

14. "Doesn't the Bible have a bunch of contradictions in it?"

No. Some verses in the Bible seem to contradict one another, but with a little investigation into the original languages, the context of the various passages, and the cultural and geographical settings in which the Bible was originally written, they are easily reconciled. Here is an example.

Luke 18:35 says that Jesus healed a blind man "as He was coming near Jericho." Mark 10:46 says Jesus healed the man "as He went out of Jericho." Critics contend that either Luke or Mark must have made a mistake. That does appear to be the case. What is the solution?

A German archaeologist named Ernest Sellin, working on an excavation in Israel between 1907 and 1909, discovered what have been called the twin cities of Jericho. One was the old Hebrew city, and the other was a newer Roman city. The two cities, both called Jericho, were separated from one another by about a mile. Knowing that there were two cities called Jericho in Jesus' day solves the apparent contradiction. Luke referred to the city that Jesus was approaching. Mark referred to the one that Jesus had left. The healing of the blind man occurred as Jesus traveled between the two. It is not the gospel writers who erred, but the critics of the Bible who are unfamiliar with first-century geography of the Holy Land.

This is just one example, for a complete handling of this topic see Rev. Dr. William Arndt's book "Bible Difficulties and Seeming Contradictions," Concordia Publishing House.

Great Quote On the Gospels:

"All I am in private life is a literary critic and historian, that's my job.. .And I'm prepared to say on that basis if anyone thinks the Gospels are either legends or novels, then that person is simply showing his incompetence as a literary critic. I've read a great many novels and I know a fair amount about the legends that grew up among early people, and I know perfectly well the Gospels are not that kind of stuff."

C.S. Lewis (1898—1963), professor and author. *Christian Reflections* (Eerdmans, 1967), p. 209.