

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

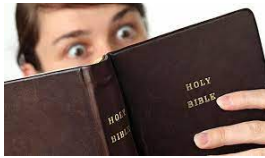
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August 22, 2021

“The Bible Has Lies In It”

By Jarrod Jacobs



Does this title shock you? Would it surprise you to learn that the above is a true statement when said in its proper context? I realize some folks say things like “the Bible has lies in it” to denounce the Bible and to put it on the level of a work of man rather than a work of God (II Tim. 3:16-17). This is obviously not my purpose.

When we spend time reading and studying God’s word, however, it will not take long before we notice several whose lies are recorded for us in the Bible. Let us examine a few examples together and make some applications.

Satan lied when he told Eve that she and her husband could eat the forbidden fruit and “shall not surely die” after God said they would die if they ate that fruit (Gen. 3:4, 2:17). Due to this event, we read where Christ called Satan the “*father*” of lies (Jn. 8:44). Satan was the author or originator of lies on earth. The Bible records the first lie in Genesis 3:4, and many more of his lies are recorded in the Bible.

Many prophets have lied through the years. For example, the older prophet in I Kings 13 lied when he told the younger prophet an angel had spoken to him and said he wanted him to eat at his house (I Kings 13:18).

Hananiah was a false prophet who “*made (Judah) trust in a lie*” when he told king Zedekiah that God would break the yoke of Babylon and that the people would return “*within two full years*” (Jer. 28:2-3, 11, 15).

Peter said, “*false prophets also arose among the people ...*” (II Pet. 2:1). Yes, the lies of many false prophets are recorded in the Bible!

Ananias and Sapphira lied when they made it seem like they had given all their money from a property sale to benefit the poor saints. In fact, they didn’t do that at all. Instead, they lied to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-11).

Paul warned Timothy about some liars, specifically naming Hymenaeus and Philetus as two who lied to Christians when they taught the brethren that “*the resurrection has already happened*” and overthrew some folks’ faith (II Tim. 2:17-18).

When John wrote, he said that one who would deny that Jesus is the Christ “*is a liar*” (I Jn. 2:22). Evidently, this happened at times. Peter said there were some who did that in their false teaching (II Pet. 2:1).

These are just a few examples of the lies which can be found in the Bible. Now, what is their purpose for being in the Bible? I don’t know that there is a single reason for including these lies. However, I would like to suggest a couple of reasons I see for God recording lies in the Bible.

First, every time folks lied, they were exposed for the lies they told. Sometimes this happened quicker than at other times. However, as we study the Bible, we are able to expose all those who lied, and we can know the truth today. When the lies are exposed, it causes the truth to shine that much brighter. God’s word (truth, Jn. 17:17) is so diametrically opposed to error and falsehood that the difference between truth and falsehood becomes even more apparent when the lies are exposed.

Take note that sometimes, those who lied were God’s people (ex: Abraham, Gen. 12:13, 20:2; Peter, Matt. 26:69-75, etc.). Such impartiality by God (Rom. 2:11; Col. 3:25) lets us see these people, “warts and all” and allows us to learn from their mistakes (Rom. 15:4) so we don’t make those mistakes, ourselves (I Cor. 10:11-12).

Conclusion

Yes, the Bible records many who lied, but for all of the lies, we find the truth is there to defeat and denounce each and every lie (Jn. 17:17)! Make no mistake; if folks tell lies and are unrepentant, they will *“have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”* (Rev. 21:8). Though men are susceptible to lying, God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). He expects us to be honest (Eph. 4:25)! Let us be like God (Rom. 12:2) and tell the truth (Col. 3:9)!

“The Word Of God Is Not Bound!”

By Jarrod M. Jacobs

In his second letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul made it clear that even though he was bound (in prison) at that time, *“the word of God is not bound”* (II Tim. 2:9). As I thought about that statement, I realized that this fact has always been true. Regardless of the circumstances in this world, whether it be the political climate, times of persecution, times of prosperity, indifference, etc., *“the word of God is not bound!”* It never has been! Satan has tried everything in his power to stop the spread of God’s word and has failed miserably!

Let us study the following and see how God’s word *“is not bound.”*

- Though the Old Testament prophets were killed for preaching the truth (Matt. 23:34-35, 37; Heb. 11:36-38), *“the word of God is not bound”*!
- Though Jehoiakim tried to destroy the scrolls containing God’s word (Jer. 36:22-23), *“the word of God is not bound”* (Jer. 36:28-32)!
- Though John was imprisoned and beheaded for teaching the truth (Matt. 14:3-12), *“the word of God is not bound”*!
- Though Christ was nailed to a cross due to man’s envy and their hatred of His preaching (Lk. 23:33), *“the word of God is not bound”* (Mk. 16:15-16)!
- Though the apostles were threatened for preaching Christ in Jerusalem (Acts 4:21, 5:40); *“the word of God is not bound”* (Acts 5:29-31)!
- Though the apostles were persecuted when they were not intimidated by men’s threats (Acts 5:42), *“the word of God is not bound”* (Col. 1:5-6, 23)!
- Though the Christians were scattered for teaching God’s word (Acts 8:1), *“the word of God is not bound”* (Acts 8:4)!
- Though the apostle Paul was put in prison for preaching the truth (II Tim. 2:9; II Tim. 1:16), *“the word of God is not bound”* (II Tim. 2:2)!
- Though John was in exile for his faithfulness to the Lord (Rev. 1:9), *“the word of God is not bound”* (see: Rev. 2-3)!
- Though in years gone by, Catholic leaders and “religious” folks would not allow the Bible to be printed, the printing press was born through God’s providence. (i.e., *“The word of God is not bound!”*)
- Though many pilgrims came to America’s shores to escape religious persecution in the past, religious freedom perpetuated and nourished people who wanted to simply go by the Bible (I Pet. 4:11) and worship according to God’s will (Jn. 4:24). (i.e., *“The word of God is not bound!”*)
- Though communism in Russia (during the 20th century) tried to prevent folks from having faith in God for some 75+ years when communism fell, preachers of the gospel went in openly, and many Christians were born as a result of their new-found freedom. (i.e., *“The word of God is not bound!”*)
- Though communism still ravages many nations right now, there are reports of Christians who are standing firm despite the hardship. (i.e., *“The word of God is not bound!”*)
- Though some parents in our country do not wish to have anything to do with Christ and His church today, *“the word of God is not bound!”* This is why many of the children of these people are learning the truth and living it today!

Let us keep in mind that though efforts are made by Satan to squelch spiritual expression, to keep Bibles out of public places, and to otherwise encourage folks to sin in God’s presence, *“the word of God is not bound!”*

The Lord said, *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”* (Matt. 24:35). Yes, *“...the word of the Lord endures for ever”* (I Pet. 1:25).

Woe to any man or nation who tries to bind what God says is not bound!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois and Estell Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Mrs. Jennie Daniel (Dan and Lynlie's neighbor), Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, & Earl Mitchell.

Jamie and Anna Hearn are home and prayerfully recovering.

Jeff Hardin(Nellie's K teacher's husband) is home and prayerfully recovering.

We are thankful for Betty Hurst to be out of quarantine this past Saturday!

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "The People Who Know Their God"
Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am: Paul Johnson
1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
Page #54 Question #12

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Jerry Kennemur
Scripture Reference: Psalm 1:1-6
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Paul Busby
Assisting: —
Singing Service: Men of the Congregation Lead In Singing
Invitation: Fred Johnson
Closing Prayer: Doug George

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

August 25th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon (Mike Willis)
Page 18, Question # 18
Invitation: Brian Meade
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade



Speaker: **Billy Randolph**
Location: **Meeks Street Church of Christ**
Date: **October 17th -- 22nd**
Starting Time: **7:00 PM Nightly (Except Sunday)**

“The People Who Know Their God”

Lesson Text: **Daniel 11:29-32**. **Know** “to know, regard, recognize, pay attention to, be acquainted with.” (*Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 1, p. 130).

I. Are Strong And Take A Stand.

- A. **Daniel 11:32**—“*Strong*” and “*take action*” (NASB) “*Exploits*” (NKJB).
- B. God has always required His people to be strong (**Deut. 11:8; Haggai 2:4**).
- C. Our admonition to be strong and take action Today— **Ephesians 6:10**.
 - 1. Stand against the Devil and His Schemes.
 - 2. Stand Against All Error and False Teaching.

II. Pray.

- A. **Daniel 6:4-5** — They tried to find fault with Daniel.
- B. **Daniel 6:7** — The decree made concerning prayer.
- C. **Daniel 6:10-11** — could have stopped praying, but didn’t! Why?
- D. **Daniel 9:3-4** His prayer for his people.
- E. **1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Timothy 2:8**.

III. Have Faith In God.

- A. **Daniel 6:23**. “*Trusted*” (NSAB) “*Believed in*” (NKJB).
- B. Even caused the King to have respect for God— **Daniel 6:26**.
- C. Just as the previous King did— **Daniel 4:17-18**.
- D. **Acts 27:22-25**.

IV. V. Will Not Compromise Their Convictions.

- A. **Conviction**: a strong belief that is not likely to change, or the strong feeling that your beliefs are right. (**Cambridge Dictionary**).
- B. **Daniel 1:3-15; 3:28**.

V. Obey God Regardless Of The Consequences.

- A. King Nebuchadnezzar’s golden image & Decree— **Daniel 3:1-7**.
- B. **Vs. 8-13**— Some Informed the King concerning Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
- C. Last chance— **Vs. 14-15**. Their response— **Vs. 16-18**. Consequences— **Vs. 19-23**.
- D. **2 Timothy 3:12; Romans 8:35**.

VI. Find Time To Worship God.

- A. **Daniel 6:10; Daniel 3:17** “*Serve*” — pay reverence to, serve (deity)
(*Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (p. 1108).
- B. Even in difficult circumstances, away from home, and among idolaters.
- C. Do we find it difficult to find time to worship God regularly? In good times?

VII. Purpose In Their Hearts.

- A. **Daniel 1:8** — The key to all we have talked about today!
- B. We must do things purposefully— **Acts 11:23; 1 Peter 3:15**.
 - Read & Study the Scriptures; Attend All Services; Practice Personal Purity; Share the Good News; Live With Purpose To Please God!