



Scripture Knowledge Institute

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# Inspiration & Preservation



## II) PERSPECTIVES OF PRESERVATION



# A) THE EXPLANATION OF PRESERVATION

- While **all** fundamental churches, Bible colleges, and seminaries address the doctrine of *Inspiration* in their Doctrinal Statements, **very few** address the doctrine of *Preservation*
- Great emphasis is placed on the “inerrant, infallible, original manuscripts”; yet we do not have the original manuscripts today and never will
- If the only inerrant, infallible scriptures were in the original manuscripts, then we have not had the word of God in over 1900 years!
- Inspiration – Preservation = Expiration
- Did the INSPIRED word of God really EXPIRE? If pastors, preachers and professors believe in the doctrine of preservation, then why don't they indicate such in their Doctrinal Statements, and why do they continue making the following statements from the pulpits and classrooms?
  - “this word has been mistranslated by the King James translators...”
  - “this verse is not found in the oldest and best manuscripts...”
  - “the Greek word is....which is better translated...”



# A) THE EXPLANATION OF PRESERVATION

- Did God treat his inspired word like theistic evolutionists believe he treated his creation (i.e.- he SUPERNATURALLY brought it into existence and then left it completely subjected to NATURAL processes)?
- Has it always been part of God's plan for the majority of his children to learn two difficult foreign languages in order to possess, read, understand, and live his word?
- Does the average Christian have to rely on Greek and Hebrew scholars to tell them what the Bible really says?
- Does 3-5 years of Hebrew and Greek qualify a person for translation work, much less the authority to correct the English text?
- If the scholar does not believe we have an inspired, inerrant, infallible text today, then what is his basis for correcting the text of the King James Bible ?  
A teacher without an inerrant, infallible ANSWER KEY has no basis for correcting a student's test
- If the best Bible we have is something a scholar can correct, then the scholar is GREATER than that Bible Cont: (Psa 138:2)



# A) THE EXPLANATION OF PRESERVATION

Preservation = “to keep safe from injury, harm, or destruction; to protect; to keep alive, intact, or free from decay; to keep and reserve for personal or special use”



## B) THE EXTENT OF PRESERVATION

- 1) Preservation extends to the **PHYSICAL PERPETUITY** of the Bible – the Bible is divinely preserved from **DESTRUCTION**
  - a) The Perpetuity of the Old Testament
    1. Caretakers = **THE JEWS** (Rom 3:2)
    2. Levitical Priesthood
  - b) The Perpetuity of the New Testament
    1. Caretakers = **THE CHURCH**
    2. Priesthood of Believers (1 Pet 2:9)



## B) THE EXTENT OF PRESERVATION

- 2) Preservation extends to the **TEXTUAL PURITY** of the Bible - the Bible is divinely preserved from **CORRUPTION**





## C) THE EXPRESSIONS OF PRESERVATION

### 1) Preservation of the Bible as an ENTIRE BOOK

- This view limits preservation to the PHYSICAL PERPETUITY of the Bible
- This view sees all bibles, versions, texts, and translations as ESSENTIALLY the word of God

### 2) Preservation of the Bible as an EXPOUNDED TEACHING

- This view extends preservation to the MESSAGE or MEANING of the words
- This view also sees all bibles, versions, texts, and translations as ESSENTIALLY the word of God



## C) THE EXPRESSIONS OF PRESERVATION

### 3) Preservation of the Bible as an ECLECTIC TEXT

- This view is the most prevalent among “fundamentalists”
- This view extends preservation to the WORDS of the Bible, but these words are in SEVERAL texts and it is up to us to determine which ones
- This view also sees all bibles, versions, texts, and translations as ESSENTIALLY the word of God since they CONTAIN the words of God

### 4) Preservation of the Bible as an EXACT TEXT

- This view also extends preservation to the WORDS of the Bible, but these words are in a SPECIFIC text and the Holy Spirit determines which one
- This view sees the Hebrew Masoretic text and the Greek Textus Receptus as EXCLUSIVELY the word of God
- This view sees all other texts and bibles, versions, and translations not derived from the Masoretic text and Textus Receptus as corrupt (they may contain the word of God but are NOT the word of God)



## C) THE EXPRESSIONS OF PRESERVATION

### 4) Preservation of the Bible as an EXACT TEXT

a) Preservation is limited to the original languages of the exact text

- No translation is inspired (i.e.- “double inspiration”)
- Something is **always** lost in translation
- The King James Bible is a PRACTICAL preservation of the inspired word of God; therefore, it is ESSENTIALLY the word of God

b) Preservation is extended to translations of the exact text

- The translation must be literal – FORMAL equivalence as opposed to DYNAMIC
- The translation must be accurate
- The King James Bible is a PERFECT preservation of the inspired word of God; therefore, it is EQUALLY the word of God