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## The Greatest Proof of All

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# BIBLE STUDY



by Harold L. Willmington

## The Greatest Proof of All

**“H**ow can you be so sure the Bible is really the Word of God?” How often has this question been directed to Christians by the unsaved? We could point to many proofs, of course, including the historical, scientific, and prophetic accuracy of the Word of God, or its amazing unity, and so forth. But the greatest single proof is the wonderful power of the Bible to change corrupt humanity!

A socialist once stood on a soap box in New York and, pointing to an old ragged man, proudly announced, “Socialism will put a new suit of clothes on that old man there.”

As he stepped down, a Christian mounted the box and proclaimed, “The Bible will put a new man in that old suit of clothes there.”

An atheist once sneeringly asked a new convert, “Do you believe Jesus actually turned water into wine?” The convert answered: “Yes, I believe He did! But let me tell you something. For years I was a hopeless drunkard. All my money went for booze. But then God’s Word gripped my soul, and I’m here to say that Jesus performed an even greater miracle, for He turned wine into milk for my children!”

Probably there is no more sensational example of the life-transforming power of the Bible than the unbelievable story of *Mutiny on the Bounty*. In 1887 the *Bounty*, under Captain Bligh, set sail for the island of Tahiti in the South Seas. After a voyage of 10 months, the ship arrived at her destination; a further six months were spent collecting palm sapplings. The sailors meanwhile had become so attached to the native girls, that upon receiving the order to embark, mutinied, set the Captain and a few men adrift in an open boat, and returned to the island. Captain Bligh, however, survived his ordeal and eventually arrived home in England.

A punitive expedition was sent out, which captured 14 of the mutineers. But 9 of them had transferred to another island, where they formed a new colony. Here, in the language of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, they degenerated so fast and became so fierce as to make the life of the colony a hell on earth. The chief reason for this was the distillation of whiskey from a native plant. Quarrels, orgies, and murders were a common feature of their life.

Finally all the men except one were

killed or had died off. Alexander Smith was left alone with a crowd of native women and half-breed children. Then a strange thing happened. In a battered chest, he found a Bible. He read it, believed it, and began to live it. Determining to make amends for his past evil life, he gathered the women and children around him and taught them too. Time rolled on. The children grew up and became Christians. The community prospered exceedingly.

Nearly 20 years later an American ship visited the island and brought back to Europe and England word of its peaceful state. The British government took no further action. There was no need. The island was a Christian community. There was no disease, no insanity, no crime, no illiteracy, and no strong drink. Life and property were safe, and the moral standards of the people were as high as anywhere in the world. It was a veritable Utopia on a small scale. What had brought about this astounding transformation? Just the reading of a book, and that book was the Bible. □

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