

What has the Papacy said regarding the Bible?

Pope Pius VII (1816)>> "We have been truly shocked at this most crafty device (Bible Societies), by which the very foundations of religion are undermined. We have deliberated upon the measures proper to be adopted by our pontifical authority, in order to remedy and abolish this pestilence, as far as possible..Warn the people entrusted to your care, that they fall not into the snarers prepared for their everlasting ruin" (that is, as you value your souls, have nothing to do with Bible Societies or the bibles they circulate)"-John Dowling, *The History of Romanism* (1871), pg.621

Pope Gregory XVI (1844)>> "Let all know, then, the enormity of the sin against God and his Church which they are guilty of who dare to associate themselves with any of these [Bible] societies or abet them in any way. Moreover, we confirm and renew the decrees recited above, delivered in former times by apostolic authority, against the publication, distribution, reading and possession of books of the holy scriptures translated into the vulgar tongue."-*Ibid*, pg.623

"The Supremacy of the Bible as source of faith is unhistorical, illogical, fatal to the virtue of faith, and destructive of unity."-Herbermann et al, *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol.12, pg.496

Knowing this history, what conclusions must we come to?

"In order for Satan to maintain his sway over men, and establish the authority of the papal usurper, he must keep them in ignorance of the Scriptures."-E. G. White, *The Great Controversy*, Pg.51

"To the Romanist the Bible is a forbidden book, because it plainly reveals the errors of the Roman system; and whoever searches the Bible with an enlightened understanding, cannot long be in harmony with Romanism. He who searches the Bible to understand the truth, will find no authority in the word of God for the assumption of power on the part of popes and cardinals.. The Lord has pronounced a curse upon those who take from or add to the Scriptures. The great I AM has decided what shall constitute the rule of faith and doctrine, and he has designed that the Bible shall be a household book. The church that holds to the word of God is irreconcilably separated from Rome."-E. G. White, *Signs of the Times*, February 19, 1894, par.3, 4

Friend, we have learnt that the Word of God is our authority. We've learnt that Satan and his human sympathizers are the ones who hate the Bible. And we've learnt that a professedly Christian organization – the Papacy, the authority of the Roman Catholic Church – is the greatest antagonist to the undiluted Scriptures. Of these Scriptures, God says, "...if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies." (Rev.11:5) Will you side with the Bible-haters, or with those who study and uphold His Word – the true Christians? The choice is yours...

May God bless you...



## CAN YOU TRUST THE BIBLE? (PART 4)

### What are the FACTS and what are the MYTHS about this age-surviving Book?

✦ WHO ARE THE ONES WHO DISCREDIT AND EVEN HATE THE BIBLE? THESE MUST BE THE ATHEISTS AND UNBELIEVERS, RIGHT? COULD PROFESSED CHRISTIANS BE BIBLE-HATERS TOO?...

Friend, the complete answer to this question could be shocking to you! So let's begin answering by uncovering the more obvious facts before we come to the astounding conclusion...

First of all, we furnish from sacred and historical testimony the first and original Bible-hater...

**Matthew 13:19>>** <sup>19</sup>When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the **wicked one**, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

**Mark 4:15>>** <sup>15</sup>And these are they by the way side, where **the word is sown**; but when they have heard, **Satan** cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

"Satan knew that he could not introduce sin into the world while faith in the word of God remained unshaken. Hence he first whispers a doubt "Ye, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden." He then comes out boldly and contradicts the word of the Lord, saying, "Ye shall not surely die....". His plan has ever been to cause men to reject the word of God. That word has lived, and there have always been a few that have believed it. It seems that Satan foresaw that copies of the Bible would abound in the last days, and has been, from the beginning, pursuing a regular plan of operations to increase his temptations as light increases, so that the last generation of men, by a belief of his first lie, may be prepared to reject all the increasing light of divine truth, and come out boldly, and totally reject the word of God."-R. F. Cottrell, *Review & Herald*, Vol.13, pg.156-157

We see that Satan, the chief of the fallen angels, is the original Bible-hater. But from the beginning he has sought to ensnare humanity as his agents to share in his utter hatred of God's Word. Two main classes can be observed. We shall name the first now, being **all those openly opposed to the Christian faith**. This first class can include as wide a spectrum of beliefs as **atheism, deism, secularism, pantheism, paganism, occultism, anti-biblical philosophies and ideologies** (such as communism, racial supremacy), etc. The second main class, which is the shocker, we shall reserve for later. But as an object lesson for the Bible-rejectors of this first class,

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history records a time when the sacred Book was officially rejected from the very life of a nation. This was a time when anti-biblical sentiment virtually crossed all religious and philosophical persuasions in one country. We speak here of the French Revolution! Did you know the same maligned Bible prophesied that this event would happen 1700 years aforetime? Drawn from the prophecy in Revelation 11, hear this expository account from *The Probability of the Second Coming of Christ..* by Josiah Litch>> "The beast from the bottomless pit, is atheistical France. The time when the witnessess were slain, during the French revolution. The French revolution commenced 1789, and was styled the first year of liberty.. At an early period of the revolution, the illuminated free masons took the name of Jacobins, from the name of a convent where they held their meetings. They then counted three hundred thousand adepts, and were supported by two millions of men scattered through France; armed with pikes and torches, and all the implements of revolution."—*Ibid.*, pg.165

*Now what did the French revolutionaries do?>> "It is said that the number of titled nobility in France, at the time of this revolution, amounted to seven thousand. Whether it was so or not, it is certain they were very numerous, and all fell. On the 26th of August, 1792, the beast from the bottomless pit exalted himself above all religion. The 12th witnessed the fall of all distinctions in civil society, and the 26th beheld the establishment of atheism by law. A decree was passed ordering the clergy to leave the Kingdom within a fortnight of its date. But instead of allowing them that time the whole period was employed in seizing, imprisoning and putting them to the most cruel deaths. The ministers of religion, both papal and protestant, were now no more in France, and no traces of Christianity could be found in the atheistical metropolis of the republic. One of the churches was converted into a heathen temple, the den of a foreign god; and the rest were used as places of amusement. Where the abandoned citizens flocked, not to worship their Maker, but to hear his name blasphemed."—*Ibid.*, pg.166*

*What happened to the Bible in France?>> "At this dreadful period the Bible was condemned as a lie, and forbidden to be read. It was gathered in heaps and publicly burnt. In some places, also, it was condemned and publicly dragged through the streets with circumstances of contempt. A discourse was pronounced, November 6th, 1792, by Dupont, upon atheism, which was applauded by the Convention; and November, 1793, it was set forth by one of the atheists, that all religious worship had been suppressed in his section, even to the very idea of religion. He added that he and his fellows detested God; and instead of studying the Scriptures they learned the Declaration of Rights. On the 17th of October, 1795, all external signs of religion were abolished, and it was enacted that an inscription should be set up in the public burying grounds, that death is only an eternal sleep."—*Ibid.*, pg.167*

*For how long did France endure its banning of the Bible? Answer comes to us from Uriah Smith's Daniel and*

*the Revelation (1897), pg.608-609>> "In 1793, a decree passed the French Assembly suppressing the Bible. Just three years after, a resolution was introduced into the Assembly superseding the decree, and giving toleration to the Scriptures. That resolution lay on the table six months, when it was taken up, and passed without a dissenting vote. Thus, in just three years and a half, the witnessess "stood upon their feet, and great fear fell upon them which saw them." Nothing but the appalling results of the rejection of the Bible could have induced France to take her hands off these witnessess."*

In France, the one time in history that a nation wholly rejected Scripture and its Author, a *Reign of Terror* followed. So terrible it was, that the Bible had to be reinstated to regain public order. All passions of belief openly opposed to Christianity came together to defy God's Word and signally, their efforts were a failure. Satan and this first class of Bible-haters have been identified.

But now, to the conclusion of the matter, who is the controversial second class of Bible-haters? Who are the ones who hate the Bible, though most may think they don't? Who are the ones who have defied, hidden, obscured, burnt, corrupted the Bible to their own satisfaction? Worse than the infidels of France did, and for the longest duration of any other power? Tell you what – we'll let French history's greatest infidel disclose this entity – who, though Voltaire personally hated them – he could not but commend them for their proscription of the Bible...>> "It is characteristic of fanatics who read the holy scriptures to tell themselves God killed, so I must kill; Abraham lied, Jacob deceived, Rachel stole so I must steal, deceive, lie. But, wretch, you are neither Rachel, nor Jacob, nor Abraham, nor God; you are just a mad fool, and the popes who forbade the reading of the Bible were extremely wise."—*The Cambridge Companion to Voltaire*, pg.199

So who is this second class of Bible-haters, which may have very well surprised you? It is the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church, led authoritatively by the Pope! What else has historical record said about the Papacy and the Bible?>> "If there be one fact more notorious than another in the practice of the modern Church of Rome, it is the sedulous and incessant care with which – in all countries where Popery is dominant – her bishops and priests keep the holy Scriptures from the people."—*Popery, the Enemy and Falsifier of Scripture (1844)*, pg.3

"The [papal] adversaries of the Reformation were not yet satisfied. The New Testament continued to circulate, and depots were formed in several convents.. They proclaimed, throughout the length and breadth of England, that the Holy Scriptures contained an *infectious poison*, and ordered a general search after the "Word of God". On the 24th of October, 1526, the bishop of London enjoined on his archdeacons to *seize all translations of the New Testament in English with or without glosses* and, in a few days later, the archbishop of Canterbury issued a mandate against all the books which should contain "any particle of the New Testament."—*Merle D'Aubigne, History of the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century, Vol.4 (1855)*, pg.310-311

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