

Quotes about the Bible from World Leaders

Matthew Arnold:

“To the Bible men will return; and why? Because they cannot do without it.”¹

“For our race, as we see it now and as ourselves we form a part of it, the true God is and must be pre-eminently the God of the Bible, *the eternal who makes for righteousness*, from whom Jesus came forth, and whose Spirit governs the course of humanity.”²

John Calvin:

“The Lord does not shine upon us unless we see by his Word as our light.”³

“[U]nless God’s word illumine the way, the whole life of men is wrapped in darkness and mist, so that they cannot but miserably stray.”⁴

Charles Dickens:

In 1868, Charles Dickens wrote to his youngest child who was leaving for Australia: “I put a New Testament among your books for the very same reasons, and with the very same hopes, that made me write an easy account of it for you, when you were a little child. Because it is the best book that ever was, or will be, known in the world; and because it teaches you the best lessons by which any human creature, who tries to be truthful and faithful to duty, can possibly be guided.”⁵

Charles Spurgeon:

“Many books in my library are now behind and beneath me; I read them years ago, with considerable pleasure; I have read them since, with disappointment; I shall never read them again, for they are of no service to me. They were good in their way once, and so were the clothes I wore when I was ten years old; but I have outgrown them, I know more than these books know, and know wherein they are faulty. Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years.”⁶

¹ Arnold, Matthew. Literature & dogma, an essay towards a better apprehension of the Bible: Macmillan and Co: New York, 1873. Page 340.

² Arnold, Matthew. Literature & dogma, an essay towards a better apprehension of the Bible: Macmillan and Co: New York, 1873. Page 386.

³ Calvin, John. Commentaries by John Calvin. Joseph Haroutunian, gen. ed. The Westminster Press: Philadelphia, 1958.

⁴ Calvin, John. John Calvin’s Commentary on the Psalms. Vol. III. Oxford: Printed by D. A. Talboys for Thomas Tegg, 1840.

⁵ Forster, John. The Life of Charles Dickens. Vol. III. J. B. Lippincott & Co: Philadelphia, 1874. Page 484.

⁶ Spurgeon, Charles Haddon. The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit. Vol. XVII. Passmore & Alabaster: London, 1872. Page 598.

Martin Luther:

“A man’s word is a little sound, that flies into the air, and soon vanishes, but the Word of God is greater than heaven and earth, yea, is greater than death and hell, for it forms part of the power of God, and endures everlastingly...”⁷

Pope Gregory the Great (540-604):

“Holy Scripture is a stream of running water, where alike the elephant may swim, and the lamb walk without losing its feet.”⁸

William Gladstone:

“If I am asked what is the remedy for the deepest sorrows of the human heart—what a man should chiefly look to in his progress through life, as the power that is to sustain him under trial and enable him manfully to confront his afflictions—I must point to something very different; to something which in a well-known hymn is called ‘The Old, Old Story.’ It is this ‘Old, Old Story,’ told of in an Old, Old Book, and taught with an old, old teaching, which is the greatest and best gift ever given to mankind, a gift carrying with it, and imposing upon all alike the most solemn trust and responsibility arousing at once the fondest recollections of the past and the brightest hopes of the future.”⁹

“The Bible is stamped with a Specialty of Origin, and an immeasurable distance separates it from all competitors.”¹⁰

John Locke:

“Let him study the holy Scripture, especially in the New Testament. Therein are contained the words of eternal life. It has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.”¹¹

“It [the Bible] is all pure, all sincere; nothing too much, nothing wanting; but such a complete Rule of Life, as the wisest Men must acknowledge, tends entirely to the Good of Mankind, and that all would be happy, if all would practice it.”¹²

Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727):

“We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever.”¹³

⁷ Luther, Martin. The Table Talk of Martin Luther. William Hazlitt, trans. and gen. ed. H. G. Bohn: London, 1857.

⁸ Quoted by Martin Luther in Table Talk. Luther, Martin. The Table Talk of Martin Luther. William Hazlitt, trans. and gen. ed. H. G. Bohn: London, 1857.

⁹ Bullock, Rev. Charles. “The Land We Love: William Ewart Gladstone, a Non-Political Tribute.” Home Words Publishing Office: London. Page 8.

¹⁰ Gladstone, W. E. “Later Gleanings.” Charles Scribner’s Sons: New York, 1897. Page 364.

¹¹ Locke, John. “An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Vol. I.” Thomas Tegg: London, 1828. Page xxxiv.

¹² Locke, John. “The Works of John Locke, Vol. II.” Printed for Arthur Bettesworth: London, 1727. Page 536.

¹³ Philip Nicholas Shuttleworth. *The consistency of the whole scheme of revelation with itself and with itself and with Human Reason*. New York: J. & J. Harper, 1832, page 108.