

Redundancy in the Bible

God has promised to preserve His word forever.

Psalm 12:6-7

The words of the LORD are **pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.**

One of the many ways God preserves His word is a technique called redundancy. Simply stated, it is repeating an idea or a concept in different ways and in different places throughout the Bible. This way, even if someone changes it or leaves it out in one or two places, it will still be found in many other places throughout the Bible. The Bible uses redundancy to make sure God's word is preserved. Even if a concept is taken out of one or two verses by the translators, it can be found in several other places, for our learning. It is a "failsafe" method God uses to "man-proof" the Bible.

We'll start by using the example of a verse that explains the Trinity; God three-in-one. The King James Bible states:

1 John 5:7

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

As we discussed last week, most other Bibles translate this verse differently, making it difficult to understand God three-in-one. But there are 2 other places in most other Bibles where all three persons of the Trinity are found in the same place, at the same time. The first time was at Jesus' baptism. Jesus was there in the flesh, the Holy Ghost (Spirit of God) was there as a dove, and God the Father spoke from Heaven.

Matthew 3:13-17

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. **And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and**

lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The Holy Ghost appears as a cloud in the following example.

Exodus 11:24-25

And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the LORD, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle. **And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.**

The Holy Ghost again appears as a cloud with God the Son, Jesus Christ, and God the Father; at the Transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus is there in the flesh and God the Father is the voice that comes out of the cloud.

Mark 9:1-9

And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power. And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them. And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid. **And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.** And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves. And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.

The three persons of the Godhead are actually present in the same place and at the same time in the 2 previous examples—but on Earth, and not in Heaven as 1 John 5:7 tells us.

Jesus taught that God was three-in-one in the Gospels. He told His disciples that God the Father would give them another Comforter (besides Jesus) Who would abide with them forever. All three members of the Godhead are represented.

John 14:16

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

He explained that the Comforter was the Holy Ghost, whom God the Father would send in the name of Jesus Christ. The follow verse shows all three members of the Godhead working as One.

John 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall

teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Later on in John is when we learn that these Three are located in Heaven. Jesus would go to God the Father (in Heaven) and send the Holy Ghost to the disciples (from Heaven;) all three Persons are located in Heaven.

John 15:26

But **when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father**, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Mark 16:19

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, **he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.**

And, just as He prophesied, 10 days after Jesus ascended to His Father, on Pentecost, the Holy Ghost descended on everyone gathered together from all over the world.

Acts 2:1-5

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. **And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.** And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

Some Bibles have taken out the last 11 verses of Mark 16! God's foreknowledge has allowed for all of the important information to be learned by using redundancy. The first 8 verses of Mark 16 are as follows:

Mark 16:1-8

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

2And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

3And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

4And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

5And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

6And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

7But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

8And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

This is where some Bibles end the chapter

Let's look at the often-deleted verses in Mark 16 (highlighted) to show you that miraculous way God has preserved His word.

There are 3 important points in Mark 16:9 which are numbered and in bold.

Mark 16:9

Now when (1)**Jesus was risen early the first day of the week,** (2)**he appeared first to Mary Magdalene,** (3)**out of whom he had cast seven devils.**

All of these 3 points can be found in other gospels, but none is found in any one *single* verse in any other gospels.

In Matthew, you have to read 7 verses to find out that it was early on the first day of the week that Mary Magdalene was at the sepulcher, and that He was resurrected, but, you do not know that it was Mary Magdalene who first saw Jesus.

Matthew 28:1, 5, 7

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to **dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene** and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

⁵And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: **for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.**

⁷And go quickly, **and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead;** and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

Without Mark 16:9, you must go to John 20 to find out that Jesus appeared to Mary at the sepulcher, after His resurrection. Even then, you do not know for sure that Mary was the first person to see Jesus.

John 20:1, 11, 14

¹The first day of the week cometh **Mary Magdalene early**, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

¹¹But **Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping**: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

¹⁴And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, **and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.**

Luke is the only other place that records Jesus cast 7 devils out of Mary Magdalen.

Luke 8:2

And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, **Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,**

So, it takes 10 other gospel verses to verify Mark 16:9!

It is only in the deleted verses, Mark 16:10-11 that we know when Mary told the disciples that she had seen and talked to Jesus, they did not believe her.

Mark 16:10-11

And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

Mark 16:12-13 are the only verses that tie together the 2 disciples who saw Jesus on their walk to Emmaus recorded in Luke...

Luke 24:31-34

And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? **And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.**

...and what happened upon their return to Jerusalem to tell the others that they had seen Jesus. Just like with Mary Magdalen, the other disciples didn't believe them either.

Mark 16:12-13

After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. **And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.**

Without the verses at the end of Mark, we would not know that the disciples did not believe Mary or the Emmaus disciples, so we would not know that when He appeared to them, Jesus upbraided them for not believing Mary or the Emmaus disciples.

Mark 16:14

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Verses 15-16 in Mark 16 do not contain new information but they increase our understanding of end times. All three of the following passages fit together to give a complete picture of the end times' gospel for believers, at that time, to be saved. Redundancy allows Mark 16 to be deleted and Matthew 24 and Matthew 28 to give us the information.

In all 3 passages, baptism is not by water, but belief. Those who are saved must believe the gospel, which is the good news about the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and they cannot waiver, until the end of the world comes, or they will be damned.

Mark 16:15-16

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the **gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

Matthew 24:13-14

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom

shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, **I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.** Amen.

Mark 16:17-18 lines up with Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8.

Luke 24:49

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, **until ye be endued with power from on high.**

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Mark 16:17-18 is the only place where the “power” Jesus promised them is explained.

Mark 16:17-18

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

We know that all 3 passages are talking about the same event because in all three, after Jesus told them that they would receive power from on high, He ascended into Heaven.

Luke 24:50-51

And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, **he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.**

The Holy Ghost, in the form of a cloud, carried Him up into Heaven.

Acts 1:9

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.**

The verses in Mark 16 about Jesus' ascension also tell us that the Lord was with the apostles, giving them the ability to confirm their words with signs (miracles) as they preached.

Mark 16:19-20

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Mark 16:9-20 provides valuable information that confirms and/or supplements information found in other gospel accounts about events after Jesus' resurrection. One argument for deleting these verses is that they were written quite some time after the first 8, maybe by another author. Another is that they are not contained in some of the starting Greek manuscripts

The KJV includes these verses which make for a more complete understanding of some important concepts