

**Thoughts**  
**Holy Writ**  
**Compiled by**  
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Ambrose Bierce () said "Scriptures, n. The sacred books of OUR holy religion, as distinguished from the false and profane writings on which all other faiths are based."  
(Capitalization added.)

Buddha () said: "Believe not because some old manuscripts are produced, believe no because it is your national belief, believe not because you have been made to believe from your childhood, but reason truth out, and after you have analyzed it, then if you find it will do good to one and all, believe it, live up to it and help others to live up to it."

St Dionysius (), commenting on the Book of Revelation, said: "Even if I do not understand, I yet conceive some deeper sense to lie in the words. Not measuring and judging these things by private reasoning but giving the chief right to faith, I have supposed it to be too high to be comprehended by me."

Curtis D. Mac Dougall () said: "There is hardly a book of either Old or New Testament that has not been questioned, either wholly or in part, by some reputable scholar."

Edward Gibbon () said: "The ecclesiastical writers, who, in the heat of religious faction, are apt to despise the profane virtues of sincerity and moderation."

Thomas Henry Huxley (1825-1895) said: "The dogma of the infallibility of the Bible is no more self-evident than is that of the infallibility of the popes."

Robert G. Ingersoll (1833-1899) said: "The inspiration of the Bible depends upon the ignorance of the gentleman who reads it."

John (Albert) Macy () said: "The Old Testament is tribal in its provinciality, its god is a local god, and its village police and sanitary regulations are erected into eternal laws."

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) said: "It is a curious thing that God learned Greek when he wished to turn author - and that he did not learn it better."

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) said: "One does well to put on gloves when reading the New Testament; the proximity of so much impurity almost compels to this... I have searched in it vainly, for even a single congenial trait... everything in it is cowardice, and self-deception."

Thomas Paine (1737-1809) said: "Whenever we read the obscene stories, the voluptuous debaucheries, the cruel and tortuous executions, the unrelenting vindictiveness with which more than half the Bible is filled, it would be more consistent that we call it the word of a demon, than the word of God. It is a history of wickedness that has served to corrupt and brutalize mankind."

Bertrand Russell () said: "So far as I can remember, there is not one word in the Gospels in praise of intelligence."

Preserved Smith () said: "There can be no doubt that the Bible... became a stumbling-block in the path of progress, scientific, social, and even moral. It was quoted against Copernicus, as it was against Darwin."

Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947) said: "The total absence of humour from the Bible is one of the most singular things in all literature."

Ralph Hodgson () said: "The handwriting on the wall may be a forgery."

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