

P.M. OUTLINE
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ATTACKS AGAINST GOD & HIS WORD

INTRODUCTION - God's word affirms its non-destructive nature.
(Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:23)

1. The Bible text tells its own story of success.

(Jeremiah 36:1-30) King Jehoiakim thought he could destroy God's prophecy by cutting the scroll with a knife and burning it.
Apocrypha (1 Maccabees chapter 1) Antiochus, 100 BC, raided Jerusalem, gathered the Scriptures and burned them, later put to death all who held onto Scriptures.
(Matthew 2:13-16) "... Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him ..."
(Acts 4:17-18) "... threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name ... commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus"
(Acts 9:1-2) "Saul, breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord ... that he might bring them bound to Jerusalem."
(Acts 12:1-3) "Herod the king (Herod Agrippa I) stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword ... " (23-24).

2. Roman emperors of the first four centuries.

Foxe's Book of Martyrs, pages 12-13.
Maxim, AD 235, published a book, Acts of Pilate, in which he slandered the sufferings of Christ, and he made it a text in the schools.
Valerianus, AD 253, tried to stop the preaching by murdering the preachers.
Diocletian, AD 284, burned copies of Scripture and killed the owners of the Scriptures.
Julian the Apostate, nephew of Constantine, renounced his Christianity, wrote a book titled Refutation of the Christian Religion which was a collection of atheistic arguments.

3. The Papacy.

Pope Innocent III, AD 1199, had the French Bibles burned at Metz, and forbid the people from replacing them.
Pope Gregory IX, AD 1234, at the Spanish Council of Tarragona, ordered the people to bring their Bibles to be burned.
John Wycliffe, a zealous reformer in England, translated the Bible into English, AD 1414. Archbishop Arundel informed the Pope and a law was passed that all who read the Bible in the mother-tongue would forfeit their land and be burned as heretics. After Wycliffe's death, his body was exhumed, burned, and ashes thrown into the River Swift.
William Tyndale, AD 1530, made a translation into English, too. He was tied to a stake, saying, "Lord, open the king of England's eyes." Then he was strangled and burned.
The Jesuits boasted of burning 60,000 Bibles in one year, AD 1637.
Pope Clement II, AD 1713, condemned the reading of the Bible by Christians.

4. Infidels, skeptics, atheists.

AD 1793, the French passed a law legislating God out of existence.
Voltaire, the French skeptic, AD 1694-1778, said Christianity would not last 100 years.
Thomas Paine, AD 1787, an infidel, wrote The Age of Reason to destroy the Bible.
In America, AD 1885, Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll, lectured against the Bible, and thought that in 25 years the Bible would not exist.