

Deuteronomy 17:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

Analysis

And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life—Israel's king must personally own a Torah copy (written by his own hand from the priests' master copy, v. 18), keep it **with him** continually, and **read therein** daily. Unlike ancient Near Eastern monarchs who claimed divine status, Israel's king submitted to written revelation. The law governed him; he didn't transcend it.

That he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law—Reading produces fear (אָרַא, yare, reverent awe), which produces obedience. Psalm 1 echoes this: **Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night** (Psalm 1:1-2). Jesus, the ultimate King, declared: **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God** (Matthew 4:4). Daily Scripture saturation is non-negotiable for leaders.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings (Egyptian pharaohs, Mesopotamian rulers) claimed semi-divine status, accountable to no written code. Israel's requirement that kings copy, carry, and read Torah daily was revolutionary—even the highest human authority submitted to God's written Word.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does daily Scripture reading cultivate 'fear of the LORD' (reverent awe) that fuels obedience?
2. What practical rhythms ensure God's Word is 'with you' throughout the day, not just briefly visited?
3. How does the king's requirement (personal handwritten copy, daily reading) challenge superficial approaches to Bible reading?

Interlinear Text

עַמְּךָ	וְיִפְרַח	בְּ	כָּל
H1961	H5973	And it shall be with him and he shall read	H0 H3605
		H7121	
יְמִינְךָ	בְּנֵי	לִמְדָה	אֲתָּה
therein all the days	of his life	that he may learn	to fear
H3117	H2416	H4616	H853
			H3372
יְהִי הָ	אֱלֹהָךְ	שְׁמָר	כָּל
the LORD	his God	to keep	the words
H3068	H430	H8104	H1697
			H2063
לְעַשְׂתָּמָן	בְּ	לְהִ	בְּ
and these statutes		to do	
H2706		H6213	

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 1:8 (Word): 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.

Psalms 1:2 (Word): But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

John 5:39 (Word): Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Deuteronomy 11:18 (Word): Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

Deuteronomy 4:10 (Word): Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.
