis 1:1-2:3, God created the heavens (which, being generous, I suppose means outer space) and Earth. After that, God created for six more days. On the first day of creation, God made Earth's day and night. On the second day of creation, God made Earth's firmament, which is also called Heaven. Being generous, let's say that this means that God created Earth's sky. On the third day of creation, God made Earth's dry land and plants. On the fourth day of creation, God made the sun, moon, and stars. On the fifth day of creation, God created Earth's water creatures and birds. On the sixth day of creation, God created Earth's land animals that couldn't fly and humans.

Unless otherwise indicated, the following information comes from the "Geologic and Biological Timeline of the Earth." According to modern science, God and/or Nature created outer space approximately 13.7 billion years ago; Earth approximately 4.5 billion years ago; Earth's day and night approximately 4.5 billion years ago because the Earth was probably formed while it was spinning; Earth's sky twice, the first time approximately 4.5 billion years ago and the second time approximately 3.9 billion years ago;¹ Earth's dry land (a.k.a. stable continents) approximately 2.5 billion years ago; Earth's plants approximately 3.5 billion years ago because blue-green algae existed back then; the sun approximately 4.567 billion years ago; Earth's moon approximately 4.45 billion years ago; the first stars 13.5 billion years ago ("StarChild Question of the Month for March 2003"); Earth's water creatures approximately 3.5 billion years ago, assuming that at least some of the first prokaryotes were water creatures; Earth's birds approximately 150 million years ago; Earth's land animals that couldn't fly approximately 400 million years ago; and humans approximately 160 thousand years ago.

Order of Creation According to Genesis 1:1-2:3	Order of Creation According to Modern Science
1. Outer space and Earth	1. Outer space
2. Day and night	2. Stars
3. Sky	3. Sun
4. Dry land and plants	4. Earth, day and night, the first sky
5. Sun, moon, and stars	5. Moon
6. Water creatures and birds	6. The second sky
7. Land animals that couldn't fly and humans	7. Water creatures
	8. Plants
	9. Dry land
	10. Land animals that couldn't fly
	11. Birds
	12. Humans

¹ 4.45 billion years ago, Earth's original atmosphere, which formed about the same time that Earth formed, escaped Earth's gravity because a planetoid hit Earth. 3.9 billion years ago, Earth got a new atmosphere of mostly carbon dioxide, water vapor, methane, and ammonia.

Now to point out the obvious. The order of creation differs between the Genesis 1:1-2:3 and modern science. They both agree that outer space came first and humans came last, but they disagree about everything else or at least almost everything else. Genesis 1:1-2:3 teaches that Earth came before day and night, but modern science teaches that Earth and day and night were created simultaneously. Genesis 1:1-2:3 teaches that the stars were created after dry land and plants, but modern science teaches that stars were created billions of years before dry land and plants. Bizarrely, Genesis 1:1-2:3 teaches that the sun was created after day and night; but modern science teaches that the sun was created before day and night. Genesis 1:1-2:3 teaches that water creatures and birds were created on the same day, but modern science teaches that these types of creatures were created billions of years apart. Genesis 1:1-2:3 teaches that land animals that couldn't fly were created after birds, but modern science teaches that land animals that couldn't fly were created millions of years before birds.

There are probably many other differences between the two accounts, but listing them is becoming very tedious. Suffice it to say that the creation story of Genesis greatly differs from the modern scientific creation story in terms of the order in which things were created. Yet, not only does the order differ greatly, but the amount of time differs greatly as well. The Bible teaches that the Earth is approximately 6,000 years old, but modern science teaches that the Earth is approximately 4.5 billion years old.

Many Christians try to rationalize this difference by stating that a day in Genesis 1:1-2:3 actually means a long, unspecified length of time. Therefore, thousands, millions, or billions of years could have passed between one day of creation and another day of creation. There are at least two great problems with this rationalization.

The first great problem is that the description of the creation activities of each day is ended with a phrase like this: "And there was evening and there was morning, one day." That sure sounds like a regular 24-hour day, one that starts with nighttime and then ends with daytime (or vice versa).

And let's suppose that between each creation event is thousands, millions, or billions of years, as many Old Earth Christian Creationists tend to believe. The second great problem is that the Genesis 1:1-2:3 creation story as it is told wouldn't work, because the plants would have to wait thousands, millions, or billions of years for the sun. They would all die before that because they need the sun's light for photosynthesis.

^{1:1} In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷ And God made the firmament and separated the waters

which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ And God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also. ¹⁷ And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every

beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.’

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24

According to the Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24, God created the first man, every animal of the field, and every bird of the air directly from the ground. God also created the first woman from a rib of the first man. However, according to modern science, humans and all other complex organisms evolved from other species. Both the first man and the first woman evolved from a common ancestor of both humans and chimpanzees.

Skipping many links in the evolutionary chain, that common ancestor evolved from a monkey, and the first monkey evolved from some other kind of mammal, and the first mammal evolved from a reptile, and the first reptile evolved from an amphibian, and the first amphibian evolved from a fish, and the first fish evolved from some other kind of multi-celled aquatic creature, and the first multi-celled aquatic creature evolved from a single-celled aquatic creature, and the first single-celled aquatic creature evolved from the Earth, and the Earth came from a nebula, and the nebula came from the Milky Way Galaxy, and the Milky Way Galaxy came from the Big Bang, and the Big Bang came from . . . something. That something was probably God or an accident.

If modern science is correct, Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24 is incorrect because God did not make any complex organisms on Earth directly from the ground. Instead, those organisms evolved from less complex organisms, simply speaking. I say “simply speaking” because species do not always evolve directly from less complex to more complex creatures, although that is a general tendency. When species survive and thrive, they always evolve to fit their environment; and in some cases evolving to fit into an environment actually means that species evolve from more complex to less complex creatures.

“⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground,—and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. ⁸And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

“¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

“¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’ ¹⁹So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call

them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man “gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man—there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

‘This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,—
for out of Man—this one was taken.’

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.”

Genesis 3:1-19

According to the Genesis 3:1-19, suffering and death came to Earth because the first two humans disobeyed God by eating forbidden fruit. However, according to modern science, suffering and death have existed long before the first two humans.

What is suffering, and what were the first creatures to suffer? Suffering is undesirable pain, and pain is an unpleasant feeling which is usually caused by injury or disease of a body. In order to feel pain, a creature must have a sufficiently advanced nervous system. Perhaps members of the phylum Nematoda (round worms) were the first creatures to feel pain because they were the first creatures to have a central nervous system (MatT). "Members of the phylum Nematoda . . . have been in existence for an estimated one billion years, making them one of the most ancient and diverse types of animals on earth" (Lambert and Bekal). Since the first human lived approximately 160 thousand years ago and the first creature that could suffer lived approximately one billion years ago, suffering existed on Earth for millions of years before the first human.

As for death, it seems to have existed since the first creature lived. Therefore, death has existed on Earth for billions of years before the first human. A creature needs an advanced nervous system to suffer, but it does not need an advanced nervous system to die. In short, suffering and death long predated humans. Suffering and death were not started because humans disobeyed God.

'1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?'"
2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden;
3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I ate." 14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above all wild animals; upon your

belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." 16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." 17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Joshua 10:12-14

In reality, the Earth orbits the sun. In the understanding of most ancient people and, thus, in the Bible, the sun orbits the Earth. The orbit of the sun around the Earth was supposedly stopped so that the Israelites could kill their enemies.

[12] Then spoke Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD gave the Amorites over to the men of Israel; and he said in the sight of Israel,
"Sun, stand thou still at Gibeon,
and thou Moon in the valley of Ai'jalon."

[13] And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed,
until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.

[14] There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD hearkened to the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.

Psalm 19:4-6

In reality, the Earth orbits the sun. In the understanding of most ancient people and, thus, in the Bible, the sun orbits the Earth.

[4] yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In them he has set a tent for the sun,

[5] which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

[6] Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and there is nothing hid from its heat.

Psalm 24:1-2

In reality, on Earth land does not rest on water. Land rests on land, or at least molten rock or metal. The crust rests on the upper mantle, the upper mantle rests on the mantle, the mantle rests on the outer core, and the outer core rests on the inner core. Water on Earth rests on land too, the crust. The crust is where people, animals, and plants live.

"The Earth is made out of many things. Deep inside Earth, near its center, lies Earth's core which is mostly made up of nickel and iron. Above the core is Earth's mantle, which is made up of rock containing silicon, iron, magnesium, aluminum, oxygen and other minerals. The rocky surface layer of Earth, called the crust, is made up of mostly oxygen, silicon, aluminum, iron, calcium, sodium, potassium and magnesium. Earth's surface is mainly covered with liquid water and its atmosphere is mainly nitrogen and oxygen, with smaller amounts of carbon dioxide, water vapor and other gases" (http://coolcosmos.ipac.caltech.edu/cosmic_kids/AskKids/earth_composition.shtml).

According to the Bible, however, land rests on water.

[1] The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein;
[2] for he has founded it upon the seas,
and established it upon the rivers.

Psalm 93:1

In reality, the Earth, also known as the world, is constantly moving. It spins as it revolves around the sun. The spinning motion causes day and night, and the revolving motion causes the four seasons.

According to the Bible, however, the Earth does not move. Instead, it just stands still while the sun revolves around it.

[1] The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength.
Yea, the world is established; it shall never be moved;

Psalm 104:5

In reality, the earth (lowercase e), also known as land, is often shaken by earthquakes. This verse in the Bible says otherwise. If the word “earth” means the planet Earth, then this verse is incorrect because the planet Earth does not rest on a foundation. It is surrounded by outer space.

[5] Thou [Yahweh] didst set the earth on its foundations,
so that it should never be shaken.

Ecclesiastes 1:5

In reality, the Earth orbits the sun. In the understanding of most ancient people and, thus, in the Bible, the sun orbits the Earth.

[5] The sun rises and the sun goes down,
and hastens to the place where it rises.

Isaiah 13:10

In reality, the moon does not produce its own light. Instead, it reflects the light of the sun. This Bible verse, however, suggests that the moon does produce its own light.

[10] For the stars of the heavens and their constellations
will not give their light;
the sun will be dark at its rising
and the moon will not shed its light.

Matthew 4:8

In reality, the Earth is a sphere, so it is impossible to see "all the kingdoms of the world" from "a very high mountain." In the Bible, however, Jesus does just this. Thus, the Bible teaches that the Earth is flat, which was a common belief of ancient people.

[8] Again, the devil took him [Jesus] to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them;

Matthew 21:21-22

Christians often ask for things in prayers, trusting in Jesus and believing that they will happen, but they don't happen.

[21] And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and never doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will be done.

[22] And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

Mark 9:1

Apparently, Jesus began to convince many of his disciples that he was the Messiah, and he promised that some people living at that time would live to witness the Messianic Age, a time of peace and brotherhood on Earth, without crime, war, and poverty. This means that Jesus was wrong. Every human alive then is now dead.

[1] And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

Mark 13:30

Jesus predicted that the Messianic Age would follow difficulties "as has not been from the beginning of the creation" (Mark 13:19): wars; earthquakes; famines; the sun, moon, and stars losing their light; and other troubles. No one but God knew exactly when this would happen, but it would happen during "this generation" (Mark 13:30). Once again, this means that Jesus was wrong. Everyone from that generation is long dead, and the Messianic Age has not yet begun.

[30] Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away before all these things take place.

Luke 21:27-32

Jesus said that he would return to Earth on a cloud in great glory and that his return would happen before that generation died. That was approximately 2,000 years ago, and all of that generation is long dead.

[27] “And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

[28] Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

[29] And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees;

[30] as soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near.

[31] So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

[32] Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all has taken place.

John 14:13-14

Here, Jesus talks like he will be a genie and grant every worthwhile request of his followers, but this obviously does not happen.

[13] Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son;

[14] if you ask anything in my name, I will do it.

Revelation 7:1

In reality, the Earth is a sphere, so it does not have corners. In the understanding of many ancient people and, thus, in the Bible, the Earth is flat. The writer of Revelation 7:1 describes "the four corners of the [E]arth." A flat square or rectangle has four corners, not a sphere.

I admit that the verse below spells "earth" with a lowercase e, which could mean land. Some land can look relatively flat compared to a spherical planet. However, the planet Earth is spherical and has dry land on irregular areas across its surface. So this does not solve the problem. There cannot be four corners on six large land masses on practically all sides of a spherical planet. Where are the four corners? If they located on the western tip of Alaska and the southwestern part of Chile, they are, relatively speaking, almost next to the eastern part of Russia and New Zealand. So the four corners basically merge into two points. Plus, these corners do not encompass all land on Earth.

[1] After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree.

Revelation 22:20

The Book of Revelation was written almost 2,000 years ago, and Jesus has not come back since then. Therefore, Jesus has not come back soon, as he promised in this verse.

Many Christian apologists use the b.s. excuse that a day to God is like 1,000 years or more to a human being. I agree that God probably has a very different perspective concerning time than human beings do, because, among other things, God is eternal and humans die before they get 200 years old. However, Jesus was supposedly God, and God knows everything. Therefore, Jesus should have known that “coming soon” means less than 2,000 years to the creatures he was talking to. God should not talk to humans at all if he is just going to confuse them.

[20] He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

EVIL MORAL TEACHINGS

Genesis 6:11-22 teaches mass murder.

Yahweh made an imperfect creation, but instead of being like a responsible parent and trying to fix it with love, guidance, and patience, He basically murdered it. To be fair, Yahweh only murdered most of it. He did not murder Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, as well as every water-breathing animal and basically two of every air-breathing animal.

That having been said, the supposed flood in Noah's time was the act of an evil being. Yahweh murdered almost all land creatures because people were not doing what He wanted them to do. Surely there had to be a better way to handle the situation than mass murder! Besides, the flood fixed nothing. Humanity soon became as evil as ever, after the waters receded. So not only is Yahweh evil, He is incompetent!

[11] Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence.

[12] And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth.

[13] And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh; for the earth is filled with violence through them; behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

[14] Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.

[15] This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.

[16] Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above; and set the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks.

[17] For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall die.

[18] But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

[19] And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.

[20] Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you, to keep them alive.

[21] Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them."

[22] Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Genesis 38:8-10 teaches murder.

Why did Yahweh kill Onan? Did Yahweh kill Onan because he violated Yahweh's command to try to impregnate his dead brother's wife, or did Yahweh kill Onan because Onan masturbated? My guess is the former, but in either case, Yahweh committed murder. No one deserves to be killed for refusing to have sex with someone else, especially the widow or widower of one's dead spouse. Yuck! And no one deserves to be killed for masturbating.

Neither act is obviously evil. In fact, masturbation probably does more good than harm, which is one reason why almost every human does it at least once in his or her lifetime. And even if both acts are evil--which I strongly doubt--they are not evil enough to deserve the death penalty. Yahweh is setting a very evil example here.

[8] Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife, and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother."

[9] But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; so when he went in to his brother's wife he spilled the semen on the ground, lest he should give offspring to his brother.

[10] And what he did was displeasing in the sight of the LORD, and he slew him also.

Exodus chapters 4-14 (specifically Exodus 4:21-23, 7:1-5, 10:1-2, 14:8-9) teaches the violation of free will for cruelty's sake.

Yahweh repeatedly took away Pharaoh's free will, gave Pharaoh a "choice", and then punished the Egyptians with horrible plagues because Pharaoh made the wrong "choice". I count three very evil examples here. 1) Taking away free will is evil because it is a very valuable part of us human beings. Free will is what enables us to truly choose anything, including choosing between good and evil. 2) Giving Pharaoh a fake choice mocks both Pharaoh and free will for no apparent good reason. 3) These plagues did much unnecessary harm. Yahweh could have minded His own business and let the Israelites and Egyptians work out the problem themselves, or Yahweh could have violated Pharaoh's free will in the opposite way that Yahweh did. Yahweh could have made Pharaoh automatically and completely free the Israelites.

Exodus 4:21-23

[21] And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

[22] And you shall say to Pharaoh, `Thus says the LORD, Israel is my first-born son, [23] and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me"; if you refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay your first-born son."

Exodus 7:1-5

[1] And the LORD said to Moses, "See, I make you as God to Pharaoh; and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.

[2] You shall speak all that I command you; and Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land.

[3] But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt,

[4] Pharaoh will not listen to you; then I will lay my hand upon Egypt and bring forth my hosts, my people the sons of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment.

[5] And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth my hand upon Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them."

Exodus 10:1-2

[1] Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them,

[2] and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your son's son how I have made sport of the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them; that you may know that I am the LORD."

Exodus 14:8-9

[8] And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and he pursued the people of Israel as they went forth defiantly.

[9] The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-ha-hi'roth, in front of Ba'al-ze'phon.

Exodus 34:6-7 teaches to treat innocent people as if they are guilty.

Yahweh provides an evil example by treating the descendants of evildoers as if they were as guilty as the evildoers. No one is guilty of an evil that they did not do, even if their ancestors did that evil.

[6] The LORD passed before him, and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, [7] keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Leviticus 20:9-16 teaches murder.

These are evil commandments because the punishment is too much for the deed when it is evil and completely unjust when the deed is not evil.

Cursing one's parents, committing adultery, having sex with one's mother or stepmother, having sex with one's daughter-in-law, and having sex with a woman and her mother are evil because these acts usually cause more misery than pleasure for the greatest number of human beings. Having sex with an animal is usually evil because usually animals do not want to have sex with humans. Thus, a human usually has to rape an animal to have sex with it. However, although these actions are evil, they are not evil enough to deserve the death penalty. The death penalty is only justifiable as a punishment for something as evil as murder, and the aforementioned deeds are not even close to being as evil as murder because they do not cause nearly as much suffering as murder.

Since homosexual acts are fine between consenting adults, they do not deserve any punishment, especially not the death penalty.

[9] For every one who curses his father or his mother shall be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother, his blood is upon him.

[10] If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death.

[11] The man who lies with his father's wife has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall be put to death, their blood is upon them.

[12] If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall be put to death; they have committed incest, their blood is upon them.

[13] If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall be put to death, their blood is upon them.

[14] If a man takes a wife and her mother also, it is wickedness; they shall be burned with fire, both he and they, that there may be no wickedness among you.

[15] If a man lies with a beast, he shall be put to death; and you shall kill the beast.

[16] If a woman approaches any beast and lies with it, you shall kill the woman and the beast; they shall be put to death, their blood is upon them.

Leviticus 21:16-23 teaches discrimination against handicapped people.

If Yahweh does not want handicapped people to offer food to Him, Yahweh should fix them. In most cases, handicapped people do not choose to be handicapped; so their handicapped condition is not their fault. Moreover, most handicapped people are still able to participate in a simple religious ceremony as well as non-handicapped people, so it is unfair to exclude them from such duties.

[16] And the LORD said to Moses,

[17] "Say to Aaron, None of your descendants throughout their generations who has a blemish may approach to offer the bread of his God.

[18] For no one who has a blemish shall draw near, a man blind or lame, or one who has a mutilated face or a limb too long,

[19] or a man who has an injured foot or an injured hand,

[20] or a hunchback, or a dwarf, or a man with a defect in his sight or an itching disease or scabs or crushed testicles;

[21] no man of the descendants of Aaron the priest who has a blemish shall come near to offer the LORD's offerings by fire; since he has a blemish, he shall not come near to offer the bread of his God.

[22] He may eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy and of the holy things,

[23] but he shall not come near the veil or approach the altar, because he has a blemish, that he may not profane my sanctuaries; for I am the LORD who sanctify them."

Leviticus 25:44-46 teaches that slavery is acceptable.

[44] As for your male and female slaves whom you may have: you may buy male and female slaves from among the nations that are round about you.

[45] You may also buy from among the strangers who sojourn with you and their families that are with you, who have been born in your land; and they may be your property.

[46] You may bequeath them to your sons after you, to inherit as a possession for ever; you may make slaves of them, but over your brethren the people of Israel you shall not rule, one over another, with harshness.

Numbers 15:32-36 teaches murder and to value rituals more than people.

This is an evil command. Gathering sticks on the sabbath day probably does more good than evil, and if it does do evil, that evil is not worth the death penalty. The punishment is far greater than the crime.

[32] While the people of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the sabbath day.

[33] And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation.

[34] They put him in custody, because it had not been made plain what should be done to him.

[35] And the LORD said to Moses, "The man shall be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."

[36] And all the congregation brought him outside the camp, and stoned him to death with stones, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Numbers 31:1-18 teaches genocide, murder, and rape.

Yahweh ordered the Israelites to attack the Midianites. The Israelites did and killed all the adult males. Then Moses ordered every male child and every woman who has had sex with a man killed, but the female virgins could become the lovers of the Israelite men.

Can you imagine being a girl, having your father, mother, and brother murdered by an invading nation, and then having a soldier of that nation force you to be his lover? That's rape! And not only is that rape, but that goes way beyond rape! It involves murder and genocide and great perversion. I would hate to be raped, but I would especially hate to be raped by a man who helped murder my family and tribe!

[1] The LORD said to Moses,

[2] "Avenge the people of Israel on the Mid'ianites; afterward you shall be gathered to your people."

[3] And Moses said to the people, "Arm men from among you for the war, that they may go against Mid'ian, to execute the LORD's vengeance on Mid'ian.

[4] You shall send a thousand from each of the tribes of Israel to the war."

[5] So there were provided, out of the thousands of Israel, a thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war.

[6] And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand from each tribe, together with Phin'ehas the son of Elea'zar the priest, with the vessels of the sanctuary and the trumpets for the alarm in his hand.

[7] They warred against Mid'ian, as the LORD commanded Moses, and slew every male.

[8] They slew the kings of Mid'ian with the rest of their slain, Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Mid'ian; and they also slew Balaam the son of Be'or with the sword.

[9] And the people of Israel took captive the women of Mid'ian and their little ones; and they took as booty all their cattle, their flocks, and all their goods.

[10] All their cities in the places where they dwelt, and all their encampments, they burned with fire,

[11] and took all the spoil and all the booty, both of man and of beast.

[12] Then they brought the captives and the booty and the spoil to Moses, and to Elea'zar the priest, and to the congregation of the people of Israel, at the camp on the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho.

[13] Moses, and Elea'zar the priest, and all the leaders of the congregation, went forth to meet them outside the camp.

[14] And Moses was angry with the officers of the army, the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds, who had come from service in the war.

[15] Moses said to them, "Have you let all the women live?"

[16] Behold, these caused the people of Israel, by the counsel of Balaam, to act treacherously against the LORD in the matter of Pe'or, and so the plague came among the congregation of the LORD.

[17] Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known man by lying with him.

[18] But all the young girls who have not known man by lying with him, keep alive for yourselves.

Deuteronomy 21:10-14 teaches rape.

Forcing a captive of war to marry and have sex with one is rape.

[10] "When you go forth to war against your enemies, and the LORD your God gives them into your hands, and you take them captive,

[11] and see among the captives a beautiful woman, and you have desire for her and would take her for yourself as wife,

[12] then you shall bring her home to your house, and she shall shave her head and pare her nails.

[13] And she shall put off her captive's garb, and shall remain in your house and bewail her father and her mother a full month; after that you may go in to her, and be her husband, and she shall be your wife.

[14] Then, if you have no delight in her, you shall let her go where she will; but you shall not sell her for money, you shall not treat her as a slave, since you have humiliated her.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 advocates murdering sons who are stubborn and rebellious.

Sons who are stubborn and rebellious might deserve to get spanked or sent to military school, but they do not deserve to be killed.

[18] If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son, who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they chastise him, will not give heed to them,

[19] then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives,

[20] and they shall say to the elders of his city, "This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard."

[21] Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall purge the evil from your midst; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

**Deuteronomy 22:13-21 teaches that women who commit
fornication should be murdered.**

The Bible is definitely sexist, extremist, and unjust. It favors men over women and teaches that a wife can be murdered if her husband claims that she is not a virgin and there is no evidence of her virginity. If evidence is found that confirms that the wife was a virgin, then the husband is merely whipped and fined!

I suppose that the evidence for the virginity would be the blood of a torn hymen. This, in and of itself, is unfair because hymens often tear without sex. Thus, a woman could be a virgin without evidence of her virginity.

How much better it would be if the Bible writers regarded women as people instead of cattle! Then they would not worry so much if a woman was a virgin.

[13] If any man takes a wife, and goes in to her, and then spurns her,
[14] and charges her with shameful conduct, and brings an evil name upon her, saying, "I took this woman, and when I came near her, I did not find in her the tokens of virginity,"
[15] then the father of the young woman and her mother shall take and bring out the tokens of her virginity to the elders of the city in the gate;
[16] and the father of the young woman shall say to the elders, "I gave my daughter to this man to wife, and he spurns her;
[17] and lo, he has made shameful charges against her, saying, 'I did not find in your daughter the tokens of virginity.' And yet these are the tokens of my daughter's virginity." And they shall spread the garment before the elders of the city.
[18] Then the elders of that city shall take the man and whip him;
[19] and they shall fine him a hundred shekels of silver, and give them to the father of the young woman, because he has brought an evil name upon a virgin of Israel; and she shall be his wife; he may not put her away all his days.
[20] But if the thing is true, that the tokens of virginity were not found in the young woman,
[21] then they shall bring out the young woman to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death with stones, because she has wrought folly in Israel by playing the harlot in her father's house; so you shall purge the evil from the midst of you.

Deuteronomy 22:23-24 teaches that a rape VICTIM should be murdered if she did not cry out for help.

Rape is a horrible deed. It violates someone's body and freewill, and often leaves long-lasting emotional scars. This commandment is evil because not all rape victims can cry out for help. Some are just too traumatized to speak, others have their mouths covered by a hand or a gag, and others are threatened with death if they do. Moreover, not every cry for help is heard. Killing a rapist might be just; killing a rape victim is extremely unjust. It definitely qualifies as murder.

[23] If there is a betrothed virgin, and a man meets her in the city and lies with her,

[24] then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry for help though she was in the city, and the man because he violated his neighbor's wife; so you shall purge the evil from the midst of you.

Deuteronomy 22:28-29 sanctions raping female virgins.

Suppose you were a man who lusted after a certain female virgin who was not romantically interested in you. All you had to do, if you were an Israelite, was rape her, pay her father some money, and then marry her. After that, you could rape her almost every night because she would be your wife. It sounds like this rule was invented by an ugly, odious, and exceedingly horny male Israelite.

[28] If a man meets a virgin who is not betrothed, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are found,

[29] then the man who lay with her shall give to the father of the young woman fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife, because he has violated her; he may not put her away all his days.

Joshua 10:28-42 advocates genocide.

Genocide is the deliberate extermination of a race of people. Under Joshua's leadership, the Israelites sought to exterminate all of the Canaanites so that they could steal their buildings, land, and other possessions.

[28] And Joshua took Makke'dah on that day, and smote it and its king with the edge of the sword; he utterly destroyed every person in it, he left none remaining; and he did to the king of Makke'dah as he had done to the king of Jericho.

[29] Then Joshua passed on from Makke'dah, and all Israel with him, to Libnah, and fought against Libnah;

[30] and the LORD gave it also and its king into the hand of Israel; and he smote it with the edge of the sword, and every person in it; he left none remaining in it; and he did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

[31] And Joshua passed on from Libnah, and all Israel with him, to Lachish, and laid siege to it, and assaulted it:

[32] and the LORD gave Lachish into the hand of Israel, and he took it on the second day, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and every person in it, as he had done to Libnah.

[33] Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish; and Joshua smote him and his people, until he left none remaining.

[34] And Joshua passed on with all Israel from Lachish to Eglon; and they laid siege to it, and assaulted it;

[35] and they took it on that day, and smote it with the edge of the sword; and every person in it he utterly destroyed that day, as he had done to Lachish.

[36] Then Joshua went up with all Israel from Eglon to Hebron; and they assaulted it,

[37] and took it, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and its king and its towns, and every person in it; he left none remaining, as he had done to Eglon, and utterly destroyed it with every person in it.

[38] Then Joshua, with all Israel, turned back to Debir and assaulted it,

[39] and he took it with its king and all its towns; and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and utterly destroyed every person in it; he left none remaining; as he had done to Hebron and to Libnah and its king, so he did to Debir and to its king.

[40] So Joshua defeated the whole land, the hill country and the Negeb and the lowland and the slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel commanded.

[41] And Joshua defeated them from Ka'desh-bar'nea to Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, as far as Gibeon.

[42] And Joshua took all these kings and their land at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.

1 Samuel 15:2-3 advocates genocide.

Murdering all of the human inhabitants of an ancient Near Eastern city is basically genocide.

[2] Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I will punish what Am'alek did to Israel in opposing them on the way, when they came up out of Egypt.

[3] Now go and smite Am'alek, and utterly destroy all that they have; do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass."

1 Samuel 27:8-11 advocates genocide.

David is one of the supposed heroes of the Bible. Behold the genocide of this supposedly heroic man.

8] Now David and his men went up, and made raids upon the Gesh'urites, the Gir'zites, and the Amal'ekites; for these were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as far as Shur, to the land of Egypt.

[9] And David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, but took away the sheep, the oxen, the asses, the camels, and the garments, and came back to A'chish.

[10] When A'chish asked, "Against whom have you made a raid today?" David would say, "Against the Negeb of Judah," or "Against the Negeb of the Jerah'meelites," or, "Against the Negeb of the Ken'ites."

[11] And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring tidings to Gath, thinking, "Lest they should tell about us, and say, `So David has done.'" Such was his custom all the while he dwelt in the country of the Philistines.

2 Kings 2:23-24 teaches murder.

Telling someone to, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!" is not worth killing them. Yahweh is a blood-thirsty monster!

[23] He [the "Prophet" Elisha] went up from there to Bethel; and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!"

[24] And he turned around, and when he saw them, he cursed them in the name of the LORD. And two she-bears came out of the woods and tore forty-two of the boys.

The New Testament (specifically Matthew 3:7-12, 8:10-12, 18:8-9, 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 3:16-17; Jude 6-7, 12-13; Revelation 19:20, 20:10, 20:14-15, 21:8) teach that it is good to make some creatures suffer horribly forever.

Many people think that the deity of the Old Testament is cruel while the deity of the New Testament is kind; and I will agree that the morality of the New Testament is generally superior to the morality of the Old Testament. However, the most evil idea in the entire Bible might be found in the New Testament: the idea that some creatures will be doomed to suffer horribly forever. This is so unjust! No creature, not even Adolf Hitler or Satan, deserves such a fate. It would be far better to try to get such villains to repent, and, if they refuse to repent, to obliterate them from existence. Tragically, that is not Yahweh's way though.

Matthew 3:7-12

[7] But when he [John the Baptist] saw many of the Pharisees and Sad'ducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

[8] Bear fruit that befits repentance,

[9] and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

[10] Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

[11] "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he [Jesus Christ] who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

[12] His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 8:10-12

[10] When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.

[11] I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,

[12] while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth."

Matthew 18:8-9

[8] And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.

[9] And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

Matthew 25:46

[46] And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Mark 9:43-48

[43] And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.

[45] And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell.

[47] And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell,

[48] where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

Luke 3:16-17

[16] John answered them all, "I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

[17] His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Jude 6-7

[6] And the angels that did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling have been kept by him in eternal chains in the nether gloom until the judgment of the great day;

[7] just as Sodom and Gomor'rah and the surrounding cities, which likewise acted immorally and indulged in unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

Jude 12-13

[12] These are blemishes on your love feasts, as they boldly carouse together, looking after themselves; waterless clouds, carried along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted;

[13] wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars for whom the nether gloom of darkness has been reserved for ever.

Revelation 19:20

[20] And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had worked the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur.

Revelation 20:10

[10] and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 20:14-15

[14] Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire;

[15] and if any one's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8

[8] But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, as for murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their lot shall be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.

Matthew 18:3, Luke 18:15-17, John 11:25-27, John 12:44-46, Romans 3:28-30, Romans 4:5, Romans 5:1, Romans 10:4, Galatians, 2:15-16, Galatians 3:5-9, Galatians 3:24, and Ephesians 2:8-9 are evil because they claim that people must believe in what is absurd to go to Heaven.

If God is completely good, then we can go to Heaven without being hypocritical and dishonest. In fact, we must be un-hypocritical and honest to go to Heaven. We should apply the same standard of reason to religion as we do to the rest of life. Although doing so is difficult at times, I am convinced that this is what God wants and this is what is best for humanity and the creatures whom humanity impacts. If God does not want us to think for ourselves, then God should come out of hiding and directly tell us what we should believe and do. Otherwise, we have to think for ourselves. If we chose to let the Church or some theologian think for us, then we still have thought for ourselves and made a choice.

Now that I am in full sermon mode, I will include the first part of a speech I wrote. This part of the speech teaches that reason is much better than faith:

Does anyone here have any children? I have one. His name is Zack, and he is currently nine years old. When Zack was about three years old, I did a little experiment with him.

According to the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). This is one of those nice sounding platitudes of the Bible, but what does it actually mean? Because this teaching is found throughout the New Testament in one way or another, I think it ultimately means believe everything that the Bible writers claim Jesus said. If we do that, we will probably go to Heaven. If we do not, we will probably go to Hell.

With such thoughts in mind, I conducted my experiment. I pointed to a wall in my apartment and said to my son, "Zack, what color is that wall?"

He promptly replied, "White," and he was correct. It was a white wall.

However, I said, "No, Zack. That wall is not white. It is black." Then I immediately asked him again, "What color is that wall?" And guess what my son said. He said, "Black"!

Now, my son is not stupid, and he certainly knew the difference between white and black by age three. So why did he choose to disbelieve what his eyes and experience told him was true? Why did he choose to believe a lie? He chose to believe a lie because he trusted me. This is the type of trust the Bible writers say Jesus is encouraging us to have, but should we actually have it? Should we unquestioningly believe something just because someone told us it is true? Absolutely not! Even if that person is Jesus.

Why should we believe something just because Jesus supposedly said it? Why not blindly trust Buddha or Mohamed or David Koresh? We should not blindly trust anyone! We should even be a little skeptical of our own judgment because we are imperfect, and we should be even more skeptical of the judgment of others, because they also are imperfect and they might not be trying to help us as much as we hope.

Incidentally, I am usually trustworthy. I hate lying in general, and soon after my son said black, I told him, "I am just kidding. The wall is white." Nor have I run a similar experiment on my son before or since. It was a once in a lifetime deception, but it was for a good cause. It proved just how foolish Jesus's teaching is!

Why do we have to become like children to go to Heaven? Who benefits from adults becoming as gullible as children? Only people who want to mislead those adults! We should base our beliefs on reason not faith. Yes, we are imperfect, so sometimes our reason is flawed, but our reason is still the best way for us to know the truth. We should not accept anything as true if it contradicts our reason.

Now, of course we all like to think that we base our beliefs on reason, but do we really? What is reason, and what are the implications of basing our beliefs on reason?

Reason is one's ability to perceive reality as honestly and completely as one can, and then make logical conclusions based on what one perceives. Unless one is relying on reason, one is relying on superstitious thinking. Reason tends to embrace facts, and superstitious thinking tends to embrace superstitions. A superstition is a belief that is not based on reason. It is important to accept facts and reject lies because we have to understand reality to deal with it wisely. If a train is headed for us, we should use reason and get out of the way. We should not grab our lucky rabbit's foot and hope that the train misses us.

Not only does reason help us cope with reality, it also helps us be more moral. Medieval witch-hunts, the trial of Galileo, the Spanish Inquisition, and the current Arab-Israeli conflict are all examples of evil caused largely by superstitious thinking—or, if you prefer, a lack of reason.

What did reason tell my son about the wall? It told him that it was white.

But what did superstitious thinking tell my son about the wall? It told him that it was black.

No harm done, you say. No one suffered and died from my little experiment. True, in this case. But what happens when people get used to embracing superstitions as facts? They embrace more superstitions. And what happens when people start believing major superstitions instead of just minor superstitions? They create major problems.

What did reason tell Medieval Christians about witches? It told them that there is really no such thing as a witch. Most people accused of witchcraft are innocent, and the rest are lunatics or charlatans.

But what did superstitious thinking tell Medieval Christians about witches? It told them that everyone accused of witchcraft was a witch and deserved to die, as it is written in the Bible: "A man or a woman who is a medium or a wizard shall be put to death" (Leviticus 20:27). Many thousands of innocent people were tortured and murdered as a result.

What did reason tell people about the theory that the Earth revolves around the sun? It told them that they should investigate the theory and prove it correct or incorrect. In either case, no one had to be threatened or harmed.

But what did superstitious thinking tell Galileo's captors and their supporters? The sun goes around the Earth because the Bible says so. Psalm 93:1 boldly proclaims, "Yea, the world is established; it shall never be moved;" and Joshua 10:12-13 adds, "Then spoke Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD gave the Amorites over to

the men of Israel; and he said in the sight of Israel, 'Sun, stand thou still at Gibeon, and thou Moon in the valley of Ai'jalon.' And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies" (Joshua 10:12-13). Thus, the Earth supposedly stands still while the sun and moon circle it. If Galileo had not recanted his heretical (but true) theory that the Earth orbited the sun, he would have been murdered by these followers of the Prince of Peace.

What did reason tell people about the Spanish Inquisition? It told them that the Inquisition was wrong. No one deserves to be tortured or murdered just because they are Jews, Muslims, or a supposedly heretical type of Christian.

But what did superstitious thinking tell most Spaniards about the Spanish Inquisition? It told them that everyone in the whole world should be a Roman Catholic Christian and they should start that process right there in Spain.

What does reason tell us about the **ongoing** Arab-Israel conflict? It tells us that the conflict has much to do with religious stupidity. The Jews believe they are the Chosen People, so they took back some land from the Arabs. The Arabs, most of whom are Muslim, believe that this supposed Holy Land should belong to them because their religion is much better than Judaism. Well, whom does the supposed Holy Land belong to? I'm not sure. Let's ask God.

[* Jayson looks up to the sky.] Um, excuse me God. We've got a little problem here. The Jews believe you gave Palestine to them, but the Arabs believe you gave Palestine to them. Who should own Palestine?

[* After waiting about ten seconds, Jayson looks back at the audience.] Well, I guess that God does not favor the Jews or the Arabs. I guess God wants the Jews and the Arabs to use their God-given reason to figure out how to live together without murdering or exploiting each other.

Matthew 18:3

[3] "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Luke 18:15-17

[15] Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

[16] But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

[17] Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

John 11:25-27

[25] Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

[26] and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

[27] She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."

John 12:44-46

[44] And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me.

[45] And he who sees me sees him who sent me.

[46] I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."

Romans 3:28-30

[28] For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law.

[29] Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,

[30] since God is one; and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of their faith and the uncircumcised through their faith.

Romans 4:5

[5] And to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness.

Romans 5:1

[1] Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:4

[4] For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified.

Galatians, 2:15-16

[15] We ourselves, who are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners,

[16] yet who know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified.

Galatians 3:5-9

[5] Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?

[6] Thus Abraham "believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

[7] So you see that it is men of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

[8] And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."

[9] So then, those who are men of faith are blessed with Abraham who had faith.

Galatians 3:24

[24] So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9

[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God --

[9] not because of works, lest any man should boast.

Mark 4:11-12 teaches that it is okay to be very unfair to people.

Yahweh tricks people so that they will not be saved. This is very unfair because people want to be saved very much, Yahweh could easily save them, and (according to Christian dogma) those who are not saved will be burned alive forever.

[11] And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables;

[12] so that they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand; lest they should turn again, and be forgiven."

Mark 10:45, Romans 3:21-26, and Hebrews 9:11-15 teach that people should not be rewarded for being relatively good or punished for being relatively evil. They should be rewarded because Jesus Christ died for them and they believe this along with certain other miracles.

There is much disagreement among Christians about the Atonement and what one has to do to go to Heaven. The following, however, is a common Christian way of thinking. The Atonement is the belief that Jesus's death on the cross took away the guilt of all of humanity's sins, thus allowing people who believe in the Incarnation, Atonement, Resurrection, Ascension, and Second Coming to go to Heaven.

The Incarnation is the belief that God became a human being in the womb of a virgin named Mary. This human being is called Jesus Christ. The Resurrection is the belief that Jesus miraculously came back to life after he died, which proves that what Jesus taught was true, including the teaching that there is life after death. The Ascension is the belief that Jesus miraculously went up in the sky and, thus, vanished into Heaven. This supposedly explains why Jesus is not walking around the Earth nowadays. The Second Coming is the time in the future when Jesus will come back to Earth and make everything right. True Christians will experience the eternal bliss of Heaven, and everyone else will be burned alive forever in Hell.

The supposed Atonement is evil because God should make people responsible for their own freewill actions. Those who voluntarily do evil should be punished, and those who voluntarily do good should be rewarded. People should not be punished or rewarded because of what Jesus did. Furthermore, God would be evil to create the universe in such a way that a murder of an innocent person would be necessary for people to go to Heaven. Innocent people should not be murdered, and God has the power to save everyone without murdering anyone. (Here, save means to make a creature completely good and happy forever.)

Mark 10:45

[45] "For the Son of man [Jesus] also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Romans 3:21-26

[21] But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from law, although the law and the prophets bear witness to it,

[22] the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction;

[23] since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

[24] they are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus,

[25] whom God put forward as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins;

[26] it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies him who has faith in Jesus.

Hebrews 9:11-15

[11] But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)

[12] he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

[13] For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh,

[14] how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

[15] Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

Luke 12:42-48 sanctions the beating of slaves.

The following parable refers to Yahweh and people who will be saved and people who will be damned. According to Christianity, Yahweh is the master of all Creation because Yahweh created it, sustains it, and has absolute control over it. Thus, Yahweh is represented by the master in the parable. As Jesus of Nazareth who ascended into Heaven, Yahweh will return to Earth and judge the living and the dead. The slave who is doing the master's work when the master returns refers to living people who deserve to be saved. That slave will be rewarded like those people will be rewarded with Heaven. But the slave who is not doing the master's work when the master returns refers to people who deserve to be damned. That slave will be punished like those people will be punished with Hell.

How does this sanction the beating of slaves? Yahweh is supposedly completely good. If Yahweh can be accurately represented by a slave owner, then it must be good to be a slave owner, at least to an extent. And if the slave owner who represents Yahweh can beat his slaves, then it must be good to beat slaves at least in some circumstances.

[42] And the Lord [Jesus] said, "Who then is the faithful and wise steward, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?"

[43] Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing.

[44] Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

[45] But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk,

[46] the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the unfaithful.

[47] And that servant who knew his master's will, but did not make ready or act according to his will, shall receive a severe beating.

[48] But he who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, shall receive a light beating. Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more.

Romans 9:17-24 fails to adequately explain why God hardened Pharaoh's heart.

According to this verse, Yahweh made Pharaoh refuse to let the Israelites go so that Yahweh could show how powerful He was. There are at least two problems with this act: One, Yahweh treated Pharaoh like a toy instead of a person who has thoughts, feelings, free will, and reason. And two, Yahweh could have shown His power without violating Pharaoh's free will. Yahweh's miracles would have been just as impressive if Pharaoh had said yes instead of no.

Verse 9:20 asks, "But who are you, a man, to answer back to God?" I say that I am not arguing with God; I am arguing against Yahweh, the make-believe deity of the Bible. But let's suppose that Yahweh is God, God is real, and God did harden Pharaoh's or someone else's heart. I should be allowed to ask if that really happened and, if so, why did God do that? I should be allowed to ask these questions because, unlike a lump of clay, God gave me thoughts, feelings, free will, and reason. These God-given abilities are wonderful parts of me, and I should use them very frequently, if not constantly. Surely, God would not give me these gifts only to let them rot unused!

[17] For the scripture says to Pharaoh, "I have raised you up for the very purpose of showing my power in you, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth."

[18] So then he has mercy upon whomever he wills, and he hardens the heart of whomever he wills.

[19] You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?"

[20] But who are you, a man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me thus?"

[21] Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for beauty and another for menial use?

[22] What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the vessels of wrath made for destruction,

[23] in order to make known the riches of his glory for the vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory,

[24] even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

Ephesians 6:5-8 advocates slavery.

Some Christian apologists will argue that this verse does not teach that slavery is good, but they are wrong. It at least indirectly teaches that slavery is good. According to Christian theology, Christ is God, and God is good. Christian theology also teaches that it is good for people to do whatever Christ/God tells them to do. People should, in fact, be the servants, or slaves, of Christ/God.

Consider now what the author of Ephesians is doing. He is saying that slaves should obey their masters like all people should obey God. Thus, he is at least indirectly teaching that slavery is good, like people obeying God is good. He certainly is advocating that slaves stay slaves rather than escape or rebel.

[5] Slaves, be obedient to those who are your earthly masters, with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as to Christ;

[6] not in the way of eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

[7] rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to men,

[8] knowing that whatever good any one does, he will receive the same again from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 promotes extreme injustice by teaching that it is okay to trick people so that they will be damned.

According to most Christian theologians, damnation, also known as condemnation, is when a person goes to Hell forever. According to the Bible, Jesus taught that damnation will be eternal and very painful. If damnation is eternal and very painful, no one deserves to be damned, especially people who did not choose to be damned. Yahweh is very unjust to trick people into damnation.

[11] Therefore God sends upon them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false,

[12] so that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1 Timothy 6:1-2 advocates slavery

[1] Let all who are under the yoke of slavery regard their masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be defamed.

[2] Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brethren; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these duties.

Some Christian apologists will argue that this passage does not teach that slavery is good, but they are wrong. Its author is advocating that slaves stay slaves rather than escape or rebel. Furthermore, it is saying that Christians can be slave owners and even own other Christians! This passage even commands us to “teach and urge these duties.” Thus, we should teach and urge slavery.

WORKS CITED

- Ask an Astronomer for KIDS!: What is Earth made of?*. 27 Nov. 2008.
<http://coolcosmos.ipac.caltech.edu/cosmic_kids/AskKids/earth_composition.shtml>.
- Chronology of Jesus*. 2 Mar. 2009. 2 Mar. 2009.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chronology_of_Jesus#Day_of_death>.
- The Holy Bible, Revised Standard Version*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1952.
- Lambert, Kris and Sadia Bekal. "Introduction to Plant-Parasitic Nematodes." *APSnet*. © 2013. 24 Nov. 2013.
<<http://www.apsnet.org/edcenter/intropp/PathogenGroups/Pages/IntroNematodes.aspx>>.
- MatT. "What was the first animal with a brain?" *Yahoo Answers!* 24 Nov. 2013.
<<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20090528030624AA63PNJ>>.
- "StarChild Question of the Month for March 2003." 23 Nov. 2013.
<<http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/questions/question55.html>>.
- Zamora, Antonio. "Geologic and Biological Timeline of the Earth." © 2013. 24 Nov. 2013. <<http://www.scientificpsychic.com/etc/timeline/timeline.html>>.