

DID DAVID KILL GOLIATH? OR DID ELHANAN?

By Brian Price 12/15/2013

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"3 And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

*4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, **but by every word of God.**" - Luke 4:3-4*

The question often comes up about who killed Goliath. This question implies that the Bible contains contradictions. And saying that the Bible contains contradictions implies that God is a liar.

*"God forbid: yea, **LET GOD BE TRUE**, but every man a liar." - Romans 3:4*

As we just read in Luke chapter 4, man is not to live by bread alone, but by EVERY word of God.

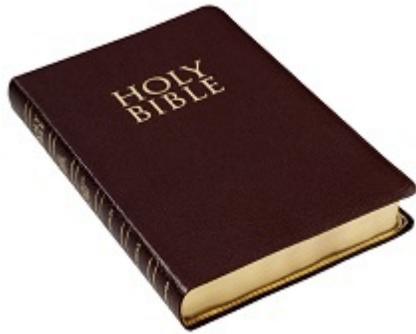
*"In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall **EVERY WORD** be established." - 2 Corinthians 13:1*

*"**EVERY WORD** of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, **and thou be found a liar.**" - Proverbs 30:5-6*

If we are going to live by EVERY WORD of God, we must look at the witnesses of the scriptures to see the big picture. This means not jumping to conclusions when you read one passage in scripture. One must "rightly divide" the word of truth.

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH.**" - 2 Timothy 2:15*

But why is it always atheists who point out so-called "contradictions" in scripture? They don't even believe in God, much less the Bible!



So why bother even pointing out what might be thought of as a contradiction? That would be like pointing to a Dr. Seuss book and saying, "Hey wait a minute! This Green Eggs and Ham book has a contradiction in it!"

These scoffers need to understand that if they believe the Bible is a nothing more than a child's story book, then they are acting foolish by trying to make others see their point of view. Who cares if you're an atheist? Or if I'm a Christian? If there's no God, then let people believe what they want. In the end, it all doesn't matter (if there's no God).

*"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, **the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.**" - Ephesians 2:1-2*

Could it be that these atheists are influenced by the spirit of Satan? The only reason why I ask is because it makes no sense for anyone to argue against a book that they believe is fiction, unless there is some sort of hidden agenda. Perhaps these men KNOW that the Bible is true. Perhaps these men KNOW that there is God. Could it be that these men fight against the truth **ON PURPOSE?**

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; SO THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE." - Romans 1:20

But nevertheless, I was recently asked by a scoffer about Goliath. He claimed that the Bible says two different things. He claimed that in one part of the Bible, it says David killed Goliath. In another part, it says Elhanan.

This is FALSE when you read the King James Version. However, this is true when you understand that the italicized words in the KJV were not in the original Hebrew.

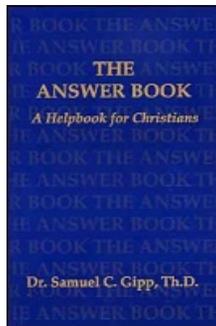


NOW BEFORE YOU DECIDE TO JUMP SHIP....

let me explain to you the WHOLE TRUTH. (You might want to swallow this pill patiently.)

Apologist Samuel Gipp explains:

*"Anyone who has ever translated from one language to another knows that WORDS MUST BE ADDED to the finished work to complete the sentence structure of the new language. **ALL TRANSLATORS DO THIS WHEN TRANSLATING THE BIBLE.** The King James translators were men of integrity so they put the added words in italics."*



The Answer Book, chapter 11, Question: "What About The Italicized Words?"

Liars love to use only parts of the truth to create a long, elaborate lie. They can even use truth to support their lie. But looking at it as a whole, it is one BIG LIE. The fact is, just as Dr. Gipp explained, the italicized words were added for clarity, and they knew that adding words to any biblical text was **dangerous business**. Would you want to know when people add words to your Bible? Most Christians would. This is what having the words in italics does. It sort of gives the reader a message like, "This is not in the original, but for clarity, this is here."

"WHO CHANGED THE TRUTH OF GOD INTO A LIE, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever." - Romans 1:25

*"...not walking in craftiness, **NOR HANDLING THE WORD OF GOD DECEITFULLY.**" - 2 Corinthians 4:2*

THE WHOLE TRUTH is that there are two places that contain this reference to who killed Goliath. Those places are in the book of 2 Samuel, and 1 Chronicles. Below are the passages from the KJV:

"And there was war again with the Philistines; and Elhanan the son of Jair slew Lahmi **THE BROTHER OF GOLIATH** the Gittite, whose spear staff was like a weaver's beam." - 1 Chronicles 20:5 (KJV)

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20chronicles%2020&version=AKJV>

The KJV explicitly states here in 1 Chronicles, ****WITHOUT ITALICS****, that Elhanan slew ***the brother of Goliath***.

This means that the words "the brother of" ARE in the original Hebrew text!



RELAX!

"And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, a Beth-lehemite, slew ***the brother of*** Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. " - 2 Samuel 21:19

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20samuel%2021&version=AKJV>

This verse from 2 Samuel has the words "the brother of" in italics. Which means, they were not in the original Hebrew text.

However, the translators were trying to add clarity by putting missing words in italics. We know what is and what is not in the Hebrew by seeing words in italics.

Hence why Samuel Gipp explained:

*"Anyone who has ever translated from one language to another knows that words **MUST BE ADDED** to the finished work to complete the sentence structure of the new language. **ALL TRANSLATORS DO THIS WHEN TRANSLATING THE BIBLE.** The King James translators were **MEN OF INTEGRITY**, so they put the added words in italics."*

- The Answer Book, chapter 11, Question: "What About The Italicized Words?"

As I quoted to you before, we must examine every word of God. And every word of God is

established in the mouth of two or three witnesses. There is no contradiction here.

When examining statements from more than one person, you get the big picture.

For example, suppose I took down statements from 3 different people who saw a dog run across the street. The details from each person's statement would vary. So the question becomes, "Are they lying? ***Or are they just filling in details?***"

Below are their hypothetical statements:

Person # 1:

"The dog ran across the street."

Person #2:

"The dog ran across the street ***in his mouth.***"

Person #3:

"The dog ran across the street ***with a bone.***"

Conclusion:

The dog ran across the street with a bone in his mouth.

All 3 witnesses gave a different statement, but when examining each statement, we get the big picture. Sure each statement appeared to contradict each other, but a closer inspection reveals that they were telling the truth. The variation in their statements only helped to paint the bigger picture, NOT reduce their credibility.

Another example is from the verse at the beginning of this article in Luke chapter 4.

"3 And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, BUT BY EVERY WORD OF GOD." - Luke 4:3-4

Luke recorded the words of Jesus as saying, "That man shall not live by bread alone, BUT BY EVERY WORD OF GOD." This same statement can be found in the gospel of Matthew.

"3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

*4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, BUT BY EVERY WORD **that proceedeth out of the mouth** OF GOD." - Matthew 4:3-4*

Matthew offered his account of what Jesus said. According to Matthew, Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word THAT PROCEEDETH OUT OF THE MOUTH of God."

The phrase "**that proceedeth out of the mouth,**" is not in Luke's gospel. It is only in Matthew's. Some would argue, "That's a contradiction!"

Well now wait a minute. *Don't jump ship just yet!*

Matthew was simply quoting Jesus, who was quoting the Old Testament law. The passage that Jesus quoted comes from Deuteronomy chapter 8.

*"And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, **BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDETH OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE LORD DOETH MAN LIVE.**" - Deuteronomy 8:3*

As we read before from 2 Corinthians chapter 13, in the mouth of two or three witness shall every word be established.

*"In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall **EVERY WORD** be established." - 2 Corinthians 13:1*

What we have here are three witnesses. Three different men have given their statements, and we can now look and see how every word is established.

1) Luke said, "...that man shall not live by bread alone, **BUT BY EVERY WORD OF GOD.**" - Luke 4:4

2) Matthew said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, **BUT BY EVERY WORD that proceedeth out of the mouth OF GOD.**" - Matthew 4:4

3) Moses said, "...that man doth not live by bread only, **BUT BY EVERY WORD that proceedeth out of the mouth OF THE LORD doth man live.**" - Deuteronomy 8:3

As you can see, what details one person left out, the other filled it in. Luke and Matthew both were correct when they testified of what the Old Testament law had to say. A variation in the quotation does not necessarily mean that they are a contradiction.

So although Luke didn't mention the phrase, "that proceedeth out of the mouth of," it doesn't mean that he was wrong. It just means that he needed an additional witness to establish EVERY WORD OF GOD. Thanks to Matthew, we can see the bigger picture.

Now back to our main contention about who killed Goliath.



Since we know that italicized words in the King James Version (KJV) are not in the Hebrew, we can get an idea of what the text said before the additions. Mind you, **these men did this translation in the fear of God** knowing the consequences of adding words to the Bible. This is why they chose to let the reader know that these words were added by putting them in italics.

The passages would read something like this without the italicized words:

1) "And there was war again with the Philistines; and Elhanan the son of Jair slew Lahmi **the brother of Goliath the Gittite**, whose spear staff was like a weaver's beam." - 1 Chronicles 20:5 (KJV)

2) "And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, a Beth-lehemite, **SLEW GOLIATH THE GITTITE**, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam." - 2 Samuel 21:19

When we compare these two statements, we don't need to immediately jump ship. We need to try to understand WHY these passages say something different.

Assuming automatically that God is a liar is EXACTLY what the enemy wants you to think.

Think logically here. DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS.

Now, we know that the author of 1 Samuel is the same author of 2 Samuel. And if the author is the same, then certainly, we can try to see if he made any other statement that would actually verify the truth of the matter, that David did indeed kill Goliath.

*"And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, **GOLIATH BY NAME**, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and **DAVID** heard them." - 1 Samuel 17:23*

*"Therefore **DAVID** ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, **AND SLEW HIM, AND CUT OFF HIS HEAD THEREWITH.**" - 1 Samuel 17:51*

As we can see from these verses in 1 Samuel chapter 17, ***it is clear to understand that David was indeed the one who killed Goliath.***

It is safe to say that the person who wrote 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel simply left out a detail in his statement that was later filled in by some other chronicler in 1 Chronicles 20:5. And we can also say that he filled in his own detail that he left out by writing the first book of Samuel.

So in conclusion, let us be careful to jump to ideas when a hater of God (or ANYONE for that matter) points out what he believes is a contradiction. Or even if you think you have found one yourself, do not be so hasty to depart from the living God.

"Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him." - Ecclesiastes 8:3

There is an explanation to every verse in the Bible, even the ones that are hard to understand.

*"And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, **as they do also the other scriptures, UNTO THEIR OWN DESTRUCTION.**" - 2 Peter 3:15-16*

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