

# Bible Day 2021

God's Word Still Changes Lives.



Chinese Gospel of Mark  
Translated by  
Robert Morrison

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## Early Translator of the Chinese Bible

Robert Morrison was born in England and was the first Protestant missionary to China. Although Morrison began to be burdened for missionary work as a young man, his parents opposed this call. He promised his mother he would not go overseas as long as she lived. He was with her throughout her final illness, but was preparing himself for missionary service by studying Latin, Hebrew, Greek, and systematic theology and was eventually trained as a minister. Upon his mother's death, he joined the London Missionary Society and was encouraged on his path to ministry in the Orient.

His arrival in China was in an era when missionary endeavor was prohibited except in a few cities. In fact, the government threatened death to those who would teach the Chinese language to foreigners. Mr. Morrison prayed that God would station him "in that part of the field where the difficulties are the greatest, and to all human appearances the most insurmountable."

In spite of threats made against him and his work, he learned the Chinese language. Along with the translation work he undertook, he also laid the foundation for medical and educational work. His goal was to translate the Bible into the language of the common man, rather than

seeking to reach only the wealthy class of people. His efforts would have an enduring impact on the country and are recognized even today.

While attempting to hide from the Chinese authorities, he met the newly arrived Morton family. Eventually, he married the Mortons' daughter, Mary. Their first child, James, died the same day he was born. Morrison buried the child alone on a mountainside, since his wife was too ill to attend the burial.

Within a few years, his wife had to return to England with their children, leaving Robert to toil alone. She eventually returned, but later succumbed. Another missionary couple who had joined them also lost their lives, leaving Robert to work without human assistance.

Persevering alone in China, Robert compiled a dictionary of six volumes and completed the translation of the entire Bible. Though he saw only a couple of handfuls of people profess Christ as their Savior in the 27 years he labored there before laying down his life for the cause of Christ, one can only imagine how many others came to know Him through the reading of the Chinese Bible. Only eternity will reveal this number

# 圣经

## God's Word Still Changes Lives

Just as the translation work of Robert Morrison changed the lives of people, God's Word continues to do the same today. Without His Word in their own language, people struggle to understand God's truth. They may trust Christ, but without His Word in a language they can easily understand, spiritual growth is very difficult.

If you would like to be involved in the life-changing ministry of Bible translation, you may contact Bibles International at 616.942.7712 or [inbox@biblesint.org](mailto:inbox@biblesint.org).



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