

INTRODUCTION

Satan has attacked the word of God from the beginning

- **Gen 2:16-17** And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; (17) but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."
- **Gen 3:1-5** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "***Did God really say,*** 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" (2) The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, (3) but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" (4) "***You will not certainly die,***" the serpent said to the woman. (5) "***For God knows*** that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

He twists God's word and plants seeds of doubt

- "Did God really say?"

He contradicts God's word to make Him out to be a liar

- "You will not certainly die"

He creates an adversarial relationship between us with God

- "For God knows that when you eat it"

The attack on God's word continues to this day and comes from many fronts

ACADEMIA

The last graduating high school class that grew up with the Bible and prayer in the schools is now 72 years old. (class of '62). We have seen 2 generations of children grow up in this environment. The kids who were in 1st grade in 1962 had at least 1 year of Bible and prayer available in school are now 60 years old. Anybody under the age of 60 (unless they grew up in a Christian school or homeschool) grew up with an education that did not include God.

- *{To see the effect of this action take a look at the slides at the end of this chapter.}*

SCIENCE

The following is an excerpt from an article entitled, "**Does modern science repudiate miracles?**"

Scientific explanations of biblical miracles

It is worth pointing out that many of the miracles recorded in the Bible may have somewhat more prosaic [*ordinary*] explanations: [*then the article goes on to explain a few*]

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The Crossing of the Red Sea - in a 2010 scientific study Carl Drews and Weiqing Han of the University of Colorado propose that "wind setdown," namely the drop in water level caused by wind stress acting on the surface of a body of water for an extended period of time, may have been the cause of the drying up of the sea where the ancient Hebrews crossed. Drews and Han argue that the most likely spot of the crossing was a small protrusion of land between the Pelusiac branch of the Nile and the Lake of Tanis (near the modern Lake Manzala). This location would fit the description of a "**Reed Sea**," which is often taken to be a more accurate rendition of the biblical sources than "Red Sea." **Assuming a sandbar existed** at the time, which is a **reasonable assumption**, their computer simulations affirm that an easterly **100-km/hr wind for eight hours** would have driven the water in the Lake of Tanis westward up the Pelusiac branch of the Nile, parting the waters around the peninsula from which Drews and Han assume the crossing may have started.

[My Comment]

- *Hard to imagine how the entire Egyptian army would have drown in the REED SEA*
- *Their calculation requires a 100 km/hr wind for eight hours to push back the water on a sand bar*
- *The LORD pushed back the entire RED SEA - and dried up the ground*

Restoring vision to the blind (Matt. 9:27-30, 20:30-34; Mark 8:22-25, 10:46-51; Luke 18:35-43; John 9:1-25). Restoring vision to the blind has long been considered a quintessential biblical miracle, utterly beyond the capability of medical science. Yet even now many people are wearing glasses and/or contact lenses, or have undergone laser corrective eye surgery, **who otherwise would be "blind" by any reasonable definition** of the term. What's more, numerous research projects are in the works to restore sight to some blind persons, such as those suffering from retinitis pigmentosa or age-related macular degeneration, wherein photoreceptors are damaged.

[My Comment]

- *Are people who wear glasses "blind" by any reasonable definition?*
- *But Jesus did this without the help of glasses, or lasers*

Resurrection and immortality. Many regard Jesus' resurrection as the ultimate in miraculous. There is no space here to thoroughly analyze this topic, either scripturally or otherwise, but it is intriguing to note that **emerging futuristic technology may make this possible without any recourse to supernatural effects.** As Ray Kurzweil has noted, when computer technology is powerful enough, not only will we be able to capture the complete details of a living person's brain, but we will also be able to "resurrect" this person after death in the form of a faithful copy of his/her mind.

[My Comment]

- *Jesus will raise us from the dead with a loud shout*
- *(I am not sure how this will work) When God breathed into Adam he became a living soul... People can be kept "alive" on life support machine, but is the breath of God still there?*
 - *Job 33:4 The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.*
 - *Gen 2:7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*

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Healing a woman's hemorrhage (Mark 5:25-34; Matt. 9:19-22; Luke 8:43-48). In these passages, Jesus heals a woman who had been afflicted with "an issue of blood" for 12 years. Because women undergoing menstruation were considered "unclean" and thus barred from the public, this woman had long been shut out from social contact. Nowadays, this is a medical condition known as menorrhagia and can be treated by a combination of drugs and, if necessary, surgery.

[My Comment]

- *If it is a known condition, there must have been others who were cured by physicians?*
- *This woman went to the physicians over a 12 year period and none could cure here.*
- *But Jesus did it without drugs or surgery¹*

I found another article online that suggested other alternatives for these miracles:

- Sodom And Gomorrah Were Destroyed By A Meteor
- The Apocalypse (i.e. the Book of the Revelation) Was A Mystical Drug Trip
- Cain And Abel Is About Genocide (between Homo Sapiens and Neanderthals)
- Egypt's 10 Plagues Were Caused By Climate Change
- The Garden Of Eden Is About Agriculture (The whole story is a metaphor for humanity abandoning their hunter-gatherer culture.)
- Noah's Flood Was Caused By Melting Glaciers
- The Burning Bush Was On A Volcanic Vent
- Jesus May Have Walked On Ice²

THE VIEW OF SCRIPTURE WITHIN THE CHURCH

Barna Research Group - 2001

- 57% said they believed that works are necessary in order to be saved
- 45% believed Jesus was not sinless
- 44% percent did not believe that the Bible is totally accurate
- 66% percent did not believe Satan to be a real being

A poll conducted by Jeffrey Hadden in 1987 of 10,000 American clergy

They were asked whether they believed that the Scriptures are the inspired and inerrant Word of God in faith, history, and secular matters. The following are the percentages **that said "NO"**

- 95% of Episcopalians
- 87% of Methodists
- 82% of Presbyterians
- 77% of American Lutherans
- 67% of American Baptists

The 1994 Churched Youth Survey

This survey conducted by the Barna Research Group for the Josh McDowell Ministry revealed the following. (Note: over 3,700 youth involved in church activities and who overwhelmingly identified their parents as loving and their family experience as positive participated in the survey.)

- Only 44% asserted that humans are capable of grasping the meaning of truth

¹ <http://www.sciencemeetsreligion.org/theology/miracles.php>

² <http://listverse.com/2014/04/09/10-logical-explanations-for-incredible-biblical-tales/>

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- 57% could not even say that an objective standard of truth exists
- 85% are likely to reason "just because it's wrong for you doesn't mean it's wrong for me."
- Only 29% disagreed with the statement: "When it comes to matters of ethics, truth means different things to different people; no one can be absolutely positive they have the truth."
- Only 38% disagreed with the statement: "Nothing can be known for certain except the things that you experience in your life."

According to pollster George Barna

- Less than 10 percent of American Christians actually possess a biblical worldview
- Two out of three born-again believers assert there is no such thing as absolute moral truth
- Only four out of 10 people are "absolutely committed" to the Christian faith³

False teachers flourish where people reject truth

- 2Ti 4:2-4 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. (3) For the time will come when **people will not put up with sound doctrine**. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of **teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear**. (4) They will **turn their ears away from the truth** and turn aside to myths.
- Mat 24:3-5 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" (4) Jesus answered: "**Watch out that no one deceives you**. (5) For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' **and will deceive many**."
- Mat 24:9-11 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. (10) At that time **many will turn away from the faith** and will betray and hate each other, (11) **and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people**."

CULTURAL MEDIA

The Da Vinci Code

- The success of the Da Vinci Code is astonishing even among today's global marketing machine. It is the fastest-selling adult book in history, staying on the prestigious *New York Times* best-seller list for an amazing 163 weeks – with no end in site. **It has sold over 80 million copies (as of 2003)** (and rising); been **translated into 44 languages**; been lavishly covered by every media vehicle on the planet. On May 19, 2006, a major movie was released on The Da Vinci Code, directed by premier director Ron Howard (Opie from the Andy Griffith Show), and featuring megastar Tom Hanks.

Here are some quotes from the DaVinci Code

- **The Bible is a product of man, my dear. Not of God.** The Bible did not fall magically from the clouds. . . it has evolved through countless translations, additions, and revisions. (Da Vinci Code p.231)

³ <http://www.wnd.com/2002/02/12724/#Jmue6TFdG8H5OcsY.99>

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- The scrolls [Dead Sea] **highlight glaring historical discrepancies and fabrications, clearly confirming that the modern Bible was compiled and edited by men who possessed a political agenda—to promote the divinity of the man Jesus Christ** and use His influence to solidify their own power base. (Da Vinci Code p. 234)
- **More than eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament**, and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. . . (Da Vinci Code p. 231)
- Constantine commissioned and financed a new Bible, **which omitted those gospels that spoke of Christ's human traits** and embellished those gospels that made Him godlike. The earlier gospels were outlawed, gathered up, and burned. (Da Vinci Code p. 234)
- The early Church needed to convince the world that the mortal prophet Jesus was a divine being. **Therefore, any gospels that described earthly aspects of Jesus' life had to be omitted from the Bible.** (Da Vinci Code p. 244)
- The fundamental irony of Christianity! **The Bible, as we know it today, was collated by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great.** (Da Vinci Code p. 231)
- **"the New Testament is based on fabrications"** (Da Vinci Code p. 341)
- **"the greatest story ever told is, in fact, the greatest story ever sold"** (Da Vinci Code p. 267)⁴

While the Da Vinci Code is a novel, it is presented as a "based on historical fact" story. We will find in our later classes that these statements are not true.

The Gnostic Gospel - the "lost books of the Bible"

After the first century of Christianity, two primary divisions developed - the orthodox and the Gnostics. The orthodox Christians held to books we now have in the Bible and to what is today considered orthodox theology. The Gnostic Christians, if they can truly be described as Christians, held a distinctly different view of the Bible, of Jesus Christ, of salvation, and of virtually every other major Christian doctrine. However, they did not have any writings by the Apostles to give legitimacy to their beliefs.

That is why and how the Gnostic gospels were created. The Gnostics fraudulently attached the names of famous Christians to their writings, such as the gospel of Thomas, the gospel of Philip, the gospel of Mary, [sic the gospel of Barnabas, the apocalypse of Peter] etc. The discovery of the Nag Hammadi library in southern Egypt in 1945 represented a major discovery of Gnostic gospels. These Gnostic gospels are often pointed to as supposed **"lost books of the Bible."**⁵

⁴ https://www.biblebelievers.com/watkins_davinci/davinci.html

⁵ <http://www.gotquestions.org/Gnostic-gospels.html>

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The combination of all the above lead a large percentage of our population to have these questions or reach these conclusions about the Bible

- The Bible was written by men
- The Bible is full of contradictions
- How can you know it's God's word?
- The Bible has been changed over time
- Missing books of the Bible have been found
- Science has shown the Bible to be obsolete
- Translations have altered the Bible
- There is no such thing as absolute truth
- Only our translation is perfect.
- The Bible is just a story book
- Anyone can interpret the Bible to make it say anything they want
- Hidden messages and prophecies are concealed in Bible Codes⁶

Why is this attack so important to Satan?

If people don't hear the word they will not be saved

- 2Co 4:4 NIV The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, **so that they cannot see the light of the gospel** that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- Luk 8:5 NIV "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up....Luk 8:11-12 NIV "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then **the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.**
- Rom 15:20-22 NIV It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. 21 Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand." 22 **This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.**
- 1Pe 1:22-25 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. (23) **For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.** (24) For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, (25) but the word of the Lord endures forever." **And this is the word that was preached to you.**
- Rom 10:8-11 NIV But what does it say? "**The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,**" that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will**

⁶ <http://notjustanotherbook.com/seminar.htm>

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be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."

There is terrible judgement for those who do not obey the gospel

- 2Th 1:7-10 ESV and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels (8) in flaming fire, **inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** (9) They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, (10) when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.
- 1Pe 4:16-18 ESV Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. (17) For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, **what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?** (18) And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

WHAT DO WE HOLD IN OUR HANDS?

A book of books - **breathed by God**, yet **written by man who were moved upon by the Holy Spirit**...a book of books **faithfully preserved by God and faithful men** - many of whom have given their lives so the scriptures could be preserved and given to people in their own language.

The God-breathed word of God

2Ti 3:15-17 ESV and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (16) **All Scripture is breathed out by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Yet involving men in the writing

2Pe 1:16-21 ESV For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. (17) For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," (18) we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. (19) And **we have something more sure, the prophetic word**, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, (20) knowing this first of all, that **no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.** (21) **For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

Beyond those who wrote the original scriptures

We owe a debt to the many scribes who painstakingly copied and preserved them (more on these later)

We owe a debt to many who gave their lives to give us the English Bible

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John Wycliffe

The first hand-written English language Bible manuscripts were produced in 1380's AD by John Wycliffe. The Pope was so infuriated by his teachings and his translation of the Bible into English, that 44 years after Wycliffe had died, he ordered the bones to be dug-up, crushed, and scattered in the river!⁷

John Hus (a.k.a. Jan Hus)

John Hus, actively promoted Wycliffe's ideas: that people should be permitted to read the Bible in their own language, and they should oppose the tyranny of the Roman church that threatened anyone possessing a non-Latin Bible with execution. Hus was burned at the stake in 1415, with Wycliffe's manuscript Bibles used as kindling for the fire. The last words of John Hus were that, "in 100 years, God will raise up a man whose calls for reform cannot be suppressed." Almost exactly 100 years later, in 1517, Martin Luther nailed his famous 95 Theses of Contention (a list of 95 issues of heretical theology and crimes of the Roman Catholic Church) into the church door at Wittenberg. The prophecy of Hus had come true!⁸

William Tyndale

All of these courageous men (and there were others, like Miles Coverdale and John Rogers) went through hell and high water—often risking their lives—to bring us the Scriptures in English. And once the Bible in English was sufficiently established, first Britain and later America eventually caused the Word of God to be translated into many other languages—even as the English Bible itself was spread all over the globe.

Tyndale's English version was a Bible born in European exile.

In 1525, Tyndale traveled to Cologne, where a small portion of his English New Testament was first printed by Peter Quentell's press. The actual printing got as far as Matthew 22 before the authorities raided the premises that housed the printing press. But the wary British translator had just departed with copies of what had been completed thus far.

Tyndale fled to Worms, in 1526 and managed to publish 6,000 copies of the "Worms Edition," a pocket-sized rendition of the New Testament, his first complete version including all 27 books.

Cardinal Wolsey ordered Tyndale seized at Worms." But the translator first found refuge in Marburg, and then he decided to move on to Antwerp in Belgium. Here Tyndale completed the translation of the Torah or Pentateuch—the five books of Moses.

Then, early in 1529, this traveling translator boarded a ship bound for Hamburg, Germany. It was on this fateful voyage that Tyndale was shipwrecked somewhere off the coast of the Netherlands. His entire English Pentateuch, freshly translated, perished in the sea. He lost all of his books, and was 'compelled to begin all again anew, to the 'doubling of his labours.' The reference books he will have had to replace include the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, Hebrew grammars and the Septuagint"

Tyndale spent most of 1529 translating the Pentateuch from Hebrew into English—finally finishing it in 1530.

⁷ <http://www.greatsite.com/timeline-english-bible-history/john-wycliffe.html>

⁸ <http://www.greatsite.com/timeline-english-bible-history/john-hus.html>

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In those few years remaining to him, sometime between 1530 and early 1535, Tyndale also translated Joshua, Judges and the six historical books of 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles along with the book of Jonah.

In May of 1535, the authorities finally found and arrested Tyndale in Antwerp, halting his goal of translating the entire Bible into English.

Tyndale's cell was dug under and adjacent to a river—clearly a catalyst for even worse conditions than the Napoleonic prison. Yet he desperately wanted to continue his translating work on the Old Testament even in a dank, damp, dark cell void of any sunlight

On Oct. 6, 1536, at age 42, William Tyndale was affixed to the stake, strangled and then burned.

There is a story that even King Henry VIII of England apparently wanted to spare the translator's life, but Roman Catholic authorities insisted on his execution. Tyndale's last words on the stake consisted of a prayer ***that God would open the eyes of the king of England.***

Tyndale's final prayer was answered only months later when the English-language Bible was finally accepted by the crown. "Within months of Tyndale's martyrdom, a complete English Bible, two-thirds of it Tyndale's work, and licensed by Henry VIII, was circulating in Britain" (Daniell, *The English Bible*, p. 157).

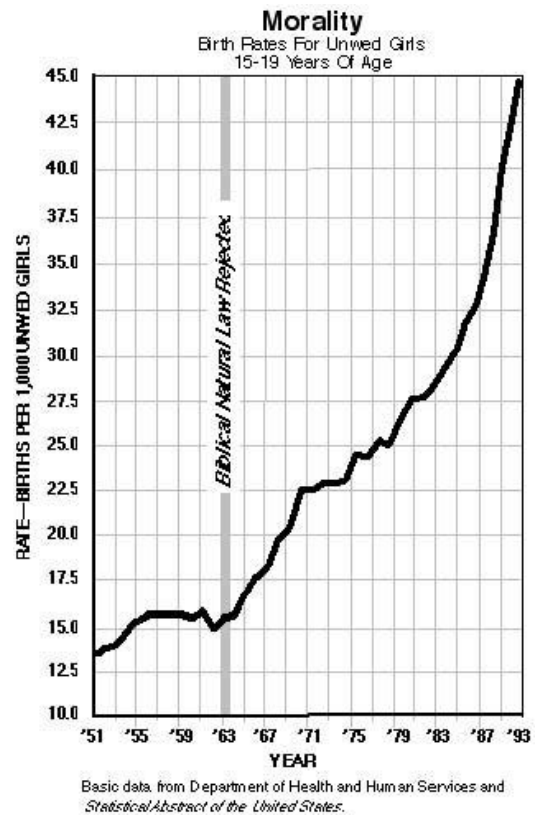
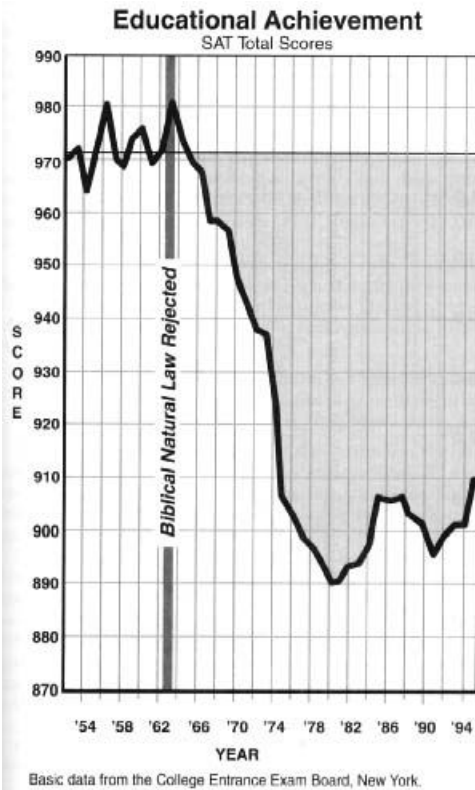
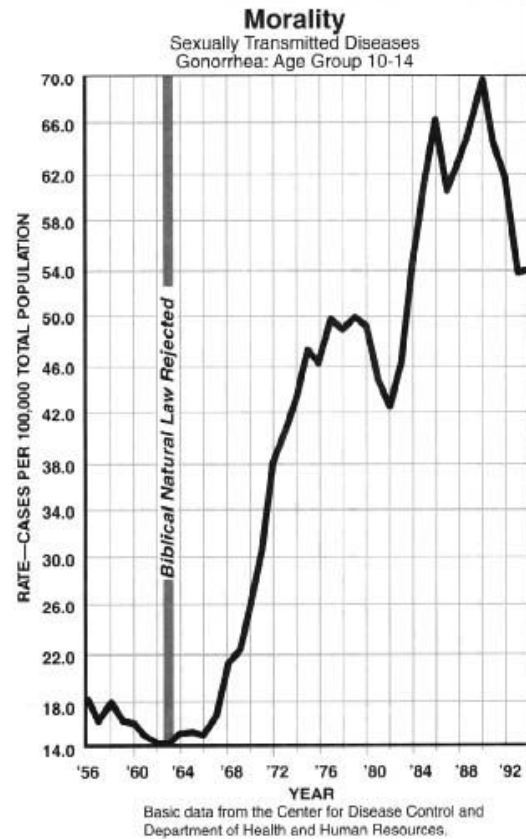
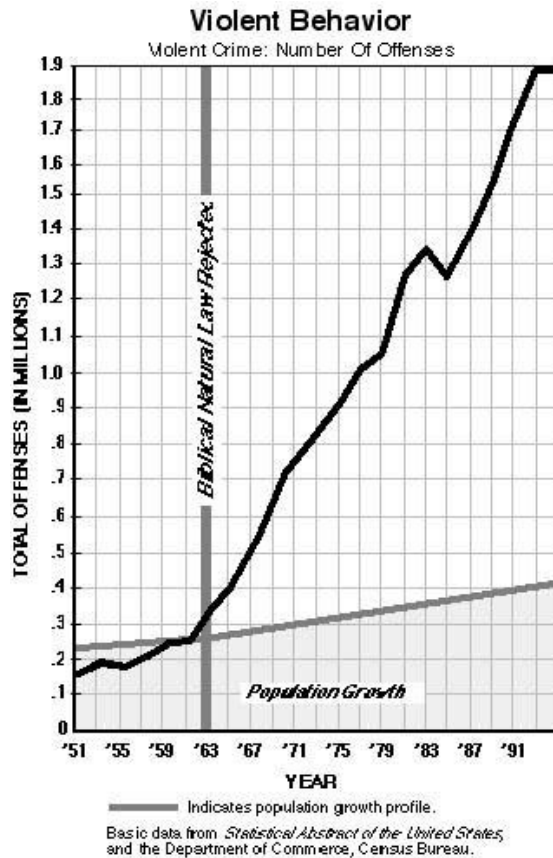
Although Tyndale received no personal credit in the aftermath of his death—and even several centuries afterwards—F.F. Bruce adds: "But when royal policy changed in England ... and the translation of the Bible into English was authorised, the version which won the royal favour and was placed in every parish church in England [able at last to be read by everyone who could read] was basically Tyndale's ..." ⁹

Chinese People Receive the Bible

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNCkBornukk>

⁹ <https://www.ucg.org/the-good-news/william-tyndale-he-gave-his-life-to-give-us-the-bible>

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