

The Indestructible Word

Matt 24:35

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. NKJV

Over the centuries, many men have tried to destroy the Bible. In A.D 303, the Roman Emperor Diocletian issued an edict to destroy Christians and their Bibles. The persecution that followed was brutal. Over a burned Bible, he built a monument on which he wrote these words, "Extineto nomine Christianorum" (meaning the name Christian is extinguished). Twenty years later, Diocletian was dead and the new Emperor, Constantine, commissioned forty copies of the Bible to be prepared at government expense.

Even the church of Rome tried to destroy the Bible, in the language of the people. John Wycliffe devoted his life to making sure that the common people had the Bible in their own language. In 1415, about 30 years after his death, they dug up his bones and burned them and cast them into the River Swift.

In 1776, Voltaire, the French philosopher, announced, "One hundred years from my day there will not be a Bible in the earth except that is looked upon by some antique seeker". One hundred years later, Voltaire was dead and his own house and press were being used to print and store Bibles by the Geneva Bible Society. One hundred years from the day of Voltaire's prediction, the first edition of his works sold for eleven cents in Paris, but the British government paid the Czar of Russia half a million dollars for an ancient Bible manuscript.

Famous American atheist, Robert Ingersoll author of the 1879 book, *Some Mistakes of Moses*, has said, "In twenty five years the Bible will be a forgotten book." He said this in 1899. George Sweeting said he went to the Library and check out Ingersoll's book on Moses, it had not been check out in 30 years. Then he went to about 5 and be biggest book stores in Chicago and asked to buy a copy, but not one had even heard of it. But in each store he would ask, "do you have any Bibles." And of course we know the answer.

When the communist took over China they killed over 10 million people and they destroyed every Bible they could.

So it was in the old Russia. The Bible was a forbidden book. So it is in at least 35 countries of the world today. China, Indonesia, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Sudan, Cuba, Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Somalia, Turkey, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iran, Iraq, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Burma (Myanmar), Malaysia, Laos, Eritrea, Maldives, Tibet.

In our country a school teacher can be disciplined or fired for having on their desk a copy of the book that the President of the United States is sworn into office with.

And in just a few weeks, a commencement addresses across America, speakers will quote everyone from Shakespeare to Larry Flynt, from Buddha to Mohamad, but God help them if they quote from Jesus.

Why do they all fear the Bible so? Have you ever looked at it like that? Even today Christians sit in prisons and put years in work camps for nothing more than possessing a Bible.

I. The Bible comes with the power of God.

A. Heb 4:12-13 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. NKJV

B.

II. The Bible can change even the greatest sinner.

A. Ps 119:130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. NKJV

B. Isa 55:8-11 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. NKJV

III. The Bible can change a whole nation.

A. The Roman nation is a good example.

1. The Roman games.
2. The abandonment of babies.
3. The treatment of women and children.
4. Terrible immorality in the pagan temples.

B. America is another.

1. Compare the American revolution and the French Revolution.
 - a. The one was based on the Bible.
 - b. The other on human reasoning.

IV. The Bible can change you.

A.