

Foundations of Biblical History
Rev. David Seeley
Lesson 3 Preservation of Scripture

**Preserve: 1. To keep or save from injury or destruction; to defend from evil.
2. To keep or defend from corruption**

(Psalms 12:6-7) The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. (KJV)

(Psalms 119:89) For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. (KJV)

There is a battle raging in our modern times over whether or not we have a Bible that is the same as God gave it to the writers.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Pilate looked Jesus in the face and asked the question, "What is truth?" Many people today are blinded like Pilate. They look into the Bible and wonder "What is truth?"

(Psalms 100:5) For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. (KJV)

The Word of God says His truth will endure to all generations. The true Bible believer knows that the Scriptures are both inspired (God breathed) and preserved (protected forever by God from error). Inspiration and Preservation cannot be separated.

Two opposite philosophies

Faith

Those who believe the Bible will hold to these truths:

1. The Bible **IS** the Word of God. (The book judges man).
2. Jesus Christ **THE** only Begotten Son of God.
3. The birth of Jesus was **SUPERNATURAL**.
4. Man is a product of special **CREATION**.
5. Man is a **SINNER**, fallen away from God, and needs God redeeming grace.
6. Man is saved by FAITH in the atoning blood of Christ.

Modernist Theology (DOUBT)

Those who believe modern doubting theology hold to these lies.

1. The Bible **CONTAINS** the Word of God. (Man judges the book).
2. Jesus Christ is an **ORDINARY** man.
3. The birth of Jesus was **NATURAL**, like any other birth.
4. Man is a product of **EVOLUTION**.
5. Man is the unfortunate **VICTIM** of environment, but can make himself good.
6. Man is saved by good **WORKS**.

Just as Inspiration of the Scripture was a miracle of God, so Preservation of Scripture is also a miracle of God. God has miraculously preserved His Word to every generation as He has promised. This is an ongoing miracle.

Let's look at some of God's promises to preserve His Word.

(Psalms 119:152) Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever. (KJV)

(Psalms 119:160) Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. (KJV)

(Isaiah 40:8) The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. (KJV)

(Isaiah 55:11) So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (KJV)

(Matthew 5:18) For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. (KJV)

(Matthew 24:35) Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. (KJV)

(John 10:35) If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; (KJV)

(1 Peter 1:23) Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (KJV)

(1 Peter 1:25) But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. (KJV)

We have a strange contradiction today: Christians claim to believe the Bible is inspired by God, but they ignore or deny the clear teachings in the Bible that it is also preserved today in as God has promised. There are some important principles we need to understand about preservation of the Bible.

Principle #1. The Starting Point of Apostasy

Word to know: Apostasy=departing from the faith, rejecting or abandoning truth

Rejecting God's clear promises to preserve His Word opens the gate down the road to rejecting everything God has said in the Bible.

When Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden his weapon of attack was to convince her that she did not know for sure what God said. The moment she doubted whether she had God's Word, she easily fell into sin.

(Genesis 3:1) Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, **Yea, hath God said**, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (KJV)

Principle #2. Preservation Must Be Approached with Faith

Everything about the Bible must be approached with faith.

By faith we believe the historic record of Creation, the Flood, the History of Israel, the Prophets, the Gospel, miracles.... Everything we believe about the Bible is an exercise of FAITH.

The teaching of Preservation is NO DIFFERENT.

God said He preserved His Word forever. By FAITH we believe God. If we don't believe God then we become doubters. We then will weaken our faith in everything else the Bible teaches.

Principle #3: Preservation is rooted in the Eternal Plan of God

The very words of Scripture are *GOD's* words. Though He breathed these words to human writers during what we call *time*, His Words were already in God's mind from eternity. His Words are as eternal as He is. Are we now to believe that he would let them pass away?

(Psalms 119:89) For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. (KJV)

Principle #4: Preservation is brought about by Bible Believers

Every Believer of God's Word helps to preserve it to their own generation and the next generation.

The Bible is preserved by faithful, humble servants of God teaching, preaching, and living it out in every day life.

Principle #5: Preservation extends to the actual words of Scripture.

Preservation is verbal. It has to do with the actual words of the Bible. The verses we read at the beginning of this lesson bear witness to that fact.

Advocates of modern versions often say, "There's not a single doctrine missing." But they don't tell you that there are many missing words that weaken the power of Scripture.

Principle #6: Preservation makes it possible for copies of Scripture to still be called Scripture.

These verses are referring to other passages of Scripture that would have only been available as a COPY:

- I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth. Dan. 10:21.
- Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures. Matt. 22:29.
- This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. Luke 4:21.
- He expounded unto them in all the scriptures. Luke 24:27.
- And while he opened to us the scriptures. Luke 24:32.
- That they might understand the scriptures. Luke 24:45.
- They believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said. Jhn. 2:22.
- Search the scriptures. Jhn. 5:39.
- The scripture cannot be broken. Jhn. 10:35.
- The place of the scripture which he read. Acts 8:32.
- And began at the same scripture and preached. Acts 8:35.
- Reasoned with them out of the scriptures. Acts 17:2.
- That from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures. II Tim. 3:15.
- All scripture is given by inspiration of God. II Tim. 3:16.

God has preserved His Word faithfully to every generation. His Word is eternal, unchanging, and preserved forever. In upcoming lessons, we will demonstrate that for the English language, His Word is preserved in the King James Bible.