

The Last Days Times



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“Make your calling and election sure...” II Peter 1:10

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THE BIBLE, NO LONGER AN AMERICAN TREASURE

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” Proverbs 13:34

Absolute Truth

The Holy Bible is the absolute and all-sufficient truth given by God to mankind for our benefit (II Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 105:9)!

The Bible is unlimited in depth of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, and it is without equal. How “unsearchable” are His judgments and “unfathomable” are His ways (Romans 11:33-36).

God’s Library

The world’s largest libraries are the Library of Congress and the British Library of London, each one with literally miles of shelves and each one claiming more than 175 million books.

Smaller world-class libraries include Shanghai Library in China, the New York Public Library, the Library and Archives of Canada, and the Russian State Library, each one containing 50 million books.

All those books, however, do not contain the wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and truth the Bible contains in only 66 books – God’s library!

“The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens; by His knowledge the depths were broken up, and clouds drop down the dew. My son, let them not depart from your eyes...”
Proverbs 3:19-21

The wisdom of this world is foolish and finite alongside the Creator, who is the source of all wisdom, enduring forever (I Corinthians 1:20-31; I Peter 1:25).

The world’s libraries are chock full of books written by men inspired by men, and the Bible was written by men too, but men of a different sort. Each one was handpicked by God Himself and anointed with God’s own Spirit to write what He told them to write, either audibly or through the still small voice of His Spirit.

There are many other books written by both men and women who were also influenced by the inspiration of the Spirit of

Both learned and unlearned men were inspired to write the Bible; likewise, both learned and unlearned men are made able to comprehend its divine secrets – God’s mysteries held in reserve, not for men of intellectual renown to interpret for the commoner, but rather for anyone with childlike faith who truly seeks to know Him more.

US Congress and President Declare 1983 as the “Year of the Bible.”



“Of the many influences that have shaped the United States of America into a distinctive Nation of people, non may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible.”

Ronald Reagan
February 3, 1983

“Can we resolve to read, learn and try to heed the greatest message ever written - God’s word in the Holy Bible? Inside its pages lie all the answers to all the problems man has ever known.” President Reagan

God, but none holds the authority, purity, and weight of the Bible. Other books written under His influence were done as a result of the greater inspiration they received from the Bible.

The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years by some 40 men from every walk of life – unknown farmers to common fishermen and even kings; and it’s all in agreement and harmony with itself. It has been proven right millions of times through millions of lives throughout time!

Earliest manuscripts were written 3,500 years ago, and the latest almost 2,000 years ago. There are 25,000 pieces of copied parchment today – more than twelve times its nearest preserved rival.

Humility is Key

God reveals the treasures of His Word to the humble and to those of childlike faith, but hides them from the proud.

“God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
James 4:6

“The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.”
Psalm 25:14

“Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.”
Matthew 11:25

God reveals Himself to those who seek Him with a pure heart and with their whole heart (Jeremiah 29:13).

The more we know His Word, the more we know Him. The less we know His Word, the less we know Him.

It is the *only* book that ever came down from heaven and the *only* one that ever showed the true way to go there.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
John 1:1

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”
John 1:14a

No other book or collection of books even compares. Inspired by the Holy Spirit on a level that no other book can boast, and miraculously preserved throughout mankind’s sordid history on a scale that no other book can claim, it contains literally hundreds of prophecies now fulfilled and tells of things yet to come!

The Bible has had more influence on the world than any other book, movie, man, or machine. World leaders have lived, led, and died by its message. Its significance in shaping world history cannot be overstated, nor can our need for it today be overrated.

There is not a single aspect of life that it does not cover either directly or indirectly, and it speaks to every culture on earth and to every generation.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
II Timothy 3:16-17

God’s Word, just as He breathed it, has *always* been relevant for those with a humble heart who are willing to hear and to receive its plain message.

It even covers life after death just enough to make the unbeliever afraid to die, yet it gives the believer great anticipation!

Chronicling America

America’s Public Bible uncovered biblical quotations in nearly 11,000,000 newspaper pages in the Library of Congress.

From the earliest publishing of secular newspapers until sometime well into the last century, the Bible was commonly quoted, written about, or referred to in newspapers all across America.

America’s Public Bible explains:

“Throughout the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, newspapers in the United States—even newspapers which were not published by a religious denomination or organization—had frequent recourse to the Bible.

Newspapers printed sermons and Sunday school lessons, and ministers offered lessons through newspaper Bible clubs.

Newspapers featured jokes whose punchlines required familiarity with the Bible.

They aired political commentary that cited the Bible on all sides of a given issue. They ran features on Thomas Jefferson’s edited Bible and Abraham Lincoln’s use of the Scripture.

On Good Friday, Easter, and Christmas they reprinted long portions of Scripture.

They opined on revisions to the English Bible and offered word-by-word comparisons of the changes in new translations.

They made money from advertisements for Bibles of every kind, and some newspapers even sold Bibles directly as a way of raising revenue.

Most of all, newspapers quoted the Bible.”

There was a time when the average American believed the Bible to be the Word of God, but not today.

2020 US Gallup Poll

As of 2020, a record low of only 20% of Americans now say the Bible is the literal word of God, half of what it was in the early 1980s. Almost 29% say it is a collection of “*fables, legends, history and moral precepts recorded by man.*”

Is there any wonder why Jesus asked: “*...when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?*” (Luke 18:8)

In a world of *fake* news, the Bible is absolute truth.

“Your word is truth.”
John 17:17

The Essential Occupation

For the one who claims to know God and belong to Him, the Bible should be his textbook for daily life. No earthly occupation high or low should distance anyone from his Bible. No one is above or beneath the need for what God offers through its golden pages, enriching *all* who receive!

*"More to be desired are they than gold,
Yea, than much fine gold..."*
Psalm 19:10

Like a refiner's fire, it purifies; and like a sharp two-edged sword, it discerns, reveals, and divides the deepest things in man, setting him free!

"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 the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
Hebrews 4:12

In the grand scheme of things, there is no grander occupation than reading and studying the Bible for the purpose of knowing God more and to glorify Him more.

*"Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceeds
from the mouth of God."*
Matthew 4:4

*"My son, give attention to my words;
incline your ear to my sayings. Do not
let them depart from your eyes; keep
them in the midst of your heart; for
they are life to those who find them,
and health to all their flesh."*
Proverbs 4:20-22

If anyone is so occupied with other things (of which they can control) that they cannot be a regular partaker of God's Word, then they are too occupied.

The Bible is our Creator's personal letter to us for *our* benefit. If we will only read and take heed, by faith, He will prove Himself to be true. His promise is sure!

"...for I am ready to perform My word."
Jeremiah 1:12b

One can only imagine how much better off the body of Christ would be if, for the last seven decades, Christian men had developed the habit of coming home after work and winding down by reading their Bibles rather than by watching the nightly news followed by sitcoms and other silly mind-dulling entertainment.

What if, since the 1970s (when cassette players became readily available in automobiles), Christians had chosen to listen to their Bibles rather than to hear the latest hit songs on the radio?

What if today the great challenge was how to disconnect people from their Bible apps rather than from mind-warping games, news, and entertainment? What a different people we would be—"a peculiar people" (1 Peter 2:9)!

To be a disciple indeed is to walk under the leadership and direction of our Teacher, completely opposite from the spirit of this world.

"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'"
John 8:31-32

Beginning with Adam and Eve in the Garden, man began to turn from looking to and worshiping His Creator to looking to and worshiping himself. God said that it would be this way (Romans 1:25). We see this on a grander scale today than any other time in history.

We see the destruction we've rightfully earned through self-governance, yet still have the audacity to wonder why!

**We would rather be bound by
the arduous labor of self-rule,
failing time and again, than
be free, walking under the
love-leadership of the One
who made us.**

**How sad.
How prideful.
How utterly human!**

Our habitual nature is strong, all-too-often futilely driving us to search within ourselves for another remedy to the problems we've helped create. We continue spiraling downward. We grow accustomed to pain and learn to adapt. It's as if we're willing to try anything but returning to God's Word for instruction and Life. And the cycle continues.

Until we *break* the cycle of self-will, self-indulgence, and self-preservation, we'll never please the God of the Bible, but rather only the god we have made Him to be in our own imaginations.

Spiritual Sight is Paramount

The Bible holds little interest for the one who cannot see with spiritual eyes. But with spiritual sight His Word sets us on course for the only way to complete freedom from ourselves and the spirit of the world around us.

While some Bible truths can be seen with the natural mind, most cannot. Only the Spirit of God knows and reveals the deep things of God. Most spiritual truth cannot be seen or grasped except by spiritual revelation (1 Corinthians 2:10, 13-16; Ephesians 1:15-23); and even truths that are discernable to the natural mind are of little personal value until one has received the aid of God's Spirit along with it.

WHAT TRUE SPIRITUAL MEN SAY

Andrew Murray—*The Inner Chamber and The Inner Life*

"One of the most important parts of our devotions is the study of God's Word. Of what deep importance that we should ever receive the Word in the Spirit that waits for the Father to reveal its truth in us. And of what importance that we should have the childlike, the babe-like, disposition to which the Father lives to impart the secrets of His love."

D. L. Moody—*How to Study the Bible*

"The more you love the Scriptures, the firmer will be your faith. There is little backsliding when people love the Scriptures."

R. A. Torrey—*Bible Reading*

"For eighteen centuries every engine of destruction that human science, philosophy, wit, reasoning or brutality could bring to bear against a book has been brought to bear against that book [the Bible] to stamp it out of the world, but it has a mightier hold on the world today than ever before."

George Muller—*Reading of the Holy Scriptures*

"...although the Holy Spirit is the best and sufficient teacher, yet that this teacher does not always teach immediately when we desire it, and that, therefore, we may have to entreat Him again and again for the explanation of certain passages; but that He will surely teach us at last..."

A. W. Tozer—*Collection of Writings*

"Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian." "The Bible is a supernatural book and can be understood only by supernatural aid."

Because it was written under the inspiration of His Spirit, He must interpret its deeper spiritual message for us, transforming us from the inside out – beginning with our minds (Romans 12:1). A truly Spirit-led Bible study will mine truths from its pages, satisfying hungry souls, fueling them for the journey ahead!

*"The statutes of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes..."*
Psalm 19:8

God's work in the Bible student is two-fold: revealing the deeds of the old man of the flesh for discard, and nurturing the new spiritual man to rich and full maturity (Colossians 3:9-10; John 15:3; Ephesians 5:25-27)!

Scholarship and Intellectualism Overtook Spiritual Insight

Someone said, *"The Church today is the product of yesterday's preachers."*

A thoughtful Biblical-view evaluation of the landscape of Christianity today is quite telling. We are in desperate straits! Biblical interpretations have long gone awry! Most preachers have been indoctrinated in Bible colleges or seminaries where establishment preservation and/or denominational dogma has taken precedent over the plain text of scripture. Like the Jewish sects of New Testament times, the vast majority of self-identifying Christian centers for higher education *"lay aside the commandment of God"* and *"hold to the traditions of men"* (Mark 7:7-8). Yet, our Lord instructed His disciples [and us] to: *"teach them [all people] to observe all things that I have commanded you"* (Matthew 28:20a).

Many scholarly men have laboriously sought for and discovered historical facts to help put the Bible passages into proper context relating to the time period, as well as textural, cultural, societal and religious nuances, and more. Scholarly religious men are not usually *spiritual* men. Scholarly theology has played a significant role in the way Christians believe, live, and think for centuries, but sound *spiritual* theology has been lacking.

The Bible is God's testament to humanity given through a tapestry of spiritual truths conveyed by real-life experiences.

Together, these truths reveal God, mankind, and our relationship.

More specifically, the Bible points to our self-inflicted lost estate and shows the way God made to save us today, and forever.

Notwithstanding their contribution, however, scholarly works should not be the go-to sources for gaining *spiritual* enlightenment. Often, man's scholarship has hindered him from seeing *spiritual* truth. Many professors stand squarely at odds with what the Bible plainly says, and *spiritual* insight is missed completely.

Two schools of thought form the foundation for teaching:

The Conservative View – When one does believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, holding great respect for every word.

The Liberal View – When one does not believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, but rather reduces much of scripture to a historical story *about* God.

Conservative Interpretation was dominant until the latter part of the 1800s, declining since then, and has become much more scarce in recent decades.

Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834) was called the *father* of liberalism. Liberal thought expanded rapidly through many intellectual "Christian thinkers" who also chose to embrace its unbelief. Liberalism's greatest surge began not long after the beginning of the early 1900s, gaining a strong foothold through one of the world's most influential theologians of that century, Karl Barth.

Literally hundreds of thousands of seminary students have been taught the Bible under liberal interpretation – students who have pastored most of America's churches since the 1960s.

Should there be any wonder why reading and studying the Bible has diminished?

Our society has been taught to doubt the Bible's divine inspiration by those who have led in spiritual positions. At the same time, secularism has grown by leaps and bounds; humanism and the social gospel have been put forth front and center. And during those early years of liberal interpretation, the God of the Bible was ejected from public schools and began to be commonly mocked in colleges and universities everywhere. For decades, many believers who have been bold enough to show respect for what the Bible says have been openly ridiculed on campuses across America.

Until recently, outspoken Bible believers in America were only ostracized. Today, we are cancelled and sometimes even threatened. Tomorrow, we *may* be persecuted.

The challenge is before us. The message is clear. Let us read God's Word again.

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