

# 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

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**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 (יָרֵא, 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

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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

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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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

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עִמּוֹ וְהִיָּתָה הַ	וְלֹא יָאֵל	כָּל בּוֹ		
H1961	H5973			
And it shall be with him and he shall read			H0	H3605
H7121				
יָמָיו	תְּחֵיו	לִמְעַן	יִלְמַד	אֶת לִירְאָה
therein all the days	of his life	H4616	that he may learn	H853
H3117	H2416		H3925	H3372
הַיְהוָה	אֱלֹהָיו	לְשׁוֹמֵר	אֶת כָּל דְּבָרֵי	הַחֹק הַזֶּה
the LORD	his God	to keep	H853 H3605	all the words
H3068	H430	H8104	H1697	of this law
H2063				
וְאֵת	הַחֻקִּים	הָאֵלֶּה	לַעֲשׂוֹתָם:	
H853	and these statutes	H428	to do	
H2706			H6213	

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.