

Some people are really good at twisting the truth<sup>1</sup>; so good that it came to my mind that perhaps this could be combined with the athletic contests that are part of the Isthmian Games<sup>2</sup> to crown a champion. I could offer quite a few candidates for this unique opportunity!

God, of course, is completely opposed to this, as echoed in various passages in the Scriptures. Accepting a bribe is equated to blinding and twisting the words of the innocent<sup>3</sup>. Once the Kingdom of Israel was well established, God had to endure a constant parade of false prophets, who all twisted the truth until the people only saw the crushed residue. These words of the prophet Isaiah characterize what is done to the truth:

*So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance;  
truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter.  
Truth is nowhere to be found...<sup>4</sup>*

God put His own men to work countering the falsehoods. I think especially of Micaiah who stood alone against many truth-twisters, and by telling God's truth he was slapped by one of them (Zedekiah<sup>5</sup>) and then put into custody. Jeremiah had a similar confrontation with the false prophet Hananiah<sup>6</sup>, who paid the price by dying a few months later. Jeremiah was also jailed for a time because the king and his advisors really did not like to hear the truth. Of course, the one doing the real twisting was Satan, continuing what he started in the Garden<sup>7</sup>.

We have all had many similar encounters with adversaries who made accusations against us. Our brother Paul was plunged into a terrific storm of riot when the crowd was told that he had brought a Gentile into the temple – one of the most appalling actions a Jew could take<sup>8</sup>.

Only God can truly resist the corruption of His Truth. The Preacher wrote that man cannot straighten what has been made crooked (or twisted)<sup>9</sup>. But he also wrote that whatever God twists cannot be straightened (by man), showing God's omnipotence<sup>10</sup>. To me it means that He has the power to keep the Truth from suffering any real damage.

Satan, of course, twisted the Truth in his attempt to trip up Jesus during the temptations<sup>11</sup>. But Jesus was able to untwist the words of His adversary, and ensure that the words that He spoke were straight and true!

The most powerful and outrageous twisting of truth came when Satan caused Jesus, the Son of God, to be convicted as though He was a criminal, and by causing Him to die in such a shameful manner. The Christ as a suffering servant was made very clear in the prophecies of Isaiah<sup>12</sup>, but Satan has made us think that there can be no suffering with a Good God. To have this innocent man to suffer the greatest physical trauma in death that could be imagined at the time proved that God did not exist.

As part of the process, a mocking crown of twisted thorns was pushed into His head. The thorns did not represent God's Truth, but the suffering that had to be accomplished through our Savior. The twist was appropriate to establish the sense that the Truth had truly stumbled in the streets.

But this Truth became untwisted when Christ rose from the grave after three days. Straightened out for us we see that the path to God<sup>13</sup> is through the great love that He has shown us in drawing us into His own embrace<sup>14</sup>. Our own suffering, which cannot compare to that of Christ, will ultimately be reversed<sup>15</sup>.

1. See my story "The Truth Twister" in The Second Swordsman Writes Again.

2. 1 Corinthians 9:25; see [https://biblehub.com/study/1\\_corinthians/9-25.htm](https://biblehub.com/study/1_corinthians/9-25.htm).

3. Exodus 23:8, Psalm 56:5, Amos 5:7.

4. Isaiah 59:14-15a

5. 1 Kings 22:24.

6. Jeremiah 28.

7. Genesis 3.
8. Acts 21:26ff.
9. “What is crooked cannot be straightened”, Ecclesiastes 1:15a.
10. “Consider what God has done: Who can straighten what he has made crooked?” Ecclesiastes 7:13.
11. Matthew 4:1ff, Mark 1:12-13, and Luke 4:1ff.
12. See Isaiah 52:13-15 through 53:1-11.
13. Think about the similarity with Luke 3:4-5, “As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: ‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.’”
14. Remember the comparison between our love and God’s: “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” 1 John 4:10.
15. “They say of some temporal suffering, “No future bliss can make up for it,” not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory.” From The Great Divorce, by C.S. Lewis.