

From "Simple  
Studies in Christian  
Evidences" by  
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## LESSON VIII

# ARE THERE ERRORS AND CONTRADICTIONS IN THE BIBLE?

In the three lessons immediately preceding this one we have been engaged in a detailed study of reasons why men should accept the Bible as God's inspired and authoritative revelation to men. Our approach has been strictly positive and we have examined only the evidence which supports our faith. But is there not another side to the story? Do the men who reject the Bible not make a case for their position? Do they not give reasons for not believing the Bible? Indeed, they do try to justify their position by arguments against the Bible. In this lesson we shall be giving consideration to the objections made to the Bible's truthfulness and dependability.

The skeptic and unbeliever make the following argument against the Bible: "The Bible is filled with errors, obvious myths and self-contradictions. This proves that it is not a book written by divine guidance, but by fallible men. Therefore the Bible must simply be viewed as an ancient book which, although containing wise sayings and valuable illustrations of certain moral principles, should not be exalted to the status of a divine production."

One of the arguments presented in defense of our faith in the Bible is that it does not contain errors and contradictions such as are found in books written by fallible men. Who is right? Does the Bible contain errors or is it in fact completely free of all errors? Believers contend that *there is not a single error or contradiction in the Bible!* For every *supposed error* that the unbeliever can produce there is a sufficient logical explanation which can be offered. In fact, many of the alleged errors or contradictions in the Bible are simply manufactured in the mind of the critic! Some men seem to find delight in trying to twist and pervert the Bible. But this is no new phenomenon. Peter wrote of men who "wrest" (i.e., distort the true meaning) the Scriptures "unto their own destruction." (Cf. II Pet. 3:16).

Another observation which should be made early in our study is this: Many of the people who charge that the Bible is filled with errors and contradictions cannot produce even one example in support of their charge! I was once engaged in conversation with a man who stated that he did not believe the Bible. "Why don't you believe it?" I asked him. "Because it is just filled with all sorts of errors and self-contradictions," he replied. I then handed him my Bible and said, "Show me just one!" That ended the conversation. He left in a rage! But it is only fair to challenge those who challenge the Bible to give their evidence. And in almost every case the person who is speaking disparagingly of the Bible will be shown to be making a charge for which he has not the slightest bit of evidence!

Now it is not denied that the Bible contains some very difficult matters. Some of these difficulties may at first appear totally incapable of solution; but when closer study is given to the matter and when more complete knowledge of the subject is gained, the