

Bible Bloopers and Blunders

King James Version (KJV):

Mark 9:44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

The identical verse, 3 times, bunched together. Was that a mistake by the scribes who copied it? Was it done on purpose for dramatic effect? If so, it must be an important verse. But I've never heard preachers build a sermon on it. I've never heard of that as the basis for a Sunday School lesson. I've never heard it mentioned by anyone. That's weird. That's weird. That's weird.

But that wasn't the only time God stuttered. Read 2 Kings 19. Now read Isaiah 37. They are identical. I did notice a couple of very minor variations, but insignificant. The whole chapters are the same.

I cordially invite all fundamentalists who cling valiantly to the theory of Bible infallibility and inerrancy to explain this little pearl.

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Both the 23rd Psalm and the Lord's Prayer were lifted from the Egyptian god, Osiris.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 -- What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun.

Wonder who that was stolen from.

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Jesus and Buddha had a lot in common. For example, they both were fond of parables. Turns out, one of Jesus' most famous parables, the one about the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32), was a direct lift from his buddy Buddha.

Not that it should come as a big surprise. Buddhism, which is much older than Christianity, had a profound influence on Christianity -- a fact which neither religion wants to admit.

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The common assumption that the Bible is a book filled with beauty and wisdom dies hard. But it is no challenge to find verses that you never hear about in church or Sunday School, for obvious reasons. Here are a few examples.

Psalms 137:9: **Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!**

Kids and parents alike are undoubtedly truly inspired by that little verse.

Numbers 25:7-9: **. . . The priest . . . got up and left the congregation. Taking a spear in his hand, he went after the Israelite man into the tent, and pierced the two of them, the Israelite and the woman, through the belly. So the plague was stopped among the people of Israel. Nevertheless those that died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.**

What an uplifting little story to boost the spirits of the entire congregation on Sunday morning.

Judges 5:28-30: **Out of the window she peered; the mother of Sisera gazed through the lattice. Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why tarry the hoofbeats of his chariots? Her wisest ladies make answer; indeed, she answers the question herself. Are they not finding and dividing the spoil? A girl or two for every man; spoil of dyed stuffs for Sisera, spoil of dyed stuffs embroidered, two pieces of dyed work embroidered for my neck as spoil?**

Yes, isn't it every mother's dream to watch her boy return home after killing a bunch of people? Especially when there is so much booty to go around. Some brightly colored knitting, including a piece for dear old Mom to wear around her sweet little neck. But best of all, there are women -- enough for every guy to snag one or two for his very own service and pleasure. We just don't get enough sermons about blonde booty.

Malachi 2:3: I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and I will put you out of my presence.

Can't you just see a Sunday School class with kids laughing hysterically about the prospect of actually smearing shit on somebody's face? Until the bright one realizes that nobody can ever tell their parents what the SS lesson was about, because they might get ideas. Wouldn't you just love to be the SS teacher that day?

Song of Solomon 5:4 (KJV): My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for him.

Isn't that lovely! Try getting that image out of your head.

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William Tyndale translated the Bible into English. His translation was the primary source for the King James Version, which is considered by many Christians to be the infallible, inerrant word of God. They hold that those who translated and copied biblical text were inspired by the Holy Spirit, and this is how they achieved perfection in their work.

For his efforts, Tyndale was choked to death, then burned at the stake. By the Roman Catholic Church. For heresy. Boy, God really takes care of his people, doesn't he?

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"I want to be invisible. I do guerilla warfare. I paint my face and travel at night. You don't know it's over until you're in a body bag. You don't know until election night."

-- Ralph Reed

Ralph Reed, leader of the Christian Coalition in the 1990s, God's perennial pretty boy, imploded when implicated in the Jack Abramoff scandal. Since then, he has been pretty much invisible, just as he wished. (God answers prayer, it seems. Sometimes.)

That nocturnal face-painting thing is disturbing. The whole quote is disturbing. Is that the way Jesus instructed us to conduct ourselves?

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Did you know Moses was an Egyptian, not a Jew? Well, maybe. Moses is an Egyptian name.

Did you know Moses had horns? In the Roman church of San Pietro in Vincoli, the Michelangelo-sculpted Moses has a pair of horns. A "horny" Moses is also displayed in paintings in English parish churches, some from as late as the 19th century. How could that be?

We have a guy named Jerome to thank for that. In the 4th century, he translated the Old Testament from Hebrew into Latin. As one of many proofs that the Bible is not and cannot be the infallible, inerrant word of God, Jerome goofed many times. One example is when Moses comes down from the mountain with the Ten Commandments, and his face is shining. A shining face, a pair of horns -- anybody could have made that mistake.

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Several times in the Gospel of John the author refers to "the disciple whom Jesus loved". This phrase is found only in John, and that particular disciple is never specifically identified. My question is this: Why would any particular disciple be referred to in this way? Why would he not be referred to by name, like all the other disciples? Jesus loved all his disciples, didn't he? Yet, this phrase suggests that this specific disciple is the only one Jesus really loved, or he loved this disciple more than the others, or in some special way. Who was this guy?

John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7,20

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Anyone can get a Doctor of Divinity degree. You don't need to go to school, or study the Bible, or know anything about it.

The Rev Dr Billy Graham completed only a couple of Bible classes. He has Doctor of Divinity degrees out the wazoo.

Who else has a DD degree? Michael Jackson, Ed McMahon, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Mr Rogers, Captain Kangaroo, Doctor Seuss, Jane Pauley, Bob Hope, Robert

Redford, Stevie Wonder, Dan Rather, . . . and thousands of others.

So, the next time you're browsing the net, snag yourself a DD degree.

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Polytheist: one who worships many gods.

Monotheist: one who believes in only one god.

Atheist: one who believes in slightly fewer gods than the monotheist.

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"Nature against God. God against nature. Nature against man. Man against nature. Man against God. God against man. Very funny religion."

-- Daisetz Suzuki, 91-year-old Japanese, Zen philosopher; as quoted in *The Hero's Journey*, Joseph Campbell

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"In the early centuries, the Christians had a word for greeting and departing; it was the word *maranatha*, which means *The Lord is coming soon*."

-- Hal Lindsey

Only delusional Christians could maintain that 2000 years and counting is "soon".

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The beginning of the new year seems like a fitting time to reflect briefly on the beginning of all time as we (Christians) think of it: Adam and Eve. Since they were the only humans on earth, we know that Cain and Abel must have married their sisters. Which means that the Christian God obviously sanctioned incest.

Maybe God changed his mind or the rules somewhere along the line. But that doesn't seem to mesh with the doctrine that God is immutable. And in that case, it would appear that God still has no problem with incest to this very day. And if God

condones (or even forces) incest, what else might God condone that we (most of us) cringe at today?

A trip through the Old Testament suggests that the Israelites were naughty at times, and God didn't seem to have a holy conniption. Nor did the Christian God seem to have a very high opinion of women in many instances.

Wouldn't this new year be a great time to take a fresh look at the Christian religion? Think outside the pew? Thomas Jefferson advised people to question everything, even the very existence of a god. If Christianity is all it's cracked up to be, it can withstand even the most vigorous scrutiny. So what are you afraid of? Try thinking about Christianity objectively, realistically. Surely your God doesn't want you to be silly or stupid. So don't be.

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So, first God made man in His image. And by that, Christians mean man is absolutely nothing like God in any way. And God gave man free will. By which Christians mean if man doesn't do exactly what God wants, the way He wants it, man is sentenced to eternal hell. Shortly after creating man just the way He wanted us, God got so pissed off at us that he drowned everybody but Noah and a boatload of animals. Even innocent, defenseless babies were drowned in God's holy hissyfit. Even that didn't help, so God figured the way to make things right was to get some poor guy strung up on a cross. Nothing says love like a good lynching, heh Christians? Yes indeed, folks, whatever is ailing you, Christianity will fix you right up. And if nothing is ailing you, Christians know just how to fix that, too.

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Every single Catholic who goes to mass is aiding, abetting, condoning, encouraging, and enabling pedophilia. That means you, who consider yourselves good parents and good people. YOU are part of the problem.

Smarten up!

Demand that your doddering old fart of a pope stop yapping about global warming and start worrying about the evil in his own damn religion. Demand full disclosure of all incidents of sexual misconduct, including but not limited to priest pedophilia. Get the truth out there, holding nothing back, and

turn over all offenders, including bishops who covered up their crimes, to state authorities for prosecution and/or civil litigation.

Admit that priest celibacy was merely a measure to protect church wealth. Admit that it was a huge and incredibly stupid mistake. Get rid of it.

Start there. If you want Christianity to be something other than a cesspool, start there.

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Part of Christian marketing is the idea that if you accept their Christ, Jesus will be your closest friend, your guardian, your protector. He's got your back 24/7/365. It's papal bull and pope poop.

The truth is that Jesus can't even protect nuns in a convent! The truth is, Jesus can't protect little kids in school shootings. The truth is, Jesus can't stop abortions. In fact the truth is, the Christian God drowned millions of babies in the Noah Flood. The truth is, God condemns babies to eternal hell if their parents don't get them baptized in a Catholic church. The truth is, Jesus can't protect altar boys from pedophile priests.

Don't you think the very least we have a right to expect from Christians is honesty? Yet that's the last place you'll find it.

Don't expect Christians to protect you from evil. In far too many cases, they are the evil you need to be protected from.

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