

Attacks on the Word of God have occurred all through the history of the Christian church. In early days pagan writers assailed the Bible, trying to prove that it was a fraud. In 363 A.D. the emperor, Julian the Apostate, used the power of the Roman Empire to attempt to prove that the prophecies made by Christ Himself were false. Such attacks usually came from men outside the church rather than from those inside. Within the last century an important change has occurred, in that a great number of men within the professing church have given up their faith in most of the supernatural teachings of Christianity, and have undertaken to destroy the faith of others. As a result, the churches are facing what is perhaps the greatest crisis in all their history.

The rationalistic attack on Christianity began to make itself strongly felt in the United States more than one hundred and fifty years ago, in the churches that had been established by the Puritan settlers of New England, when a number of these churches began to turn away from the teaching of the Bible and to adopt Unitarian views. Many godly ministers found it necessary to leave their churches, in order to continue to preach the true Word of God. An interesting instance of this is the case of Rev. Abiel Holmes, father of the celebrated author, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, and grandfather of the noted justice of the United States Supreme Court, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. Abiel Holmes was a thorough-going believer in the Word of God. After having been for more than twenty years the pastor of the First Church of Cambridge, Mass., he found it necessary to leave his church, taking not so much as a hymn book with him. All that he had built up through the years had to remain in the hands of the Unitarians, when