

TEACHER NOTES:

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?

LESSON THREE DEFINITIONS

- 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
- Providence – The care and superintendence which God exercises over His creatures
- Revelation – The act of disclosing or discovering to others what was before unknown to them; appropriately, the disclosure or communication of truth to men by God Himself.



Bearing Precious Seed is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Milford, Ohio



PRESERVATION
GOD ILLUMINATES A GENERATION

LESSON THREE: PRESERVATION

God Illuminates A Generation

A FEW

A PEOPLE GROUP

A GENERATION

THE WORLD

What value would there be in giving mankind a divine revelation, inspiring someone to pen down that divine revealed truth, and then letting what had been written go by the wayside? It would be futile. The Author’s Words would be wasted.

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**: In Psalm 12:6-7, the psalmist recorded several doctrinal facts concerning the preservation of God’s Word that had been given through inspiration. It says, “*The **words** of the LORD are **pure words**: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, **purified** seven times.*” 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. “*Purified seven times*” speaks of its absolute **perfection**. 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 (Rev. 22:19). Verse 7 then says, “*Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt **preserve** them from this generation forever.*” 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. Simply put, in these two verses we see: “*words*”- the **Attributes** being preserved; “*Thou*”- the **Agent** doing the preserving; and “*for ever*”- the **Absoluteness** of His preserving work.

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 New Testament 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). 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).

TEACHER HELPS -ILLUSTRATION

(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. (p.813)

- I. God's **PROMISES** of Preservation Ps. 12:6 - 7
God's promise found in this passage rests on two main factors, **TIME** and **TRUST**.
 - A. Time Factor- God's Word will never **EXPIRE** "from this generation for ever" vs. 7 also Ps.119:152, 160; Isa. 40:8; 1 Peter 1:23-25.
 - 1. Not eroded by time.
 - 2. Not corrupted by death.
 - B. Trust Factor - God's Word will never **FAIL** "this generation (people) for ever" vs.7, Ps. 119:89-91, 111
 - 1. Not affected by circumstances.
 - 2. Not changed by opinions.
 - 3. Not overruled by powers.

- II. God's **PROVIDENCE** in Preservation
The Lord records two instances where His originals were written and then destroyed. Shortly after their destruction, God initiated a plan to rewrite His Word.
 - A. Moses on Sinai
 - 1. Ex. 32:15-16 — First Written
 - 2. Ex. 34:1-4 — Rewritten
 - B. Jeremiah and Jehoiakim
 - 1. Jer. 36:2 — First Written
 - 2. Jer. 36:28 — Rewritten

- III. God's **PEOPLE** for Preservation
For us to have God's Word in our generation, many people had to be involved in this process.
 - A. Preservation was done by people protecting, copying, and passing on the portion of Scripture they had **RECEIVED**.
 - B. 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.
 - 1. Priests - (Num. 3:31; Num. 4:4; Num. 18:1-7)
 - 2. Kings - (Deut. 17:18-20)
 - 3. Church (Christians-Royal priesthood) - (Rev. 1:5-6; Rev. 5:10; 1 Pt. 2:5, 9)

Along with God’s recognition of our royal standing and our priesthood, we are also afforded the rights granted to us of both roles; additionally, we carry the responsibilities of these roles for the generations that follow.