



ERASING HISTORY

In the social upheaval of our day, we are witnessing attempts to remove, vandalize, or destroy artwork, advertising, statues, monuments, and other such items that are devoted to our country's history. Many in their zeal to correct the historical record and absolve the past of its errors have felt it necessary to take such action. Can history be truly erased in this way?

Such actions are not new. Attempts have been made in past ages to erase history. Take ancient Egypt for example:

“Queen Hatshepsut, a prolific builder who was regent for her stepson, Thutmose III, was almost obliterated from history after he ascended the throne in the 15th century B.C. Thutmose, and then his son Amenhotep II, systematically removed her image from monuments, reliefs, statues, cartouches and the official list of Egyptian rulers, perhaps in an effort to underline their own legitimacy.

“Egypt wasn't alone in this. The destruction of images by government decree in the Roman world is called “damnatio memoriae.” Such a decree meant that the name of the damned was scratched (oftentimes conspicuously) from inscriptions, his face chiseled from statues and the statues themselves often abused as if real persons, frescoes of his likeness painted over, his wax masks banned from being paraded in funerals, coins with his image defaced, his writings sometimes destroyed and his wills often annulled.” (*Sarah E. Bond, Erasing the Face of History, nytimes.com/2011/05/15/opinion/15bond.html*)

This is similar to the destruction of historical sites in the Middle East in recent times by ISIS. One writer states that “the deliberate destruction of artworks was a way of counteracting the cultural and political power of an image” (*Sarah Cascone, news.artnet.com/exhibitions/why-noses-are-missing-from-egyptian-sculpture-1494550*)

The Bible gives no support to those who would destroy or rewrite history. Both the good and bad of people in the Bible is presented for all to read and learn. **Hebrews 11** contains a list of people of faith, some of whom also had significant faults in their lives. Should we blot out the names of those who got drunk (Noah), lied (Abraham), or engaged in sexual immorality (Rahab and David)? These persons are honored not for their faults, but for their good testimony obtained through faith (v. 39).

Shall we erase from the Bible the names of all persons who were oppressors, rapists, murderers, idol-worshippers, and slaveholders? This would set our human reasoning against the wisdom of God. Even those who spoke and acted wickedly need to be remembered so that we will learn how not to live.

Let God teach you what is moral and right, and then use that knowledge to understand the lessons of history. When we try to erase that history, we have already begun to repeat it. *MWG*

Timeless Truths

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Times of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship	9:50 am
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 pm

“Everyone who is of the
truth hears My voice”
– Jesus (Jn. 18:37)