



An undenominational publication  
devoted to the teachings of Jesus and His  
apostles and dedicated to those who seek  
the truth.

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## TRIBUTES TO THE BIBLE

Famous people have paid the highest tributes to the Bible, lifting this great Book from the level of the ordinary to its place as the most unique book ever written. The Bible's message is powerful, relevant and life-changing.

“The Bible is the most successful book ever written. For well over 1,000 years it has been the most widely circulated of all written works, and it has affected the culture, language and art of more people than any other book has ever done.”

— **Christopher de Hamel**  
21st Century Author &  
Librarian *Corpus Christi*  
College, Cambridge

“Inside the Bible's pages lie the answer so all the problems that mankind has ever known.”

— **Ronald Reagan**  
40th President of the United States

“It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”

— **George Washington**  
1st President of the United States



*“To the Bible men  
will return,  
and why?  
Because they  
cannot do  
without it.”*

— **Matthew Arnold**  
British poet and cultural  
critic

“The Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book.”

— **Abraham Lincoln**  
16th President of the United States

“The Bible in English history may be regarded as a ‘Renaissance’ of Hebrew literature far more widespread and more potent than even the Classical Renaissance.”

— **George Macaulay Trevelyn**  
20th Century English  
Historian

“The Bible is worth more than all other books which have ever been printed.”

— **Patrick Henry**  
1st and 6th Governor of Virginia

**Where did the Bible come from? The answer to this question could change your personal goals!**

# "WRITE ON A SCROLL ...." (REVELATION 1:11)

Critics of the Bible once scoffed at the thought that Moses was the author of the first five books of the Bible. They claimed that writing was unknown in the time of Moses (1500 BC). Now it is universally recognized that Egyptians and Babylonians were well acquainted with writing as early as 4,000 BC.

Many ancient documents were written on **stone**. The Moabite Stone (850 BC) tells of Moab's revolt against Israel and the war that followed. (The Biblical account is in 2 Kings chapter three.) Much earlier than the Moabite Stone, the 10 Commandments were written by God's finger on tables of stone (Exodus 31:18).

Ancient libraries with writing on **clay tablets** dried in the sun have been discovered among the Assyrians, Babylonians and Hittites.

Important records were inscribed on **parchment** (sheep) and **vellum** (calves). Among Jewish people, these were clean animals (Leviticus 11:3). After the 4th Century A.D. scriptures were usually preserved on parchment or vellum. It required the skins of 170 calves or 300 sheep to make a single hand-written copy of the Bible! Scribes would use 80 quills a day to create a Bible scroll.



18th Century  
Esther Scroll on parchment

**Papyrus** plants along the Nile River in Egypt provided an important material for transcribing the word of God. In fact, the word "Bible" comes from a term describing the papyrus plant. First scrolls were created and later single leaves were sewn together to create a codex (book). Papyrus was the most important medium for copying the Bible until the 3rd Century AD.

The Gutenberg press printed the Bible in Latin in 1455. In Medieval times Scriptures were printed on **rag paper**, made by soaking linen rags in water until they became pulp which was then spread on pieces of felt, dried and cut to specific sizes. Rag paper continued to be the primary material used for printing the Bible until the 1800's when paper made from **wood pulp** became readily available.

Today the Bible is available in **digital format** on computers, cell phones and other electronic devices.

Today the Scripture exists in over 2800 languages, and is being translated into an additional 2075 languages! At least 5 billion people have a Bible in their first language.



The Scripture has been preserved in their original languages, meticulously hand-copied under the most stringent conditions. Those who think today's Bible is different from the Scripture first given are mistaken. The Scripture of the 21st Century is the same as the Scripture of the apostles of Christ in the 1st Century.

It is most unusual for ancient documents to survive the passage of time. Most became extinct within a few short years. Only 10 copies of the works of Caesar have been found; only 7 copies of Plato; only 5 copies of Aristotle. Authors who were contemporary with the apostles of Jesus, such as Tacitus and Pliny, exist in only a handful of copies. The New Testament, on the other hand, exists in 5,500 copies in the original source language (Greek)! Between 18,000 and 25,000 copies of the New Testament exist in other ancient languages; 86,000 direct quotations are found in the early "Church Fathers" and over 2,100 Lectionaries have been discovered! Most of these have been found in modern times.

Some Greek manuscripts date almost to the time of the apostles. A fragment of the Gospel of John which was within 60 years of John's life has been found. Entire books of the New Testament dating to 200 AD have been discovered. Compare this with Caesar, whose 10 copies date no earlier than 1000 years after he lived! Aristotle lived 1100 years earlier than the oldest extant copy of his writings. Tacitus' works are separated by 1000 years from the time he lived. Copies of the Scriptures date to within a generation or two of its composition! *This can be said of no other ancient writing in the world!*

Those who study Caesar and Aristotle have no doubt that their discovered writings are the "real thing," authentic in every way, (though they have only a few copies to examine and those are separated from the time of origin by 1000 years). How much more certain Christians can be that the Bible is the genuine and authenticate words of Christ and His apostles! Here are the words of one of the world's leading authorities on ancient manuscripts:

"All evidence confirms that the text of the Christian Bible as we have it today has been maintained and transmitted with extraordinary accuracy.... No significant variations or deliberate falsifications have ever been found to shake public confidence in the Bible as a whole. No other text of comparable antiquity has come down to us with so few uncertainties about its transmission." (Christopher De Hamel, Fellow Librarian of *Corpus Christi College*, Cambridge, England).

# WORDS OF THOSE WHO GAVE US THE BIBLE IN ENGLISH



The Wycliffe Bible  
1382

“That the New Testament is of full authority, and open to understanding of simple men, as to the points that have been most needful to salvation .... That men ought to desire only the truth and freedom of the holy Gospel, and to accept man’s law and ordinances only in as much as they have been grounded in holy Scriptures.”

— John Wycliffe  
1320-1384

Wycliffe produced *hand-written* Bibles in English. Condemned as a “heretic,” Wycliffe was excommunicated by the “Church” for making the Bible available to the common person. After his death religious authorities ordered his bones dug up and burned. His ashes were scattered across the River Swift.



The Tyndale Bible  
1526

“It is not enough therefore to read and talk of it only, but we must also desire God day and night instantly to open our eyes, and to make us understand and feel wherefore the scripture was given, that we may apply the medicine of the Scripture, every man to his own sores.”

— William Tyndale  
1494-1536

The “father of the English Bible,” Tyndale was the first to *print* the New Testament in English. He was exiled, imprisoned, strangled and burned at the stake on October 6, 1536. He prayed: “Lord open the eyes of the king of England!” Three years later Henry VIII ordered that a copy of the Bible be placed in every church in England. It is estimated that up to 90% of the King James Version is the vocabulary and style of Tyndale.



The Coverdale Bible  
1535

“Go now most dear reader, and sit thee down at the Lord’s feet and read His words, and ... take them into thine heart, and let thy talking and communication be of them when thou sittest in thy house, or goest by the way, when thou liest down and when thou risest up.”

— Miles Coverdale  
(1488-1569)

Published the first *entire Bible* in English — the first Bible to be “licensed” by the king of England. He was persecuted under Queen Mary and fled to the Continent.



# THE ULTIMATE COST OF THE BIBLE IN ENGLISH



JOHN BAINHAM, A CHRISTIAN, BURNED AT THE STAKE IN LONDON, ENGLAND 1532

It has not always been easy to read the Bible. Courageous men and women died because they read and taught the Bible in English.

Under examination for his faith and charged with the crime of reading the New Testament translated into English by William Tyndale, John Bainham declared: “The truth of the Holy Scriptures was never these 800 years so plainly and expressly declared to the people.” Bainham, a member of the *Bow Lane Church of Christ* in London England, was arrested and charged with being a heretic. He was burned at the stake on April 20, 1532.

To those who gathered to witness his execution he said: “I come hither, good people, accused and condemned for a heretic; Sir Thomas More being my accuser and my judge. And these be the articles I die for, which be the very truth, and grounded on God’s Word, and no heresy: *I say it is lawful for every man and woman to have God’s book in their mother tongue.*”

If others died in order to make it possible for you to have the Bible in English, do you care enough to read this great Book for yourself?

# THE ETERNAL WORD

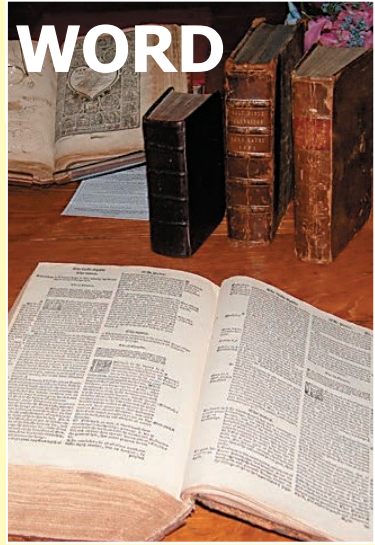
“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the *living and enduring word of God*. For

‘All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
But the word of the Lord *stands forever*.’

(Isaiah 40:6-8)

And this is the word that was preached to you.”

— 1 Peter 1:22-25



The Matthews Bible (1549)

Enemies of the word of God have made every attempt to discredit its message and blind the minds of those who could be persuaded to believe it. In the name of “science” we are told that “science” deals with facts while the Bible deals with fantasy. We are informed that it is unreasonable to believe in the biblical account of creation. Skeptics say that life came from non-life. Evolution is supposed to explain how creatures changed so drastically that new kinds of creatures developed. Yet we wonder why all we can demonstrate is that *life comes from life*. There is a limit to the change creatures experience. Dogs, for example, have great variety within their species but dogs never develop into anything but dogs. No dog has ever become a cat!

The universe itself testifies to orderliness and system. Things work in an organized way. How could something as complicated as the universe come into existence by accident? What explanation is there for the orderliness of the human DNA? Indeed, some of the most outspoken atheists have recently started talking about Intelligent Design in the world. Intelligent Design demands an Intelligent Designer. When things operate by law, there is a Law-maker that made it happen that way. Is it any wonder that some of the smartest, most intelligent scientists and scholars believe that the Bible is the word of God?

Others have tried to persecute the Bible out of existence. Believers have been burned at the stake and fed to lions. Churches have been destroyed. Laws have been passed to make it illegal to teach the Bible to others. But the message of the Bible goes on. That message cannot be silenced by intimidation, ridicule or threats of death. In the words of Bernard Ramm, “A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, and the inscription cut on the tombstone. But somehow the corpse never stays put!...The Bible is the martyr among books, and always rises from the pool of its own blood to live on!”

# THE ANVIL OF GOD'S WORD



Last eve I passed beside the blacksmith's door  
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime.  
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor  
Old hammer worn with passing years of time.

"How many anvils have you had?" said I,  
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"  
"Just one," said he; and then with twinkling eye:  
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's word  
For ages skeptics blows have beat upon.  
Yet though the noise of falling blows was heard,  
The anvil is unharmed— the hammers gone.

—John Clifford

## You Are Invited To Attend These *Undenominational Services* This Sunday

**NEW MILFORD, CT**  
Church of Christ  
129 Litchfield Rd  
New Milford, CT 06776  
(2 miles North of Hospital)  
Telephone: 860-355-0489  
Tim Tabet, Minister  
10 AM Bible Classes  
11 AM, 6:30 PM Worship

**CASTLETON, VT**  
Church of Christ  
37 Castleton Meadows  
Castleton, VT 05735  
Telephone: 802-683-4970  
Kirk Israel, Minister  
10 AM Bible Classes  
11 AM Worship

**COVENTRY, RI**  
Kent Cnty Church of Christ  
2435 Nooseneck Hill Rd,  
Building C Unit 3,  
Coventry, RI 02816  
Telephone: 401-397-9700  
Gary Babcock, Minister  
9:30 AM Bible Classes  
10:30 AM Worship

**Request Up To 2 Free Copies!  
Answering Questions  
About the Bible**

- What Does “Inspiration” Mean?
- Does the Bible Contradict Itself?
- What is the Origin of the Bible?
- Is the Bible Obsolete?

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