

Fake News in the Bible?

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We hear a lot today about fake news. Chances are good all of us, at one time or another, have been deceived by news stories that were not true. We generally think of this type of news occurring in the realm of politics. However, false news stories occur all the time in the field of entertainment. Deceivers put together fake movie trailers and untrue stories about various celebrities. In sports, untrue news stories are released regarding trades and potential deals.

Many of us have come to believe that this is something completely new. Believe it or not, fake news is anything but new. During times of war, governments have long used fake news, or what is called propaganda, to deceive not only the enemy, but sometimes its own people as well.

It might surprise some to know that there are actually accounts of fake news found in the Bible! Consider this scene following the resurrection of Jesus, when the guards reported what had happened:

- 11 Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened.
12 And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,
13 and said, **“You are to say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.’**
14 And if this should come to the governor’s ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble.”
15 And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and **this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day.**

Matthew 28:11-15 (Emphasis Mine)

Here we see the creation of a fake news story regarding the resurrection of Jesus. This was propaganda to deceive the people. Matthew records here the sad truth that many of the people, even at the time of the writing of his gospel, still believed the lie that the religious leaders had put forth.

The apostle Paul spoke of a false story being circulated among some of the churches. Notice this in his second letter to the Thessalonians:

- 1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,
2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed **either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.**
3 **Let no one in any way deceive you,** for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 (Emphasis Mine)

Even as far back as the days of Joseph, we find his brothers creating a false report regarding the fate of their brother. Jacob was deceived by the false evidence.

At times, it is hard to know who to believe today. News reports vary so much between various news outlets, be it in politics, entertainment, or sports. Fortunately, we have a source of news and information for life that we can always trust. A source that is always full of truth:

Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

John 17:17

My dear brethren, let us spend more time being encouraged and educated with genuine truth from our almighty and loving God, rather than being discouraged and distraught over news and information that cannot always be trusted.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Philippians 4:4