

The Most Dangerous Book in the World

Psalm 138:2 "... thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

Introduction: Some might answer by saying that Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of the Species* is the most dangerous book. Certainly Darwin popularized a philosophy that has permeated the world and has become the foundation for all sorts of evil thinking. Darwin penned a dangerous book and idea—but Darwin's book is **not** the most dangerous today.

Because of the events of September 11, some people might claim that the *Koran* is the most dangerous book. The terrorists who perpetrated these evil acts, and others in the terrorist network worldwide, claim they are only carrying out what they believe the *Koran* instructs them to do. After all, they say, the *Koran* states "...then fight and slay the Pagans wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem; but if they repent, and establish regular prayers and practice regular charity, then open the way for them..." (9:5). Also: "...I will instill terror into the hearts of the Unbelievers: Smite ye above their necks and smite all their fingertips off them" (8:12).

Now, many Muslims would claim that the terrorists are incorrectly understanding the *Koran*—but it is true that in every Muslim-dominated country, Christians are not allowed full freedom of worship. Islam is reportedly the fastest-growing religion in the world—but the Muslim God is not the God of the Bible. Certainly, the *Koran* is a dangerous book, for millions have been led into a false religion—but it is **not** the world's most dangerous book today.

The answer... I don't want to be misunderstood here, but I propose that...

THE MOST DANGEROUS BOOK IN THE WORLD IS IN FACT . . . THE BIBLE.

Consider **2 Peter 3:15-16** "*And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*"

As the Bible is the Word of God, it is a Divine Book, and it is the greatest Book. And because of this, we misread or distort it to our own destruction.

Mark Twain: "*It ain't the parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it's the parts that I do understand.*"

Because the Bible is a revelation from God explaining who we are, where we came from, our sinful state, our need of salvation, how to be saved, the future judgment and so on, if people misread it, they distort the Scriptures to their own destruction.

Think about this—cults such as the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses quote the Bible, but they misread it, thus distorting it to their own destruction. Orthodox Jews quote the Old Testament—but again, they distort it to their own destruction as they reject Jesus as the Messiah (who is foretold and explained in the Old Testament).

Because the Bible explains the only way to be saved ("*If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved*"—**Romans 10:9**), it is the most dangerous book—if its message is not believed. After all, if its message of salvation is not obeyed, then this will lead to a person's destruction. The Bible warns that those who don't trust in Christ for salvation will be separated from God for eternity in Hell.

Patrick Henry—who said, "*Give me liberty, or give me death!*"—also said, "*The Bible ... is a book worth more than all other books that were ever printed.*"

Then there's **Abraham Lincoln**, who stated in 1864, after getting a Bible from a group of African-Americans in Baltimore, "*In regard to this great book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to men. All the good Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it.*"

This is a book that has divided families, devastated philosophies, and destroyed the following of some of the world's best-known religions. It proclaims itself to be superior to science, more honest than historians, and the only firm foundation on which to build our lives. People have been derided for believing it, attacked for possessing it, jailed for disseminating it, and martyred for refusing to deny it. Liberals loathe it, courts outlaw it, politicians run from it, the media scorns and fears it simultaneously.

Steve Green, the President of *Hobby Lobby*, and the chairman of The Museum of the Bible, which just opened in Washington DC., wrote a book entitled *This Dangerous Book: How the Bible Has Shaped Our World and Why It Still Matters Today* said... "What other book can elicit such a following, such a response, such passion, such misunderstanding, such beautiful acts, such wonder?"

If any other book had been subjected to 1/10th the attack this book has endured, it would have been vanquished and banished. But to the disgust of its foes and the delights of its friends, this Book stands undaunted, undamaged and unchanged. It is the source of our strength, the light of our lives and the hope of our Heaven. It is the preserved, preeminent, powerful Word of God.

It is dangerous to its opponents and delightful to its proponents. It is the only book God ever wrote.

I. The Description of the Bible

A. It is INERRANT (Psalm 12:6)

Psalm 12:6 The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

There are no mistakes or inaccuracies in God's preserved Word.

B. It is INFALLIBLE (Psalm 119:89)

Psalm 119:89 LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

What the Bible promises will happen as surely as if it had already taken place.

C. It is INSPIRED (2 Timothy 3:16)

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The word *inspired* means "*God-breathed.*" God told the human instruments that He used to pen the Bible exactly what He wanted them to say. Some scornfully refer to this as "*mechanical dictation.*" I embrace their description. Since the Bible is forever settled in Heaven, it existed before any of its human authors. When God made the men who penned the Bible He already knew what He wanted them to write.

D. It is IMMORTAL (Matthew 24:35)

Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

II. The Danger of the Bible

A. It is Dangerous to our ATTITUDES

We wish to be offended, but **Psalm 119:165** says, "*Great peace have they that love thy law and nothing shall offend them.*" We want to express our irritation, but **Proverbs 14:17** says, "*He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly.*"

B. It is Dangerous to our ACTIVITIES

When our flesh wants to view some of the filthy programs available on television, **Phil. 4:8** tells us, "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*"

When we're tempted to cut corners in order to gain financial advantage, we are reminded that, "*He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him*" (**Proverbs 28:22**).

C. It is Dangerous to our ACQUAINTANCES

A Christian is not free to choose his own companions. The Bible says, "*He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed*" (**Proverbs 13:20**). It further says, "*Make no friendship with an angry man...*" (**Proverbs 22:24**).

D. It is Dangerous to our AUTHORITY

If the Bible is the Word of God, then evolution is wrong.

If the Bible is the Word of God, then the Sodomites are wrong.

If the Bible is the Word of God, then the New Evangelicals are wrong.

If the Bible is the Word of God, those who teach works salvation are wrong.

If the Bible is the Word of God, the psychologists are wrong...

If the Bible is the Word of God, doctors who kill babies in wombs are wrong.

Conclusion: Years ago, Robert Ingersoll used to travel the country lecturing on "*The Mistakes of Moses.*" He earned \$500 a night for his blasphemous lectures. Today, Bob Ingersoll is dead and gone; his name is mentioned only by a few preachers who use him as an illustration. The words that God used Moses to write are still speaking to the hearts of men. Nobody today could make 50 cents a night lecturing on the mistakes of Bob Ingersoll.