



+ **YOU**

Summer 2024
Promises We Can Count On

Sermon Title: I Said, 'Fill the Earth!'

To be used with Session 2: God's Promise of Preservation

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9, 2 Timothy 2:13)

Connection with Bible Study: To complement the Bible study "God's Promise of Preservation" this sermon will help listeners understand that to preserve something means to keep it for a long time. As finite creatures bound by time, we can't truly appreciate what forever means. But God exists outside of time, and His promises will endure forever. God will preserve what He loves. God has done that with His Word, and He does it with His people. His promises have been proven in the past, are active in our present, and will endure for all eternity. "The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever" (Isa. 40:8).

Introduction:

When archaeologists first opened King Tut's tomb, they found a three-thousand-year-old jar of honey that was just as sweet and good as it would be if it had been bottled the day before! Because honey is so low in moisture and so high in acidity, microorganisms and bacteria cannot survive in honey, and therefore it can't spoil. [Source: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-science-behind-honeys-eternal-shelf-life-1218690/>] No wonder God's promises are so often compared to honey (see Ps. 19:10, 119:103; Rev. 10:9-10). And don't miss how the promised land is so often described: a land flowing with milk and honey!

Like that honey, God will preserve His people. He has proven it with His people throughout history. He proves it time and time again with what we entrust to Him. And through Christ, He will prove it for all eternity.

1. Proven in the Past (Gen. 6: 7-9, 17-18).

At the heart of the story of Noah is God's commitment to preserve a remnant of His people. God didn't spare Noah because Noah was righteous, but because God showed him grace. This is how salvation works. Noah found grace (Gen. 6:8), and THEN God pronounced him righteous (v. 9).

The ark is actually a foreshadowing of the gospel. God punishes sin. But for those who were inside the ark, the ark itself took the punishment their sins deserved (see Gen. 7-24). But Noah and his family were shut inside the ark by God Himself (v. 16). In the same way, Christ bore the wrath of God our sins deserve, but those who are in Christ are preserved.

Lifeway

God always preserved a remnant of His faithful. When Elijah thought he was the only one of God's prophets left, God reminded him that there were still seven thousand in Israel who had not bowed to Baal (1 Kings 19:18).

The entire Old Testament is really a story of God preserving his people, even when they turned their backs on Him. We can count on God preserving us because of how He preserved His people in the past.

2. Proven in the Present (Matt. 6:19-21).

Every day, God proves He can be trusted with what we entrust to Him. When Jesus gave His Sermon on the Mount, He told His listeners not to lay up for themselves “treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.” Instead, He told them to store up for themselves “treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroy, and where thieves don't break in and steal” (Matt. 6:19-21).

Are we trusting Jesus with our plans? With our finances? With our family's welfare? Time and time again the Lord has proven that He can take care of what we give to Him.

In one of the last letters he wrote, the apostle Paul told his protégé Timothy that even though he was suffering, he was confident that Christ was able to guard what had been entrusted to Him (2 Tim. 1:12). What a great word for all of us who are going through difficult times!

2. Proven for All Time (Ps. 16:1, 10,11; Rev. 21:4-5).

From beginning to end, Psalm 16 is all about how God preserves His people forever. In verse 1, David begged the Lord to preserve him, “for I have taken refuge in you” (v. 1). And in the last two verses, David voiced a prayer of praise and thanksgiving, one that the apostle Peter would apply to Jesus in his sermon on the day of Pentecost: “For you will not abandon me to Sheol; you will not allow your faithful one to see decay” (v. 10). Finally, the psalm ends with David's confidence that in God's presence there will be pleasures *forevermore*. (See also Acts 2:27-28.) Both David and Peter were confident that God would keep His promise to preserve His people, and the resurrection of Jesus sealed the deal!

The Bible concludes with John's vision of a new heaven and a new earth. It will be a place where death will be no more! All of the things that cut life short on earth—pain, disease, sickness, murder, war—will not exist in heaven. Praise the Lord, His saints will endure forever!

Conclusion: Remember that three-thousand-year-old honey we talked about at the beginning of the sermon? Three thousand years is nothing from an eternal perspective! Just as the old hymn says, “every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before.” The sweetness of a relationship with

Jesus will never fade, will never grow old, and has no expiration date. Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus!

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