

Acts 1:15-19 Bible “Contradictions”



Take Home: God’s Word is always true and without contradiction or error, because God never lies or contradicts Himself.

*God is not man, that he should lie,
or a son of man, that he should change his mind.
Has he said, and will he not do it?
Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? – Numbers 23:19.*

Jesus said, “The Scriptures cannot be broken” – John 10:35.

Bible “Contradictions”

Skeptics allege that there is a contradiction between:

Matthew 27:3-8	Acts 1:15-19
When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴ "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." ⁵ So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. ⁶ The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." ⁷ So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. ⁸ That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day.	In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus-- ¹⁷ he was one of our number and shared in this ministry." ¹⁸ (With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹ Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)
Points of alleged contradictions:	
Judas hung himself.	Judas fell headlong, guts spilled out.
Chief priests bought the field.	Judas bought the field.
Named because of blood money.	Named because of guts.

*What is a contradiction? A and at the same time Not A.
Are there any contradictions between these passages? No, only supplements.*

I believe this is the most difficult “contradiction” in the Bible. If you can accept the explanations for this contradiction, then you have dealt with the most difficult problem in the Bible.

Try some other “contradictions” that are alleged by skeptics:

Exodus 9:6 The 5 th plague on Livestock	Exodus 9:13a,19-21 The 7 th plague of Hail
And the next day the LORD did this thing. <u>All the livestock of the Egyptians died</u> , but not one of the livestock of the people of Israel died.	Then the LORD said to Moses, “Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh and say to him... ¹⁹ “Now therefore send, <u>get your livestock</u> and all that you have in the field into safe shelter, for every man and beast that is in the field and is not brought home will die when the hail falls on them.” ²⁰ Then whoever feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh hurried his slaves and his livestock into the houses, ²¹ but whoever did not pay attention to the word of the LORD left his slaves and his livestock in the field.

Matthew 20:29-34	Luke 18:35-43
And as they went out of Jericho, a great crowd followed him. ³⁰ And behold, there were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” ³¹ The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” ³² And stopping, Jesus called them and said, “What do you want me to do for you?” ³³ They said to him, “Lord, let our eyes be opened.” ³⁴ And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.	As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶ And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. ³⁷ They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” ³⁸ And he cried out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ³⁹ And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁰ And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me recover my sight.” ⁴² And Jesus said to him, “Recover your sight; your faith has made you well.” ⁴³ And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Books to use when dealing with Bible contradictions:

- *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* by Gleason L. Archer.
- *Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible* by John W. Haley.

Some suggestions when dealing with Bible difficulties and “contradictions”:

1. Assume that the Unexplained is _____.
2. Presume the Bible Innocent Until Proven Guilty.
3. Understand the _____ of the Passage.
4. Don't Assume that Divergent Accounts are False Accounts.

Christ and Bible Contradictions

Ultimately the issue of “contradictions” in the Bible is about Christ. If we question the trustworthiness of what the apostles said about Judas’ death, then can we trust what they wrote about the facts and meaning of Christ’s death? Perhaps what they wrote about Christ is untrustworthy too.

The trustworthiness of Christ’s words has been the issue from the beginning when the serpent asked Eve, “Did God really say...?” (Genesis 3:1). After the fall Christ could have decided to stop speaking to mankind, but instead He gave mankind His first promise (Genesis 3:15). He has been speaking and promising through His Word ever since those days. In fact, some of the final words in the Bible are said to reassure us of His trustworthiness (Revelation 21:5; 22:6). What He has written is “trustworthy and true” and without contradiction. You can bet your life on it!