**Timeline Notes**

Satan (4000 BC) **– Satan’s first attack SLIDE**

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

* This is the first recorded attack on God’s word

King Jehoiakim (~600 BC) - **Jeremiah 36 slides**

Epiphanes (200)

200 A.D.--During the persecution of the Jews under Antiochus Epiphanes, the Pentateuch was torn up and burned. ".*..anyone found possessing the book of the covenant was condemned to death by the decree of the King."* (I Maccabees 1:56-57)

Diocletian (303)

Of Diocletian (284-305), the ruler immediately preceding Constantine, Eusebius, the historian said, "royal edicts were published everywhere, commanding that the churches be leveled to the ground and the Scriptures destroyed by fire" (Church History, Book VIII, Ch. 1). Diocletian went on to say that if one had a copy of the Scriptures and did not surrender it to be burned, if it were discovered, he would be killed. Furthermore, if any other should know of one who had a copy of the Scriptures, and did not report it, he also would be killed. During this time many, many copies of the Bible were burned, copies laboriously written in longhand. Of this period. the historian Newman said, "Multitudes . . . hastened to deny the faith and to surrender their copies of the Scriptures; many more bore the most horrible tortures and refused with their latest breath to surrender the Scriptures or in any way to compromise themselves" (Newman, Church History, p. 169). After this edict had been in force for two years, Diocletian boasted, "I have completely exterminated the Christian writings from the face of the earth!" (Rimmer, Seven Wonders of the Wonderful Word, p. 15). Toward its end, Diocletian ordered a monument to be erected and on it had these triumphant words inscribed, "The name Christian is extinguished."

The next ruler, Constantine (306-337), became a Christian. He requested that copies of the Scriptures be made for all the churches (at government expense). After Constantine offered a substantial reward for a copy of the Scriptures, within 25 hours, 50 copies of the Bible were brought to him! http://www.goarch.org/resources/sermons/sermonettes/sermonettes013

Council of Toulouse (1229)

"We prohibit laymen possessing copies of the Old and New Testament… We forbid them most severely to have the above books in the popular vernacular." "The lords of the districts shall carefully seek out the heretics in dwellings, hovels, and forests, and even their underground retreats shall be entirely wiped out." Concil Tolosanum, Pope Gregory IX, in the year 1229.

Council of Tarragona (1234)

"No one may possess the books of the Old and New Testaments in the Romance language, and if anyone possesses them he must turn them over to the local bishop within eight days after promulgation of this decree, so that they may be burned lest, be he a cleric or a layman, he be suspected until he is cleared of all suspicion."

John Wycliffe (1382)

John Wycliffe (known as "the morning star of the Reformation", born about 1324) was the first person to translate the complete Bible into the English language in 1382. Wycliffe wanted to give the English speaking people the Bible in their own language. He believed that it was a Book which should be studied by ALL CHRISTIANS. He clearly saw that God's Word was the indispensable bread of life, and that it must be rendered in the language of the people, and made known everywhere as God's good news of salvation.

The New Testament was completed in 1382. Much of the Old Testament was done by his friend Nicholas de Hereford, but Wycliffe did some of the work as well, completing it at least a year before his death in 1384.

Since the printing press had not yet been invented, and these Bibles had to be hand copied, much time and effort was involved in their production. Some of the copies were pocket size, and were intended for ordinary folk and for daily use.  They were very expensive, since it took a copyist months to produce one copy.  Foxe records that a whole load of hay was paid for the loan of a single New Testament for an hour a day.

Wycliffe died from a stroke in 1384. Thirty years later, in 1414, the reading of the English Scriptures was forbidden, and those who were caught reading the Bible in English could lose their land and possessions and even their life. The Church Council of Constance declared that Wycliffe was a heretic (even though he was already dead). Wycliffe's only crime was that he wanted to put the Bible into the hands minds of the English people. In 1428, over forty years after his death, his bones were dug up, his remains were burned and his ashes were thrown into the river Severn.

Cisneros (1490)

In 1490 a number of Hebrew Bibles and other Jewish books were burned at the behest of the Spanish Inquisition. In 1499 about 5000 Arabic manuscripts—all that could be found in the city—were consumed by flames in a public square in Granada, Spain, on the orders of Cardenal Ximénez de Cisneros, Archbishop of Toledo and head of the Spanish Inquisition

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_book-burning\_incidents

### Tyndale (1526)

Tyndale had thrown in his lot with the Reformers and was highly critical of the Church structure in England. We could concede that the established church in England had no real case for objecting to a Bible in English, except perhaps on the traditional view that it was unhealthy for people to actually read the Bible for themselves. However, church officials also objected to the virulent commentary that Tyndale’s New Testament contained. This gave the high clergy the rationale to condemn Tyndale and seize copies of his translation.

Tyndale was aware of the dangers of embarking on the translation project he was contemplating. However, he was convinced that the common people must be able to read the Bible in order to be called back to the biblical gospel. In one debate with a cleric, he vowed that if God spared his life, he would see to it that the plowboy would know more about Scripture than untutored priests.

Tyndale first approached Bishop Tunstall of London in 1523 to request permission to translate the Bible into English. He hoped that the bishop would both authorize his translation work and also provide him with a residential chaplaincy so he could support himself financially during his project. The bishop denied both requests and suggested Tyndale look for employment elsewhere.

The next year Tyndale decided to go to the Continent, where with the support of a group of British merchants, he completed his translation of the New Testament. Tyndale found a printer in Cologne, but opponents raided the printing establishment. Escaping with the pages that were already printed, he headed to Worms, Germany, where his full New Testament in English was printed in 1526. The first printing of 6,000 copies was then smuggled into England.

Church officials in England, especially in London, did everything they could to intercept copies of Tyndale’s New Testament and destroy them. But copies kept appearing, to the chagrin of Bishop Tunstall. He hit upon the idea of buying up as many copies as possible within his diocese and then destroying them. Once he accomplished his aim, the bishop held a public burning of these New Testament copies at St. Paul’s cathedral.

Despite this campaign against Tyndale’s New Testament, new copies kept appearing in England. Tunstall then conceived of a plan to buy up large numbers of copies on the Continent before they made their way to England and then destroy these as well. The bishop made an agreement with a merchant in Antwerp, Belgium, Augustine Packington, to buy all of Tyndale’s remaining printed New Testaments.

Tyndale was made privy to this plot and readily agreed to sell the copies. He would use the money he received to publish a new edition and have even more copies to distribute. The bishop’s plot was foiled. In the words of one Edward Halle, a chronicler of the times: "And so forward went the bargain: the bishop had the books, Packington had the thanks, and Tyndale had the money."

He was tried for heresy and treason in a ridiculously unfair trial, and convicted. Tyndale was then strangled and burnt at the stake in the prison yard, Oct. 6, 1536. His last words were, "*Lord, open the king of England's eyes.*" This prayer was answered three years later, in the publication of King Henry VIII’s 1539 English “Great Bible”.

http://www.greatsite.com/timeline-english-bible-history/william-tyndale.html

God’s Providence - **SLIDE**

The invention of the printing press in 1450 made it possible to print books in large quantities. The first book printed was the Bible. Since then, the Bible has been read by more people and printed more times than any other book in history. By 1930, over one billion Bibles had been distributed by Bible societies around the world. By 1977, Bible societies alone were printing over 200 million Bibles each year, and this doesn’t include the rest of the Bible publishing companies.

Bloody Mary (1555)

The ebb and flow of freedom continued through the 1540's...and into the 1550's. After King Henry VIII, King Edward VI took the throne, and after his death, the reign of Queen “Bloody” Mary was the next obstacle to the printing of the Bible in English. She was possessed in her quest to return England to the Roman Church. In 1555, John "Thomas Matthew" Rogers and Thomas Cranmer were both burned at the stake. Mary went on to burn reformers at the stake by the hundreds for the "crime" of being a Protestant. This era was known as the Marian Exile, and the refugees fled from England with little hope of ever seeing their home or friends again. During their exile, they produced the famous [1560 Geneva Bible](http://greatsite.com/facsimile-reproductions/geneva-1560.html) which was "The Bible of the Protestant Reformation".

http://www.greatsite.com/timeline-english-bible-history/queen-mary.html

Pope (1624)

Martin Luther's German translation of the Bible was burned in Catholic-dominated parts of Germany in 1624, by order of the Pope – part of the exacerbation of Catholic-Protestant relations due to the Thirty Years' War, then in its early stages.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_book-burning\_incidents

Archbishop of Salzburg (1731)

In 1731 Count Leopold Anton von Firmian – Archbishop of Salzburg as well as its temporal ruler – embarked on a savage persecution of the Lutherans living in the rural regions of Salzburg. As well expelling tens of thousands of Protestant Salzburgers, the Archbishop ordered the wholesale seizure and burning of all Protestant books and Bibles.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_book-burning\_incidents

Voltaire (1776)

In France, Francois Marie Arouer—popularly known by his pen-name, Voltaire—produced several volumes brimming with hatred for the Bible. No one in Europe did as much to destroy faith in the Word of God as Voltaire. France rejected the Scriptures, tied a copy of the Bible to the tail of a donkey, and dragged it through the streets to the city dump, where it was ceremoniously burned. https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/31-holy-scriptures-indestructible-the

Voltaire, boastfully proclaimed, "*one hundred years from now the world will hear no more of the Bible.*" Yet, in the year of his boast, the British museum purchased a manuscript of the Greek New Testament for $500,000 while the first edition of Voltaire's new book sold for eight cents a copy! Furthermore, fifty years after the death of Voltaire, Bibles were being printed by the Geneva Bible Society in the very house where Voltaire lived and on his own printing press!

State atheism

State atheism is the official promotion of atheism by a government.

State promotion of atheism first came to prominence in Revolutionary France (1789-1799). Revolutionary Mexico followed similar policies from 1917, as did Marxist–Leninist states. The Russian Soviet Union (1917–1991) had a long history of state atheism. The trend became especially militant during the middle Stalinist era from 1929 to 1939. North Korea is a modern example. Individuals caught with Bibles, Qurans, icons, or other religious objects faced long prison sentences or death. 80 people were executed in North Korea in 2013, some for possessing bibles.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State\_atheism

Mid-20th century

A patient in an American hospital in Turkey was given a Bible. When dismissed from the hospital, he took the Bible back to his hometown in Turkey and proudly showed it to his friends. A muslim teacher\* snatched it from him, tore out its pages and threw them into the street. The young man was afraid to pick them up. A passing grocer, however, did and took them and used them for wrapping paper. Before long, they were scattered all over the town. His costumers read the pages and returned to him for more. In a few days the entire Bible was distributed to interested readers. When a Bible salesman came to town, he was surprised to find a hundred people eager to purchase the Word of God!

Banning of 10 Commandments (2005)

In 2005, a divided Supreme Court struck down Ten Commandments displays in two Kentucky courthouses, but ruled a 6-foot granite replica on state government land in Texas is acceptable.

The interest in the cases was boosted by former Alabama Justice **Roy Moore**'s battle to keep a giant, 5,300-pound granite replica of the commandments in his courthouse. On Nov. 13, 2003, a judicial panel banished him from the bench because he defied a federal court order to remove the tablets.

http://www.foxnews.com/story/2005/06/28/supreme-court-bars-commandments-from-courthouses/

US Military (2008)

In 2008 American troops confiscated, threw away, and burned God’s Word at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. The Bibles were written in the Pashto and Dari languages, and the Defense Department was concerned the books might somehow be used to convert Afghans.

The incident became public in 2009. Lt. Col. Mark Wright told CNN such religious outreach could endanger American troops and civilians because Afghanistan is a “devoutly Muslim country.”

But there was another reason the Bibles were confiscated. Military rules forbid troops from proselytizing in the country.

“The decision was made that it was a ‘force protection’ measure to throw them away because, if they did get out, it could be perceived by Afghans that the U.S. government or the U.S. military was trying to convert Muslims,” Wright said in the interview.

So that might explain why the Bibles were confiscated and thrown away, but why burn the Holy Scriptures?

Lt. Col. Wright explained to the news network that troops at posts in war zones are required to “burn their trash.”

http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2012/03/02/day-us-military-burned-bible-in-afghanistan/

"Men have died on the gallows for reading it, and have been burned at the stake for owning it. Tortures too fiendish to describe have been visited upon delicate women and tender children for looking on its pages. Yet in spite of the strongest forces that Hell could unleash and in the face of the animosity of tyrants and despots, there are more Bibles in the earth today than there are copies of any other book ever written by the hand of man!" (Rimmer, op. cit. p. 15).