

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

The King's Book

God, in His wisdom and mercy, gave instructions in the law for the future kings of Israel. Included in those instructions were details about the role that God's word was to play in the life of the kings. The Bible is not just a book for kings, it is the Book of the King of King's for everyone. By making application of these truths to our lives, reading the Bible for ourselves and following its teaching, we too will enjoy the blessing of The King's Book.

I. Procure It _____ (*Deuteronomy 17:18*)

- They would become extremely familiar with the Law through the process of producing their own copy by hand. The multi-sensory exercise would help them to learn and _____ the content of the scripture.
- We must apply the principle and be _____ about obtaining our personal copies of the Bible.

II. _____ Its Possession (*Deuteronomy 17:19*)

- The Bible is a special book and how you _____ the Bible should be reflect that. (*Psalms 119:127; Job 23:12*)
- The best way to encourage the use of something is to make it _____ to use. (*Psalms 119:11*)

III. Peruse Its _____ (*Deuteronomy 17:19*)

- The physical copy of the Bible can only do a _____ work as we take in the words that it contains by reading it for ourselves. (*John 5:39; Luke 24:27; Acts 17:11; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 2:15*)
- The kings of Israel were commanded to read their copies _____. The Berean were commended for searching the scriptures daily.

IV. _____ Its Precepts (*Deuteronomy 17:19-20a*)

- The reason for regularly reading the Bible is twofold. First, we need to learn how to relate to _____ properly. (*Proverbs 9:10; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; Isaiah 6:5*)
- The second reason for reading the Bible regularly is to follow its _____. (*Timothy 3:16; James 1:22-24; 1 John 5:3*)

V. Prosper Through Your _____ (*Deuteronomy 17:20b*)

- By fearing the Lord and following God's instructions, you can live life the way God _____ it to be lived. (*Joshua 1:8*)
- When we fear God and follow His instructions, we too will _____ through our practice of God's precepts.

Conclusion

The Bible is not a book for kings only. It is the book that the King of King's has given to the world so that all might know Him, be saved from their sins, and live a life that honors Him. Your Bible is special, and it should be precious to you. Read it and you will learn to fear God and follow His instruction, and when you do, God will bless your life.

PBC PRAYER POINTS

Shut-ins

Elsie Banks

Jane Haynes

Ongoing Health Needs

Connie Bladine

Pat Hill

Eula Keener

Marvin Ragsdale

Brian Thompson

Ann Whitley

Sophia Rambo

Unsaved

Corey B. B.

R.V. Chris

Church Ministries

Sunday School, Children's Church, Frontline Children's

Program, Teen Ministry,

Outreach Programs, Music

Ministry, Regular Services

Church Staff

The Chambers

The Riffels

Deacons

David Almand

David Bachman

Dean McAvoy

Austin Jones

Drew McIntyre

National Officials

President Joe Biden

Vice President Kamala Harris

Senators Ossoff & Warnock

Representative Jody Hice

Supreme Court Justices:

Ketanji Jackson, Neil

Gorsuch, Clarence Thomas,

Sonia Sotomayer, Elena

Kagan, Amy Coney Barrett,

Brett Kavanaugh, Stephen

Breyer, John Roberts

State/Local Officials

Governor Brian Kemp

Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan

State House Rep. Tim

Fleming

State Senator Brian Strickland

Rutledge Mayor Bruce

Altznauer

Missionary Updates

Rachel Langendorfer - PNG

Praises:

- All the GFA missionaries in PNG were able to celebrate thanksgiving together and for God's provision of a refreshing holiday in Australia for two weeks.

Prayer Requests

- A teenage boy named Jonah that was saved through their ministry, drowned recently. His aunt was blamed for the death by unsaved men who tortured and murdered her.
- Pray for comfort for the family and for the father to get right with God through the situation.
- Pray for the aunt's five children who were left without a mother. Pray for justice on the men who murdered her.

Michael & Honorah Deatrick - Solomon Islands

Praises

- Praise the Lord for a good Christmas, both as a family and a church.
- Honorah is doing a Bible study with young lady name Christina who received a John and Romans through their Pacific Games outreach

Prayer Requests

- Pray for their new-to-them vehicle to be released from port ASAP.
- Pray for their search for a house, that a good rental house for a good price will come available soon.

Stackhouse - PNG, Retired

Praises

- They had a safe, successful trip to PNG.
- They were able to be involved in two weddings while visiting, as well as preaching at many locations, taking part in an ordination, and attending a charter service for a new church.

Prayer

- Pray for their health and opportunities to serve the Lord in their retirement

Recent Requests

- Pray for Aaron McIntyre's continued healing and recovery.
- Pat Hill is now at Morgan Medical rehab. Pray for her to make a full recovery.
- Elaine Milam is at home and recovering from the flu, pneumonia and A-Fib.
- Eula Keener is doing better after being hospitalized for an obstruction in her esophagus.
- The Almands, Linda Bachman, and the Barrons have been sick.
- Jacob Lucius had an MRI Saturday. Pray that they can find answers about his recurring seizures.

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

The King's Book

At the time God gave the Old Testament Law, Israel was a theocracy. They did not have a king or a president. God ruled them directly through His appointed representative, Moses. But God knew that there would come a day when the Israelites would not be content being ruled in that way and would demand a king to rule over them. So, God, in His wisdom and mercy, gave instructions in the law for the future kings of Israel. Included in those instructions were details about the role that God's word was to play in the life of the kings.

Deuteronomy 17:18-20 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: [19] And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: [20] That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.

Every king of Israel was supposed to write out his own copy of scripture, keep it with him, and read from it daily. By doing this, he would know how to fear God and follow His instructions, and could lead the kingdom the way God wanted. The result would be prosperity for him and the nation.

The principles found in these verses are universal in their application. Though we are not monarchs of nations, those who know Christ as Savior are "kings and priests unto God." (Revelation 1:6) It is just as important for us as it was for the kings of Israel that God's Word play a central role in our lives. The precepts and principles of the Bible are just as beneficial to us as they were to them. The Bible is not just a book for kings, it is the Book of the King of Kings for everyone. By making application of these truths to our lives, reading the Bible for ourselves and following its teaching, we too will enjoy the blessing of The King's Book.

I. Procure It Personally

The first step toward enjoying the benefits of the Bible is to personally procure it. In Moses' day, they did not have printing presses, they did not have Christian books stores, and they could not download a Bible app onto their tablets. Their tablets were made of stone and had to be engraved. For the kings of Israel to have a copy, it had to be hand written. God commanded that the kings produce their own copy, writing out word for word the Law of God for themselves. They could not hire a scribe to do it for them. They could not buy a copy already made. They had to copy it themselves. The benefit of this was that they would become extremely familiar with the Law through the process of producing their own copy by hand. **The multi-sensory exercise would help them to learn and retain the content of the scripture.**

Thankfully, God has not commanded us to handwrite our own copy of the Bible. That would be a daunting task. "There are approximately 783,000 words in the King James Version of the Bible. An average person can copy twenty-two words per minute. 783,000 divided by 22 equals 35,590 minutes, or 590 hours. Rounding it to 600 hours, and writing 6 hours each day, it would take 100 working days."¹ Praise the Lord for Gutenberg and the printing press! We can now purchase our own copy of the Bible for just a few dollars, or download it for free on our devices.

Since mass produced books did not exist in Bible times, there is very little mention of physical copies of writings in the Scripture. We know that Paul asked Timothy to bring him his "books, but

¹ <https://theanalogpastor.com/how-long-would-it-take-to-copy-the-bible-by-hand/>

especially the parchments.” It is possible that included portions of scripture, though we can’t say for sure. Paul also told Timothy to “give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” It would not be a stretch to deduce that reading the Bible was included in that, and for that to happen, Timothy would need access to a physical copy.

For us, it is hard to imagine a world where owning a book of any kind was rare and expensive. Most of us have multiple copies of the Bible for each member of our household. But with such easy access to scripture, there is the danger that we take it for granted. For that reason, **we must apply the principle of Deuteronomy 17:18 and be *intentional* about obtaining our personal copies of the Bible.** I am a fan of having multiple copies for various uses and having the Bible on our devices where we can access it any time. I also believe there is something very beneficial in having a copy that is your main copy of the Bible that you use most often. There is something special about having a Bible all your own. If you don’t have your own Bible, get a Bible, and make it your own.

II. Prize Its Possession

Once the king had made his copy of the Law, God said that it was “to be with him.” It was not intended to be a decoration or a part of a collection. It was to be a personal, prized possession that he had easy access to at all times. **The Bible is a special book and how you view the Bible should be reflect that.** How valuable is the Bible to you? The psalmist said, “Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.” (Psalms 119:127) Job said, “I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.” (Job 23:12) If you had a bag of gold, I doubt you would leave it laying on the dash of your car all week? When you get groceries, you usually store them away in the proper place so that they don’t spoil. Should God’s word be treated worse than food or money? Certainly we should treat it better.

But we must be careful to make the distinction between how we treat the Bible physically and how we treat it spiritually. The physical is merely an indication of the spiritual. It is possible to respect the paper and leather that God’s word is printed on while disrespecting and disregarding the truth contained in it.

The best way to encourage the use of something is to make it easy to use. Having his copy of the Law with him at all times ensured that the king had easy access to it so he could read it frequently and reference it quickly. Over time, he would get more and more *familiar* with it and be able to recall its truth without having to always rely on the physical copy. We should familiarize ourselves with scripture by reading, memorizing, and meditating on it so that it makes it way into our innermost being. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” (Psalms 119:11)

Unlike some prized possessions that rarely get used, the purpose of possessing the Bible is to use it constantly. That is why God commanded the kings of Israel to take their copies of the Law and “read therein all the days of his life.”

III. Peruse Its Pages

The physical copy of the Bible can only do a spiritual work as we take in the words that it contains by reading it for ourselves. It does no good to have a pristine copy of the Bible that you never read. The Bible is not a good luck charm that earns you points with God because you decorate your coffee table with it. You must read the Bible.

Jesus was an advocate of personal Bible reading. He said, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” (John 5:39) When He talked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, “he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27) The Holy Spirit declared the people in Berea “were more noble

than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:11) Paul wrote, “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.” (Colossians 3:16) You are supposed to “study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

Over and over again we are admonished to read, study, and meditate on the Bible. One of the best disciplines that we can develop is a habit of daily Bible reading. **The kings of Israel were commanded to read their copies daily. The Berean were commended for searching the scriptures daily.** Certainly they can be no harm in reading the Bible every day, so why not make it a goal for yourself that you are going to read some of the Bible every single day? And when you read it, don’t read it just to check off a box on your to-do list. Read it to understand it with the purpose of doing what it says.

IV. Practice Its Precepts

God was clear in Deuteronomy 17:19 that the reason the king was to read in his copy of the law every day was so that he would “learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them.” **The reason for regularly reading the Bible is twofold. First, we need to learn how to relate to God properly. That is learning “to fear the Lord.”** As you read the Bible you will learn more about God and how worthy He is of our ultimate respect. You learn to take God seriously, which is the beginning of all true wisdom.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

The Bible is more than a how-to book. It is a personal revelation of God to us. The King of Kings wrote a book so that we could know Him better. If all we see when we read the Bible is a list of do’s and don’t’s, then we are missing the big picture. God wants us to know Him better, and the way we get to know God better is through the Bible.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

According to verse twenty, learning to fear the Lord would ensure of the king “that his heart be not lifted up above his brethren.” A proper view of God keeps one humble. When you see God for who He really is, you cannot help but see yourself for how you really are. When Isaiah saw God high and lifted up, he declared, “Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips.” (Isaiah 6:5)

The second reason for reading the Bible regularly is to follow its instructions. By reading in the Bible daily, the king would learn “to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them.” The Bible does contain many do’s and don’t’s. They are given by God so that we might know how He wants us to live, and thus how it is best to live. We do not naturally know the right way to live. Sin has corrupted us and we need to change our thinking and behavior. The Bible is the agent of change in our lives. It is “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (Timothy 3:16) If you read the Bible regularly and are not changing, you are doing something wrong.

James 1:22-24 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. [23] For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: [24] For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

When the king was keeping the law consistently, he would not turn “aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left.” Following the instructions of God’s word is what keeps you honest. It is how you keep from wandering and deviating from the path that God wants you to be on. God wants you to obey His word, and by doing that we stay on the straight path.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

V. Prosper Through Your Practice

Deuteronomy 17:20 concludes, “To the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.” The blessing of reading and obeying the law would be to the king and to the kingdom. He would personally benefit, but so would his children and everyone that his life touched. When we practice the precepts of God word, we then find that we prosper through our practice. There is great value in reading and obeying the scripture. **By fearing the Lord and following God’s instructions, you can live life the way God designed it to be lived.** Life works best when you do it God’s way.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Reading and obeying the Bible will not make you immune to problems. But when you know and do what God says, you can safely navigate through the problems of life. You have peace and joy and satisfaction when you fear God and follow Him, regardless of the trouble all around you.

2 Kings 22 records the story of king Josiah. Josiah became the king of Judah when he was just eight years old. When he was twenty-six, he ordered that the temple be cleansed and restored. During the restoration, the workers discovered the book of the law hidden among the refuse. For years it had been neglected. Josiah had not read it, much less copied it. When they began to read it, they discovered that the reason the nation had been judged so severely was they had turned from God to idol worship. Josiah was frightened and heartbroken. He cried out to God for mercy, and God responded.

2 Kings 22:19-20 Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD. [20] Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again.

When Josiah read the Bible, he learned to fear God and follow God’s instructions. He humbled himself and obeyed. The result was God’s mercy and blessing on the king and the kingdom. **When we fear God and follow His instructions, we too will prosper through our practice of God’s precepts.**

Conclusion

It used to be that only kings and the extremely wealthy could afford to have their own copy of the Bible. Thankfully that is not the case any longer, because the Bible is not a book for kings only. It is the book that the King of Kings has given to the world so that all might know Him, be saved from their sins, and live a life that honors Him. Your Bible is special, and it should be precious to you. Read it and you will learn to fear God and follow His instruction, and when you do, God will bless your life.