

The Bible's Influence

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The Bible: Civilization's essential book

By DAVID KEENE

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

It was 1952 and as a seven year old who had a Sunday School perfect attendance record for a year, I was presented with my very own King James Bible. I still have it and still refer to it.

I wasn't able to make my way through it at seven, but after a few years I decided it was time to read every word and digest as much of it as possible. Millions of others like me had done the same since the first versions of what we know today as the "Holy Bible" were put together by disciples of Jesus Christ and those who

knew him some years after his death.

Those early authors were, it is believed by Christians and Jews alike, recording the word of God for the benefit of mankind. The written Bible was needed as Christianity spread and as those who had known Jesus themselves died off. For centuries, biblical texts were laboriously copied by hand by monks to preserve and spread the word until the mid-15th century when moveable type was invented and the Gutenberg Bible appeared in 1454. Since then some six billion Bibles have been printed, distributed and devoured by Christians the world over.

Tyrants, ancient and modern, have tried over centuries to burn them, deny the Bible's content and suppress those who believed with Thomas Aquinas that "The author of Holy Scripture is God."

Christians were sentenced to Stalin's Gulag for distributing Bibles, killed by Mao's troops for spreading its words and are today beheaded, tortured and burned alive in parts of the world for doing the same. But the words of the Bible have never been stamped out or its influence diminished. It is not only the most widely published and read book in the history of the world, but the most influential.

Intellectuals, historians and philosophers can argue about whether it was God's words that its more than forty authors transcribed or which version and/or translation of those words is accurate. But believing Christians and Jews believe to day as they have for centuries that God either virtually dictated the book to its authors. Orthodox Jews believe for instance that the first five books of

the Old Testament, known to them as the Torah, came into existence or were inspired to their authors to accurately reflect God's words.

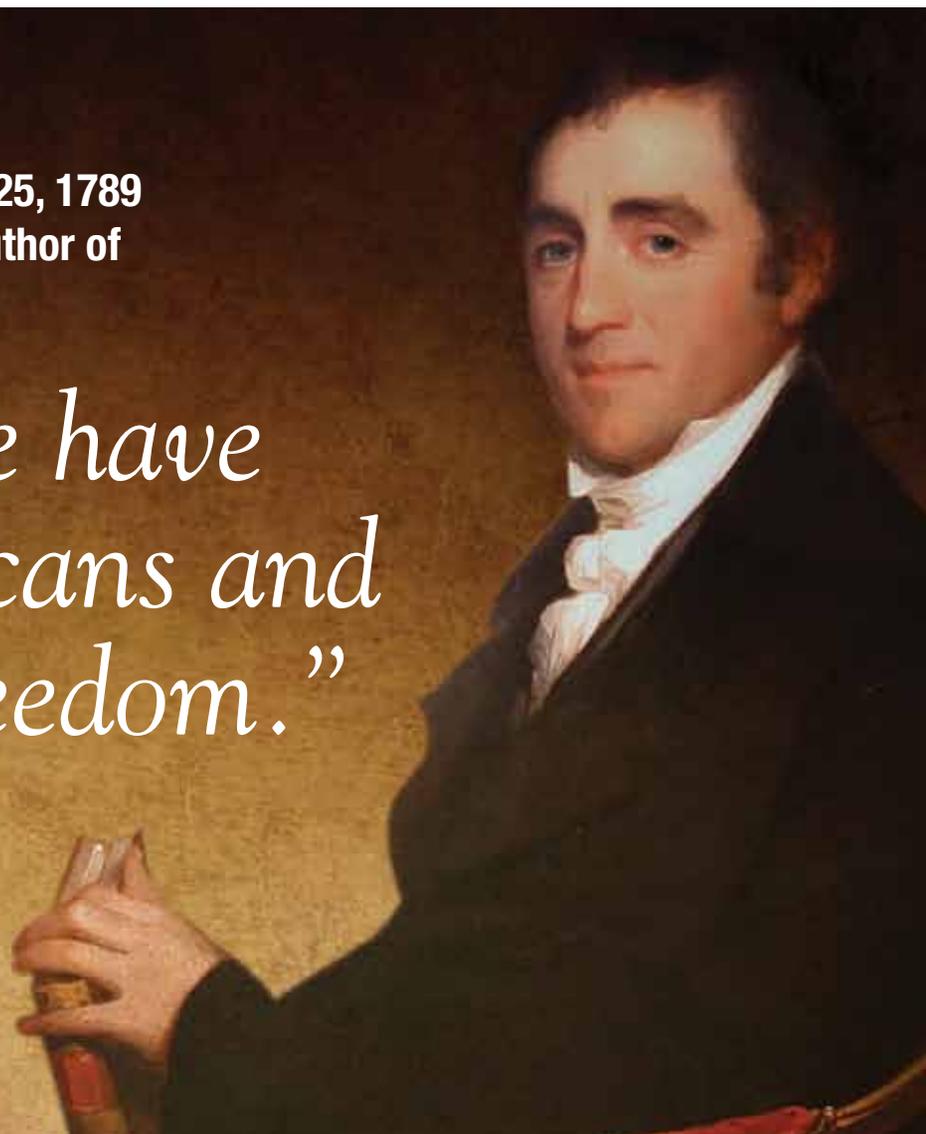
In this country secularists have tried to drive religion and the Bible from the public square. But try as they might, even today young people seem to have an unquenchable thirst for this book written so long ago. Today something like 10 percent of the student body at Princeton attends voluntary bible study classes at least once a week, and students at dozens of other colleges and universities are doing the same.

Regardless of one's beliefs, no one can deny the influence of this one book on human history nor dismiss its value either as literature or as a guide to a better world.

Upon arriving at the First Congress on March 25, 1789 in New York, my ancestor, Fisher Ames, the author of the First Amendment asked,

“Why is it that we have six million Americans and only 600 want freedom.”

This nation would not have survived if it were not for God’s intervention. He is a God who can heal this nation. Everyone needs healing in our nation.



We need a return of Christian ethics and morality in schools, thus giving hope and direction to our children (suicide rates for our youth are staggering). Morality and honor must be taught in our educational systems. God must not be abandoned in our schools. A federal government controlling education with common core, teaching our children socialism, and removing God from schools, robs morality from our youth. The people are losing faith in what their government represents.

Our enemies know that if we remove God from our history, they can destroy us. We must not allow our enemies to remove God from our educational system or our government.

Our founders put symbols of God on our monuments, our money, and in our constitution to remind us never to stray from those original foundations.

We must never give in. We must never surrender! Every time we budge, our enemies chip away at our freedoms. We must stay the course!

Today we need our churches to be more involved in saving our nation. Churches also need to be talking politics and winning elections for God.

We are a Christian nation in a dangerous world. If our churches were more involved, conservatives could win elections almost every time. If our pastors would stand tall with courage in our

churches, and if the people and the churches together would stand up against this barrage of contrived political correctness and stand up for God, we could be victorious as a nation.

Fisher Ames also said, “We have but a slender hold of our virtues; they ought therefore to be cherished with care and practiced with diligence. He who holds parley with vice and dishonor is sure to become their slave and victim. The heart is more than half corrupted, that does not burn with indignation at the slightest attempt to seduce it.”

Billy Graham once lit a candle in a stadium in Texas. Then he asked the entire congregation to light candles from the flame of his candle. The whole stadium lit up. Some thought the stadium was on fire.

The pastors and the people must **LIGHT A CANDLE FOR GOD, AND SHOW HIM AND OUR NATION THAT WE REPRESENT GOD!**

This is, and always will be, a Christian nation. Abandon that, and our nation will be no more!

I ask for His Holy Spirit to bless us, our government, our schools and our leaders.

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