

# God Is Unchangeable

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Jas. 1:17; Mal. 3:6; Eze. 24:14; Num. 23:19

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Gen. 6:6; Jon. 3:10; 1Sam. 2:30-31; 2Ki. 20:1-6; Ex. 33:1, 3, 14, 17

The first scripture used to assert that God's word contradicts itself is based on a misuse and misunderstanding of Genesis 6:6. In this verse, the spirit-being who is in a state of grief is not Almighty God. This truth will be revealed as this study progresses,

And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and he was grieved in his heart (Gen. 6:6; NKJV used throughout unless noted).

When an adult child commits a heinous crime like murder, it is natural for a parent to feel that it would have been better if their child had never been born due to the violence and hurt caused to others by their choices and actions. However, this expression of grief is usually "in the moment" and subsides over time. Even in the heat of the moment, the majority of human parents still love their rebellious child. Therefore, parental love does not change in most cases, even though emotions may ebb and flow as parents deal with various trials. The spirit-being mentioned in Genesis 6:6 expressed similar emotions because he was very close to those who lived prior to the Flood, having been the one who assisted Almighty God in the creation of all things (Prov. 8:30-31). However, this same spirit-being was not all-knowing and could not see any positive outcome to the debauchery that was being committed by humanity prior to the Flood,

For by him (Jesus Christ) all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things consist. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he may have preeminence (Col. 1:16-18; cf. Prov. 8:30-36; Ex. 23:20-21; Ed. note in parenthesis).

By analogy, Jesus Christ was the contractor responsible for creating everything his heavenly Father directed him to. As Almighty God was the owner of the project, creation was carried out according to the exact details He gave to Jesus Christ. Because Jesus Christ is not all-knowing like his heavenly Father, he cannot see the end of all matters from their beginning. If Christ could see the end from the beginning, he would already know how every detail would work out. If Christ could foresee how every aspect of creation would work out, he would not have been frustrated, discouraged, or sorry that

he was involved in creating such individuals. He would have been able to see past the immediate rebellion because he would have had foreknowledge of the final outcome.

Christ is not all-knowing and he mentioned this fact during his earthly ministry as the Son of Man (Mk. 13:32). Therefore, Christ was grieved because he saw only what was happening in that moment.

The next scripture that some use to claim that God's word contradicts itself is Jonah 3:10. Again, only those who do not understand the will of Almighty God would use this as an example of a Biblical contradiction,

Then God saw their (Nineveh's) works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it (Jon. 3:10; Ed. note in parenthesis).

In this example, the people of Nineveh changed from their sinful behavior and as a result God did not destroy them. It wasn't God that changed. Instead, the people changed and their repentance resulted in a positive outcome. Throughout scripture God has stated that He will not destroy those who seek to obey Him and any nation that turns from sin and begins obeying God will be spared,

See, I (Almighty God) have set before you today life and good, death and evil, <sup>16</sup>in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. <sup>17</sup>**But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I announce to you today that you shall surely perish;** you shall not prolong your days in the land... (Dt. 30:15-18a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Consequently, all God's promises are conditional because they are based on obedience to His law and commandments. This principle also applies to the next scripture that is used to claim that God contradicts Himself,

Therefore (because of the sins of Eli's sons) the Lord God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever'; but now the Lord says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me (by obeying God's law and commandments) I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed. <sup>31</sup>Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm (strength) and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house (1Sam. 2:30-31; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In this last example, Eli was following God's way of life, but he was excusing the sinful behavior of his sons. Because of this, God stated that Eli's family would not continue to receive His blessings even though God made a promise many years before to the tribe of Levi,

**Why do you** (Eli) kick at my sanctuary and My offering which I have commanded in My habitation, and **honor your sons more than Me**, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people? (1Sam. 2:29; cf. Ex. 28:1-43; 29:1-37; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Again, God does not change but people do. When people change for the worse, whatever God had promised prior to their rebellion, will be annulled,

But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity (sins), and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is (now) guilty and the sin which he has (now) committed, because of them he shall die (Eze. 18:24; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In the next scripture that is used as an apparent Biblical contradiction, God states that King Hezekiah's time on earth was up and he was about to die (Ps. 90:10),

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the Lord: "Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live" (2Kgs. 20:1).

Because Hezekiah trusted God and knew that He was more than capable of healing him, Hezekiah asked for God's intervention. This does not mean that God changes. Instead, it proves that God is merciful and will extend His mercy to those who trust and obey Him as Hezekiah did. Hezekiah would still die, but God extended his life by another fifteen years (cf. 2Kgs. 20:6),

Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I (Hezekiah) have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight. And Hezekiah wept bitterly (2Kgs. 20:3; Ed. note in parenthesis).

If Hezekiah had not made his request trusting that God would heal him, he would have died at his appointed time (Heb. 9:27),

Therefore I (Christ) say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you (will) receive them, and you will have them (Mk. 11:24; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The final section of scripture that is used by some who wish to prove the Bible contradicts itself is Exodus 33:1, 3, 14, 17. In verses 1 through 3, Almighty God stated that He would not go with them into the Promised Land and then verse 14 appears to be saying that Almighty God changed His mind and did go with Israel. In reality, it is the Angel of the Lord who went with Israel into the Promised Land, and it was the same angel that appeared to Moses and gave him the law and commandments at Mt. Sinai. Moses often referred to the Angel of the Lord using the terms "Lord" and "Lord God" (cf. Nu. 14:14),

And **the Angel of God, who went before** the camp of Israel, moved **and went behind them**; and **the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them** (Ex. 14:19; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, <sup>2</sup>all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank of **that spiritual rock that followed them**, and **that rock was Christ**. <sup>5</sup>But with most of them (Almighty) God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness (1Cor. 10:1-5; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

...and they (the Egyptians) will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, Lord, are among these people; that **you, Lord, are seen face to face and that your cloud stands above them**; and that **you go before them in the pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night** (Nu. 14:14; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

God's word is clear regarding the fact that Almighty God has never been seen by any human being. Therefore, the "Lord" that was seen face to face is the spirit-being who later became Jesus Christ, and he is the "Lord" that went with Israel into the Promised Land. It was not Almighty God. So there is no contradiction between the verses in Exodus 33:1-17,

And the Father Himself, who sent me (Christ), has testified of me. You have neither heard His (The Father's) voice at any time, nor seen His form (Jn. 5:37; Ed. note in parenthesis).

There are many lessons to be learned from the scriptures used to prove that the Bible contradicts itself, but when examined closely none of them stand up as contradictions. Instead, all these scriptures explain who Almighty God is and how he manages His creation. God does not change, as perfection does not require alteration.

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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