

The Word Of God Through The Ages

Introduction. Christians are people of the Book. Even the Qur'an refers to us in that way. We have a fantastic blessing in having the word of God so readily available to us. In the days when Samuel was a boy, the inspired historian said, "The word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision" (1 Samuel 3:1). The KJV's word "precious" meant that it was rare in those days. It will be useful to us to trace the word of God through the ages to see how we consider it.

I. A Despised Book

- A. In the days of Samuel (Judges 21:25).
- B. The Lord warned not to despise the book, and promised blessings if one would only listen (Numbers 15:30-31; 2 Samuel 12:9-10; Proverbs 1:7, 30; Amos 2:4).

II. A Forgotten Book

- A. In the days of Josiah (2 Chronicles 34:14-21).
- B. God will punish those who turn away from the book, but the one who follows it will have success (Isaiah 5:24; Hosea 4:1; Joshua 1:8; Hebrews 2:1).

III.A Rejected Book

- A. In the days of Malachi (Malachi 2:5-8).
- B. For those who remember God's law, God will give repentance to the truth (2 Chronicles 15:1-4; Hosea 4:6; Acts 16:17; 2 Timothy 2:24-25).

IV. A Replaced Book

- A. In the days of Paul (2 Timothy 4:1-4).
- B. The word of the Lord lasts forever, so we have no right to replace it (2 Samuel 22:31; 2 Timothy 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:24-25).

V. A Forbidden Book

- A. In the days of the Inquisition (Deuteronomy 17:19).
- B. Searching and learning the Bible is the way God planned (Luke 10:25-26; John 5:38-39; 6:44-45; Acts 17:11; 1 Timothy 4:13).

VI. A Mutilated Book

- A. In modern days (Proverbs 30:5-6).
- B. The ways of the Lord are always right, and we are blessed if we follow them and do not change them (Hosea 14:9; Galatians 1:6-8; Revelation 22:14).

Conclusion. None of these are really any better or less offensive than the others. For example, forgetting the book is just as bad as mutilating the book. The blessed man is the one who delights in and meditates on the word of God (Psalm 1:2). How will you look at the greatest book ever written?