

## Indestructibility of the Bible - Part 2

The violence to which the Bible has been subjected is well documented. Many times these attacks have come from outside the Christian community, at other times violence and opposition has been perpetrated by those from within. In more recent times, the assaults have been more subtle, albeit, no less sinister. Philosophy, those doctrines of men that propose world views contrary to the one revealed in the Bible, have, with the development of the printing press, the broad advancement of secular education, and the mass dissemination of information, flooded the world with, arguably, the Bible's greatest challenge.

The idea arose in the seventeenth century that man could find truth without the aid of Divine revelation. Spurred by man's increasing understanding of the world and his ability to harness it for his benefit through the application of scientific methods, philosophies arose which attempted to explain the world without reference to the God that created it. Rationalism, which maintains that man can deduce truths with absolute certainty simply from his innate ideas, led many to believe that there were no limits to what man could achieve through research and education. Out of this mindset arose philosophies such as Naturalism, which held that truth existed only in the natural world and it could only be discovered by experience. This concept was greatly advanced by the development of the doctrine of Organic Evolution. All of these influences have led many men to reject the idea of God in favor of Humanism, the philosophy that puts man at the center of the universe. In this world view there is no higher being than man and, consequently, no higher authority to look to for truth and guidance. Man must look only to himself for the discovery of truth and for the standards by which he will conduct his affairs.

Throughout the annals of human history, there have been a multitude of manmade philosophies. When man is placed at the center of the universe, only his thoughts reign supreme. But when man is supreme, there is a never ending supply of them who want to be more supreme than all the rest. Thus, we have a constant supply of philosophies vying for that supremacy. All these philosophies have the same obstacle to overcome, the reality of God. Therefore modern philosophers have sought to "disprove" that God exists. Stuck with the logical limitation that a negative cannot be proven, the anti-God proponents are left only with attempts to question the proofs for God's existence, sweeping assertions without proof that God does not exist, and a great deal of sarcasm.

The eighteenth century philosopher Voltaire attempted to do with intellect what the Roman emperor Diocletian tried unsuccessfully to do with military force. Diocletian thought he had destroyed Christianity with his persecution, only to have it become the official state religion a mere seven years after his death. Voltaire similarly claimed that he, a lone Frenchman, would destroy the Bible. He boasted that in one hundred years from his day "there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquated curiosity-seeker." Twenty-five years after Voltaire's death, his house, along with his old printing press, was

purchased by the Geneva Bible Society. His press was used to print Bibles and his house was used as a storehouse for the distribution of them.

The most recent philosophical phenomenon is Post-Modernism. The only consistent element in post-modern thought seems to be that it has no tenets of its own. It simply dismisses the tenets of others. We have only begun to consider fully the nature of post-modern thought and formulate our answer to it when we have indications that it has begun to fall into disfavor. The point of all this is that human philosophies come and go, but the Bible and its message remains unmovable.

In spite of all the forces, both physical and intellectual, that have been arrayed against the Bible, it not only endures, but flourishes. In the midst of hostility, false accusations, distortions, and ridicule the Bible remains, year after year, the world's best-selling book. Internet@soon.org.uk reports the following from the British Times newspaper:

"Forget modern British novelists and TV tie-ins, the Bible is the best selling book every year. If sales of the Bible were included in best-seller lists, it would be a rare week when anything else would achieve a look in. It is wonderful, weird... that in this godless age... this one book should go on selling, every month."

It is reported by 2004 Guinness World Records that the Bible is the runaway best seller of all time with an estimated 2.5 billion (2,500,000,000) copies in print. The entire Bible, or portions thereof, has been translated into over 2,200 of the world's more than 5,000 languages. The King James version of the Bible is the hands down winner as the most popular translation, with over 1 billion (1,000,000,000) copies sold since 1815 (see [www.greatsite.com](http://www.greatsite.com)).

With all the hostility that has been directed toward the Bible, even the severest skeptic or the hardest atheist has to marvel at the enormous popularity and proliferation of the Bible... and the story is not over. Any attempt to stop the Word of God is futile. As the psalmist recorded:

Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?  
He who sits in the heavens shall laugh, the Lord shall hold them in derision (Ps. 2:1; 4).