

GOD'S PRESERVED WORDS

THE BIBLE DOCTRINE OF PRESERVATION

*"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:
but the word of our God shall stand for ever."*

~ Isaiah 40:8

1. The Bible Doctrine of Preservation

- a. Jesus says they could read what Moses wrote far in the past - Matt 22:29-33
- b. Jesus explains how words would be passed to the future - John 17:4-8, 12, 17, 20
- c. Preservation is a firm Bible doctrine (despite blindness of modern 'experts')
- d. Preservation ~def. Keeping safe; keep from injury, destruction, decay, corruption
- e. Preservation describes how inspired scripture came down through history:
- f. If not intact, complete, authoritative, profitable, sufficient, perfect → not preserved.

2. God Promised Preservation

- a. Preservation is a Bible doctrine given by God, necessary and confirmed by scripture
- b. The word forever: Isaiah 40:8, cf. Matt 24:35 and 1 Peter 1:23-25
- c. The words are pure (uncorrupt/preserved): Prov 30:5, Ps 119:140
- d. God's name tied to his words preservation: Ps 146:6, 138:2, 119:89, 152, 160
- e. Preserved to the letter... till the end: Matt 5:18, Lk 16:17, James 2:10
- f. To fulfill his purpose in the future: Mark 1:15, 1 Pet 1:12, Rom 10:17, 1 Th 5:23
- g. Keep ~def. Have and hold; to preserve; care for, protect, guard; attend to, observe
- h. His promises to Israel extend to his word – Psalm 12:6-7, Isa 59:21, John 15:20
- i. Everlasting covenants require preservation – Josh 24:26, Num 25:13, Ps 105:10
- j. God commanded preservation to Israel: Deu 29:9, Ps 119:4, 8, 17, 57

3. Preservation and Israel

- a. Rom 3:1-2 – To Israel was committed the oracles of God; it started/ended w/them
- b. Preservation begins as soon as given by inspiration – not when the book is all done.
- c. How was it preserved? By confession, copying, and keeping commandments
 - i. Exo 17:14 – write it in a book, rehearse it in the ears of Joshua
 - ii. Exo 24:3-7 – He took the book and read it to the people
 - iii. Deu 6:6-9 – They were taught, written on their houses, passed down by law
 - iv. Deu 17:19 – Kings required to make copies for their own guidance
- d. Further inspiration in Israel confirms previous preservation – Ps 19:7-9, 119:99-100
 - i. Hezekiah's men copied Proverbs preserved since Solomon - Prov 25:1
 - ii. Later prophets confirm preservation Dan 9:2, 11, Ezra, Neh, Zech, Mal 2:4-8
 - iii. Jesus required keeping commands – John 5:39, 14:15, 21-24, Lk 11:28
 - iv. Holy Ghost affirms preservation – Acts 7, 8:27-37, 15:21, 17:2

4. God Preserved His Words

- a. 'Inspired by God, preserved by men' rejects God's involvement in preservation
- b. Angels from heaven confirmed and aided in preservation – Rev 22:7-10
- c. Preservation was necessary for judgment, understanding, growth, work, governance
- d. Preservation occurs when men hear the word, eyes opened to it, use it for its intended purpose, recognize its authority and sufficiency for doing the will of God.
- e. How does Paul know *he* will be preserved? 2 Tim 4:18, Answer = 2 Tim 1:12
- f. God promised and participated in the preservation of his words.