

THE BIBLE HAS PARALLEL TRUTHS

David Gay calls it 'paradox'. J. I. Packer calls it 'antinomy'. I prefer to call it 'parallel truths'. What's that? Simply this:

- (i) Statement A is true
- (ii) Statement B is true.
- (iii) Statement A and Statement B appear to us to contradict each other.

The phrase 'appear to us' in (iii) is critical. By our human logic, we cannot reconcile them. But it does not mean they are *actually* contradictory. To God, there is no contradiction!

The Bible has parallel truths. Take time to consider these:

[1] The death of Jesus on the cross

Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death. (Acts 2:23)

Peter said that *God has ordained the death of Jesus*. In his next breath, he said that *the Jews are guilty of murdering Jesus*. Human logic protests, "Peter is illogical! How can the Jews be guilty if God has ordained it? Only one of the statements can be true."

On whose side will you be found -- human logic's or Peter's?

The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born. (Matthew 26:24)

Jesus' Statement A is: *My death has been pre-ordained by God*. Jesus' Statement B is: *Woe to the one who will betray Him*. By putting both statements together, Jesus the Son of God is saying that He has no problems that both are true at the same time.

Is that good enough for you?

[2] **The selling of Joseph into Egypt**

But now, do not therefore be grieved nor angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. (Genesis 45:5-8)

But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. (Genesis 50:20)

This is how I will pictorially summarize the teachings of the above two passages:

Joseph's brothers sold him into Egypt; they meant evil against him

God sent Joseph into Egypt; God meant it for good

God's sovereignty and man's responsibility are both equally emphasized. Both are true. Both must be underlined.

[3] **We are called to pray though God knows what we need before we pray.**

Does God command us to pray? **Luke 18:1** is crystal clear! *Then He spoke a parable to them that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.* Yet **Matthew 6:8b** declare, "Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him." If He already knows, then why command us to ask Him for it? The Bible does not make any attempt to 'reconcile' them for us, but simply affirms both as true!

Be faithful to Scripture. Submit your logic to Scripture. Say what the Scripture says and no further. That's all I am seeking to do. That's what I am committed to do. So God help me. Amen!