

Contradictions

Commentary for July 1, 2012 — They Can Be Costly

"The Antinomy of the Bible" is the article for July 2012 by Dr. Ernest Martin. It deals with apparent contradictions in the Bible, which is basically what the term antinomy means. These supposed contradictions by God are not real, they are imagined by those who choose to disbelieve the truths of God. Read an introduction to Dr. Martin's article which is the "[July 2012 Newsletter](#)."

We must be precise in what we contradict, what we oppose. Public contradiction of God's word can be costly and result in great loss. Note this incident that occurred during the ministry of the apostles Paul and Barnabas.¹

Rejection and Contradiction by the Jews in one City

When the apostles Paul and Barnabas were in Antioch of Pisidia, after the events of Acts 13:14–22 where Paul rehearses a history of Israel, up to the time of King David, "**Of this man's seed has God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Savior, Jesus:**" (Acts 13:23). Then Paul says that John (the Baptist, who it seems the Jews of Antioch knew about, even quoting John) and the prophets foretold the Jewish leaders opposition and condemnation to death, accomplished by Pilate:

"And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him [by the prophets], they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulcher. But God raised him from the dead: And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. And we declare unto you glad tidings [evangel, the Gospel], how that the promise which was made unto the fathers God has fulfilled ...

... in that he has raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, 'You are my Son, this day have I begotten you.'"

• **Acts 13:29–31, 33**

Then Paul compares and contrasts David and Jesus. Paul's quote from Psalm 2:7 (in Acts 13:33) was recognized (and is) a prophecy of the Messiah, as was Paul's quotation from Psalm 16:10 (in Acts 13:35). The Gentile proselytes of Antioch accepted what Paul said and so did "**many Jews.**" They apparently spoke with the apostles after the meeting (Acts 13:43).

Also "**many Jews**" listened to what Paul said, and they wanted to hear more. But the following sabbath the Jews (apparently most of them) rejected what Paul and Barnabas had said, and publicly rejected, contradicted, and blasphemed (God, apparently).

¹ Yes, Barnabas was an apostle, though not one of the twelve; Paul was not one of the Twelve apostles either. Note Acts 14:14 where it indicates "**the apostles, Barnabas and Paul ...**"

Now we come to the occasion of the “contradiction” and its great cost. On the next sabbath this incident took place:

“And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and SPOKE AGAINST [contradicted, *antelegon*] those things which were spoken by Paul, CONTRADICTING [*antilegontes*] and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said,

‘It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you [you Jews]: but seeing you put it from you,² and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting [eonian] life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so has the Lord commanded us, saying, “I have set you to be a light of the Gentiles,³ that you should be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.”’

• *Acts 13:44–47*

They caused themselves to miss out on eonian life, meaning the Kingdom of God. They will be saved, but they will not receive and share the glory of the risen Messiah, Jesus in the millennium.

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such CONTRADICTION [*antilogion*] of sinners against himself, lest you be wearied and faint in your minds.”

• *Hebrews 12:2–3*

To contradict Jesus is to go against or oppose (*anti-*) His statements, His expression (*logion*). It can be costly to contradict Jesus. Of course, this does not mean merely to have a contrary opinion to Him, His teachings, or His written word. You are free to do so. To contradict Jesus means to publicly and actively oppose Him and the Gospel of Christ. Do so at your own risk. Better yet, express yourself privately.⁴

“He that rejects me, and receives not my words, has one that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.”

• *John 12:48–49*

God understands about doubts you may have, but He will not tolerate you damaging others by contradicting and speaking against His word. There are no contradictions within God’s Word. There are not true antinomies in the Bible, as Dr. Martin’s article explains. Enjoy his article.

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² The Greek is quite a bit stronger and more explicit indicating that the Jews “thrust aside” or “repudiated” the Gospel that first came to these Jews of Antioch of Pisidia. It was an active decision to the extent that they “**judge themselves unworthy**” of salvation.

³ Paul is quoting from Isaiah 42:6 and especially 49:6.

⁴ Remember, the prophet Jeremiah stated that he was not being supported, protected, or rescued as God promised, that God was a liar. God required him to repent (Jeremiah 15:10–21, especially v.19).