

“I’ll Give You Five Minutes to Strike Me Dead!”

2 Peter 3:1-10

Robert Ingersoll was known as “The Great Agnostic.” He was an eloquent and influential advocate for secular humanism in 19th-century America. A lawyer, Civil War veteran, and orator, Ingersoll used his extraordinary public speaking skills to challenge Biblical orthodoxy and to persuade people to question the absolute truths of the Word of God.



After delivering one of his addresses to a sizable audience, Ingersoll pulled his watch from his pocket and said, “According to the Bible, God has struck men to death for blasphemy. **I will blaspheme Him and give Him five minutes to strike me dead and damn my soul.** Those five minutes begin right now!” There was a period of perfect silence while one minute went by; two minutes passed, and people began to get very nervous wondering what would happen. Three minutes passed, and a woman fainted. One could almost cut the tension in the auditorium with a knife. Four minutes slowly passed, and just before the five minutes ended, everyone watched him die of a sudden, massive heart attack!

No, that didn’t happen at all. He snapped his watch shut, put it in his pocket, and said: “You see, I’ve proved there is no God of judgment.” Ironically, he actually proved something else. **He demonstrated how longsuffering God is even to blasphemers!** This story was told later to another famous man named Joseph Parker, who said, “And did this gentleman actually think he could exhaust the patience of God in five minutes?” Later, God really did strike Ingersoll dead in 1899. He died of congestive heart failure. “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:31; consider also Matthew 18:6).

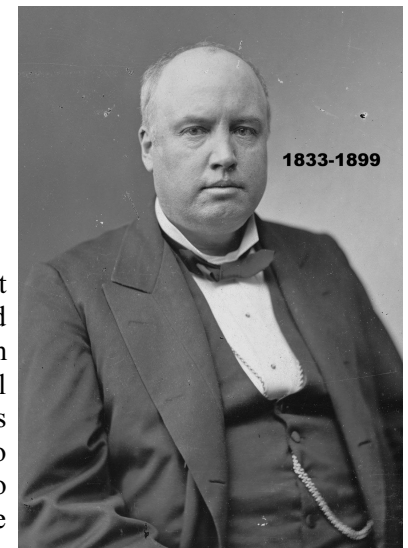
How thankful we should be that God waited, not minutes, but many years for Ingersoll and for each of us, **giving us space to repent** (2 Pet. 3:9)!

For more articles see, <https://middletownbiblechurch.org/inserts/index.htm>

“I’ll Give You Five Minutes to Strike Me Dead!”

2 Peter 3:1-10 7

Robert Ingersoll was known as “The Great Agnostic.” He was an eloquent and influential advocate for secular humanism in 19th-century America. A lawyer, Civil War veteran, and orator, Ingersoll used his extraordinary public speaking skills to challenge Biblical orthodoxy and to persuade people to question the absolute truths of the Word of God.



After delivering one of his addresses to a sizable audience, Ingersoll pulled his watch from his pocket and said, “According to the Bible, God has struck men to death for blasphemy. **I will blaspheme Him and give Him five minutes to strike me dead and damn my soul.** Those five minutes begin right now!” There was a period of perfect silence while one minute went by; two minutes passed, and people began to get very nervous wondering what would happen. Three minutes passed, and a woman fainted. One could almost cut the tension in the auditorium with a knife. Four minutes slowly passed, and just before the five minutes ended, everyone watched him die of a sudden, massive heart attack!

No, that didn’t happen at all. He snapped his watch shut, put it in his pocket, and said: “You see, I’ve proved there is no God of judgment.” Ironically, he actually proved something else. **He demonstrated how longsuffering God is even to blasphemers!** This story was told later to another famous man named Joseph Parker, who said, “And did this gentleman actually think he could exhaust the patience of God in five minutes?” Later, God really did strike Ingersoll dead in 1899. He died of congestive heart failure. “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:31; consider also Matthew 18:6).

How thankful we should be that God waited, not minutes, but many years for Ingersoll and for each of us, **giving us space to repent** (2 Pet. 3:9)!

For more articles see, <https://middletownbiblechurch.org/inserts/index.htm>