

HAS GOD PRESERVED HIS WORD?

Many will agree that the Bible, as originally given, was a perfect and inspired document. But it is often assumed that the Bible has become polluted with error through additions, deletions, and mistranslations. The burden of proof is upon the one who contends that the Bible is no longer trustworthy. Exactly which parts are incorrect? Is there any real evidence to say that the Bible has not survived in purity? To the contrary, there is every reason to believe that today's Bibles are reliable. In fact, God Himself has promised its eternal preservation. The Apostle Peter has written:

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (1 Peter 1:23-25).

Jude also assures us that the truth would always be available, even in days of apostasy when the vast majority would fall away. Jude 3 states that "the faith" (God's body of truth) ". . . was once delivered unto the saints." In its original Greek the thrust of this clause is crystal clear. The faith was handed over or delivered to the saints just ONCE, a single unrepeatable act. And the verb form indicates that this has already happened in the past at a particular point in time. Furthermore, while some argue that centuries of humanity were deprived of an infallible Bible, Psalm 100:5 boldly heralds the message that ". . . his truth endureth to all generations."

But what about mistranslations? Just as professionals accurately translate modern languages, scholars of Hebrew and Greek have produced correct translations of the Bible, working directly from Divinely preserved texts of the original languages.

To question the accuracy of the Word of God is to reject the integrity of God. What kind of God would He be who could not preserve His revelation to mankind? Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). And the great God of the Bible is well able to perform what He has promised! The matter is put to rest in the words of the prophet Isaiah.

"The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand" (Isaiah 14:24).

". . . I am God, and there is none like me. Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. . . yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it." (Isaiah 46:9-11).

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