



Section 1: Concerning The Bible (Cont.)

Question 3: Do we possess the Bible today?

Answer 3: Yes! God has promised to preserve His words to all generations.

Memory Verse: **Psalm 12:6-7**

6 The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

7 Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

Support Verses: **Matthew 5:18**

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Discussion Points:

1. According to the Bible, who is responsible for the work of preservation?

- It is God that has promised to preserve His words.
- Never once do we see God taking an inactive or absent roll in the process of preservation.
- To the contrary, in fact, we see God directing the process of preservation, and taking great care as to the details of the process.
- Consider this example of immediate directive preservation from the account of the giving of the Law on Sinai. (Exodus 32:19; Exodus 34:1 & 4; Exodus 34:28 & 29)
- Consider also the account of the destroyed scroll of Jeremiah by Jehudi and ultimately Jehoiakim. (Jeremiah 36:15-22)
- God set the work of preservation in motion, using human instrumentality through Jeremiah and Baruch.
- Then to top it off he not only worked to preserve every word through these men, but actually built upon the revelation originally given.
- One last example of the active roll that God takes in the preservation of His word through Human instrumentality is the fact that He committed His word to the Jews. (Roman 3:1-2)
- The word "commit in this case means to "entrust to the care of" someone.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls (the book of Isaiah specifically) were actually a very revealing testimony to the providential work of God through the Jews in preservation.

2. Discuss the significance of the number "7" as it relates to the purification process.

- The number "7" in scripture is representative of completion or perfection. (Seven Spirits of God, seven Stars,



seven candlesticks, etc.)

- As applied to the principle of preservation it is obvious that we are to assume that the promise of God in preservation is to the perfection, completeness and purity of His words. (Psalm 12:6-7)

3. Discuss the detail with which God is concerned in the process of preservation.

- God is very concerned with detail and precision. We see that throughout the scripture, from the particulars of the priest's garments to the details for offering sacrifices, it is clear that God is very concerned with details.

- His words are no different, as is evidenced by Psalm 12:6-7.

- I believe it is at least a significant point that we see the "words" of the Lord referenced here, and not just the "word."

4. Is this interpretation of Psalm 12:6-7 consistent with the Historical/Grammatical approach to hermeneutics?

- Absolutely! It is consistent with the ancient rabbinical interpretation, but more significant for us is the proper interpretation as we observe the context of the Psalm.

- Notice first, the antecedent of the word "them" is the "words" of the Lord in verse 6.

- Even if you strip it of its literal/grammatical sense and apply the word "them" to the poor and needy of verse 5, the question must be asked, "what is the basis of the preservation of the poor and needy?"

- The answer brings us right back to the very promises (words) of God.

- That being said, however, I believe it is certainly worth pointing out that the contrast being developed in the psalm is between the vain "words" of the wicked and the perfect, pure "words" of God that act as a surety for the oppressed.

Notes:

Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs:

- "God's Word Shall Stand Forever" (Chorus - #180 - Rejoice Hymns)
- "Standing On The Promises" (Hymn - #395 - Rejoice Hymns)