> We are also granted the privileges of priesthood. We are made to be a royal priesthood, able to go directly to the throne and not have an arbitrator (1 Pt. 2:9; Heb. 4:16).

(From Wilmington's Guide to the Bible)

An appropriate illustration exemplifying the indestructibility of the Word of God is an anvil. It is told that a visitor to a blacksmith shop noticed a pile of discarded hammers, but only one huge anvil. The visitor asked how often the anvil is replaced at which the smith answered, "Never! It is the anvil which wears out the hammers you know!" The hammers of persecution have pounded vicious blows upon the divine anvil of the Word of God. However, they lie in heaps as the discarded hammers in the blacksmith's shop, while the mighty anvil of the Scriptures stands strong. (p. 811)

The renowned philosopher, Voltaire stated, "In another century, there will not be a Bible on the earth." Ironically, after Voltaire's death, his personal printing press (which once produced his own humanistic writings) and his house, were purchased by the Geneva Bible Society and made a depot for Bibles. (813) The Bible that Voltaire and others spurned remains the most widely read and published book in history.

Peter realized that it wasn't enough to just preach the message and see lives drawn to Jesus like at Pentecost. For their lives to grow and become what God would have them to become, they must have the written Word of God to study for themselves even in his absence. In order for the missionary (messenger) to be most effective, we must send him with the message (Word of God).

It is well established that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. God's chain of preservation** requires His people to receive, copy, and to pass on to others what they have been given. The assurance of the next generation** receiving God's Word is only as certain as our generation's** resolve to not become the weak link in God's plan. By your involvement in Bible publishing through *National Bible Publishing Month*, you can be a strong link in passing on God's Word to the next generation**. **How much strength will you lend to the chain of preservation**?**

***– Indicates a defined word within the lesson.*

To see this lesson taught by a Bearing Precious Seed representative, please visit bpsmilford.org/nbpm/resources.

LESSON DEFINITIONS

Generation – A single succession in natural descent, as the children of the same parents; hence, an age.

Illuminate – To enlighten intellectually with knowledge or grace.

Perfection – The state of being perfect or complete, so that nothing requisite is wanting.

Preservation – The act of preserving or keeping safe; the act of keeping from injury, destruction or decay.

Pure – Free from moral defilement; without spot; not sullied or tarnished; incorrupt.

TEACHER NOTES:

NATIONAL BIBLE PUBLISHING MONTH

PRESERVATION

GOD ILLUMINATES A GENERATION

TEEN TEACHER GUIDE 3

LESSON THREE: PRESERVATION

God Illuminates A Generation

You did it! You were able to complete the mission you were given in week 1. You were able to get this urgent, life-altering, important life-or-death message to the entire city! You reached each man, woman, boy, and girl. It took you nearly an entire lifetime, but you did it. However, now you are faced with a problem. Your life is almost over. The people living in this generation had the ability to hear you personally give the message, but with a message this important, don't these folks' children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren need to hear it as well? Their lives will be impacted if they have not this message as well. What do you think would be the most effective way to preserve this message accurately for the generations** to follow?

TEACHER NOTE: (Read 2 Pt. 1:12-21)—This same scenario actually happened in the life of one of the apostles. Peter was an eyewitness of Jesus Christ being the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He had received truths directly from the Lord Jesus Himself, and so had passed them on to others. As long as he was alive, he would personally remind others of these truths (vs. 12). But, his desire was for people to remember them long after his death. He feared the truths would be forgotten after he was gone (vs. 15). The Holy Spirit of God "moved" him to record in writing those truths to enable others to benefit from them for generations** to follow. This account is a real-life application to the doctrine taught throughout the Old and New Testaments.

What had Peter witnessed personally during his ministry? (Read II Pt. 1:12-21, note vs. 16.) Consider how this must have affected the importance of the message he conveyed.

The third piece to God's four-part plan to illuminate** mankind is preservation.** The Holy Spirit of God attests to His inspired message being preserved in many places throughout Scripture.

READ PSALM 12:6-7

In Psalm 12:6-7, the psalmist recorded several doctrinal facts concerning the preservation** of God's Word that had been given through inspiration. How does verse six describe the words of God? ***PURE***** This teaches us that the very words (not just an implied message) are pure**. Each word was given with care and calculation so as to convey exactly what God desired to reveal.

What phrase in verse six indicates the Word of God's absolute perfection**? ***PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES*** There is no more refinement needed by man. There is nothing else that is to be added or taken away from it to increase its value or level of perfection (See Rev. 22:19).

According to verse seven, who ensures the preservation** of God's Word? ***THE LORD***

With such emphasis placed on God's Words being penned and purified to perfection**, does it not seem logical that God would also preserve it? The Lord is the one watching over His Words to see them preserved. Man has tried to destroy it, decimate it, discredit it, and even declare it untrue; nevertheless, it is God Himself who has promised to do the preservation** of His own divinely inspired revelation.

We also see at the end of verse seven, the scope of His purpose. "Generation**" speaks of people. God's preserving work is done so that every individual can hear the same message of His dear Son.

God's promise found in Psalm 12:6-7 rests on two main factors, ***TIME*** and ***TRUST***. The **Time** Factor—God's Word will never expire (*"from this generation for ever"*). It will not be eroded by time nor corrupted by death. The **Trust** Factor—God's Word will never fail (*"this generation*** (people) for ever"*). It will never be affected by circumstances, not changed by opinions, nor overruled by powers.

The Lord records two instances where His originals were written and then destroyed. Shortly after their destruction, God initiates a plan to rewrite His Word.

READ EXODUS 32:15-19; 34:1-4; JEREMIAH 36:2, 27-28

What happened to God's written Word in Exodus 32:19? ***MOSES BROKE THE TABLES UPON WHICH THEY WERE WRITTEN.***

Who was responsible to rewrite God's Word? ***GOD HIMSELF***

What happened to God's written Word in Jeremiah 36:27? ***THE KING BURNED IT.***

Who was responsible to rewrite God's Word? ***JEREMIAH***

For us to have God's Word in our generation, many people had to be involved in this process. Preservation** was done by people protecting, copying, and passing on the portion of Scripture they had received. Multiple copies kept in various places made it impossible for every copy to be destroyed and God's Word extinguished, in spite of multiple all-out efforts by wicked world leaders.

TEACHER NOTE: Preservation** in the Old Testament had been assigned to the Jews (Rom. 3:2). The Kohathite priests were given the responsibility to protect, care for, and copy the Scriptures so that each respective generation would have an accurately preserved copy of the Scriptures (Num. 3:31; Num. 4:4; Num. 18:1-7). Each new king was also given the responsibility from God to make a fresh new copy of the Scriptures (Deut. 17:18-20). If either of them performed their God-given responsibility concerning the Scriptures, not only would their generation** be ensured a preserved, inspired, copy of the Scriptures, but the next generation would have it as their guide and starting point as well. Preservation** in the NT was committed to the believers, the church (Col. 4:16; 1 Pt. 2:5). They were instructed to take what they received, copy it, and pass it on for others as well. This was made possible because, upon salvation, we are all granted by God the right of kingship (Gal. 4:7; Rev. 1:6).