C. Printing what had been initially edited for small group to ensure the readability and accuracy of the translation

D. _____[8] to print ("purified seven times" Psalm 12:6) - correcting the mistakes discovered by this small group

E. Mass _____[9] printing of larger quantities to be distributed

F. Distribution ("seed yet in the barn" Haggai 2:19)

Answer Key

1. *Prepared*
2. *Holy*
3. *safe*
4. *Prepared*
5. *Holy*
6. *safe*
7. *Editing*
8. *Revision*
9. *Production*

LESSON TWO DEFINITIONS

Ark of the Covenant: a chest or box containing the Ten Commandments; the most sacred object of the Tabernacle and the Temple in Jerusalem; a place of protection or security

Holy of Holies: the innermost chamber of the Biblical Tabernacle and the Temple in Jerusalem in which the Ark of the Covenant was kept

Levites: the descendants of Levi that were dedicated to the office of the priesthood

Priesthood: the office of a priest; priests collectively

Abomination: intense aversion or loathing; detestation; something that God hates with the most intense hatred.

Manuscripts: the original text; any text not printed

Revision: to alter something already written or printed, in order to make corrections, improve, or update

NATIONAL BIBLE PUBLISHING MONTH

ADULT LESSON 2

GOD'S PLACE

FOR PROVIDING HIS WORD TO EVERY GENERATION

LESSON **TWO**

God's Place For Providing His Word to Every Generation

This lesson looks at two key areas of preservation–the place and the process. Much care was put into both to insure an accurate translation for every generation.

I. The Place of Preserving Then (Deuteronomy 10:1-5).

A. The Scriptures were kept in _____[1] a place.

— Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:10-16)

B. The Scriptures were kept in _____[2] a place.

— Holy of Holies (Exodus 25:21-22; 33:7; Deuteronomy 31:9)

C. The Scriptures were kept in _____[3] a place.

— Priests (Numbers 3:31; 4:4; 18:1-7; Deuteronomy 10:5) They were chosen by God to be the guardians of His precious Word. Not only were they responsible to preserve the text from error, but also to copy it so it could be passed down to future generations.

II. The Place of Preserving Now.

What about today? Who does God work through in this age?

A. The church is a _____[4] place (Matthew 16:18a; Acts 2:47).

B. The church is a _____[5] place (Ephesians 5:27).

C. The church is a _____[6] place (Matthew 16:18b).

1. It is the place from which God's power is manifested (Matthew 16:18b).
2. It is the place where God's people are being motivated (Acts 13:1-2; Hebrews 10:25).

In the Old Testament days, God worked through the nation of Israel. He proved His power, protection, and provision to the surrounding world by working on behalf of the Israelites. His Word became their source of direction and guidance. As they were obedient to His Word, God blessed. When they rejected it or disobeyed it, they were chastised.

III. The Process of Preserving His Word Through the Pen.

A. Accuracy

1. Rules were followed to make sure nothing was added to or taken from the original text.
   (a) Word count per page
   (b) Line duplication
   (c) Total page letter count
   (d) Middle letter test

2. Format to maintain uniformity in the copy (found in The Hebrew Text of the Old Testament by Davidson)
   (a) Each column had to be a minimum of 48 lines and not to exceed 80 lines.
   (b) Each column had to consist of 30 letters.
   (c) No word or letter was to be written from memory.
   (d) The space of a hair or thread must be between every consonant.
   (e) Between every book there had to appear three lines.
   (f) The copyist had to sit in full Jewish dress, and wash his whole body.
   (g) It was to be copied each letter by each letter, not word for word or just sentence by sentence.

B. Accessibility

1. Manuscripts were limited according to how long the originals lasted from being handled.
2. Manuscripts were limited according to the length of time it took for them to be copied.
3. Manuscripts were limited according to the cost it took to produce them. Jewish history reveals that with such meticulous care to detail and accuracy of duplication, the newly copied manuscript was just as accurate and powerful as the one from which it was copied. Opinions, additions, or deletions would never pass through the proofing stage of these writings. This process was followed for centuries.

IV. The Process of Preserving His Word Through the Printing Press.

A. Translated from the original manuscripts into the language to be printed

B. _____[7] (proofing) - looking for mistakes