

LORD



SAMPLE BOOK

*Take a
tour inside...*

*Teach Me
to Study
the Bible
in 28 Days*

KAY
ARTHUR

PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

LORD

*Teach Me
to Study
the Bible
in 28 Days*

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HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS

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Before You Begin

Welcome to the world of inductive Bible study! Thank you for joining me on this exciting journey as we learn how to read and study God’s Word, the Bible, and experience its life-changing power.

This is a very practical, hands-on, learn-by-doing book. The tools you’ll discover are not hard to use. In fact, they are so easy to use that you are going to wonder why you weren’t taught this years ago!

You can do it—you can study the Bible for yourself and understand it correctly. Anyone who can read can do it. And this is what makes this way of studying the Bible so wonderful. God has not reserved His Bible for the intellectually superior. Rather, He intends for all people, regardless of their intellect or education, to know and understand His Word.

The Bible text that we will use in this study is included in this book. You’ll also find spaces in these pages to record your insights. All you need is a pencil, a pen, and some colored pencils for marking the Bible text. And don’t forget to equip yourself with the most important tool of all—prayer! Pray that God will continue to whet your appetite for the truths in His Word. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful things He has provided for you in the Bible. Those are prayers He loves to answer!

Introduction

In 74 minutes, Lucinda would live, never to die again.

I was teaching in the Secured Housing Unit of the largest women's prison in the United States. From where I stood, I could see the silhouette of Lucinda's hard, flat, rail-like form through the small window next to the huge brownish orange iron door that locked her in. Everything about Lucinda—the pallor of her skin, her shaved head, and the vacant stare of her eyes—spoke of death.

Every fiber of my being—body, soul, and spirit—was focused on what I was doing. I knew without a shadow of a doubt that this unusual opportunity came about because of God, and I was there because the women needed to hear not my words but God's. Mine were the words of man; His are the words of life—divinely empowered.

I watched His words cut like a sword as I read and explained Romans 1 along with other scriptures. I saw the pain. In my heart I cried to God for her life, for liberation from sin and death, for a way to live behind razor-sharp barbed wire and monstrous walls that separated Lucinda from the beauty and solace of trees and gardens and ponds.

I thought about what life must be like, caged in that cell. The SHU housed the worst offenders—the most rebellious, most dangerous, most violent. The most desperate. Souls so angry, so frustrated, they thought they could fight the system

and get away with it. Or they didn't care anymore—all that mattered was venting rage or getting revenge.

These were the walking dead, entombed in cold concrete mausoleums. Only a trip to the shower or the doctor brought them from their cell. Then they walked in chains. Everything—food, books, mail, medicine—left or entered their cell through a small metal trap door at the bottom of the brownish orange door.

I wasn't naive enough to think my God-ordained visit would spring open the doors of this prison for any of them. But I did know God could use it to roll away the stone that trapped them in their spiritual tombs and bring them from death to life. I knew if God would give them ears to hear and hearts to believe, they could gain a true knowledge of God that would bring power and divine purpose to their lives so they could live anywhere—in the prison or out—as overcomers of any and every circumstance of life.

In the course of my 74-minute presentation this precious lesbian, along with surprisingly many others in the SHU, all with stories of their own, passed from death to life. It was a glorious moment as I donned the required prison gear to protect my face and chest and walked to Lucinda's cell on the second level. Her brown eyes, swimming in tears, shimmered with light.

We talked. She truly understood. The old Lucinda had died; a new Lucinda had been born. No more anarchy. No more women. God would be her source of love and comfort and satisfaction. Yes, she would experience temptation and isolated acts of sin, but never again would she be sin's prisoner, sin's slave. Truth had set her free.

As I sit to write this book for you, dear reader, three years

have passed. Lucinda's address is still the same, but she is not. Her feminine appearance, her hair, her hunger for and understanding of the Word of God, and her changed life all witness to her salvation. Lucinda passed from death to life—eternal life. He who began a good work in her will “complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6). Lucinda is a brand-new creation. Old things passed away and all things became new, just as I taught from 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 that epochal night she heard the words of life.

Lucinda is in the process of being transformed by the “true knowledge of Him who called [her] by His own glory and excellence” (2 Peter 1:3), and because of that, she is able to live as more than a conqueror in the midst of what I consider the hardest and potentially most depressing of circumstances.

Lucinda is studying her Bible the way you are about to study yours.

The question is, how did Lucinda get so messed up even though she had a religious background?

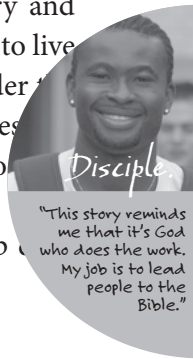
How does anyone waste a life?

Waste away?

End up without answers to the most common of life's issues?

Unequipped, unarmed, and unprepared to withstand the devastating seductions of the world, the flesh, and the devil? Believing a lie?

Let's see what God says as we cry out, “Lord, teach me to study the Bible in 28 days.” All the answers are in His book, the Bible. If we know the cause of mankind's spiritual imprisonment, we can determine the cure.



WEEK ONE

Day One

How Critical Is Knowledge?

We are going to spend the first few days of our four-week adventure exploring the words of a prophet and the reign of a king. In the process, we'll try out some skills that will teach you how to study your Bible for yourself.

I am convinced God's message through the prophet Hosea is the same as His message to us today: It is absolutely essential for each of us—man or woman, young or old—to understand the importance and value of knowing the truth. In other words, you must know the Word of God, the Bible. And I think you believe it is important also. When you open the pages of the Bible, you know God has much more to teach you from its pages. And that's exactly why He has directed you to this book.

The purpose of *Lord, Teach Me to Study the Bible in 28 Days* is not to give you a lot of information on how we got the Bible, why it is structured the way it is, or how you can know it is truly the Word of God. All that is wonderful and enlightening information, but you can find that in many other great books. Besides, as the title of this book promises, we have only 28 days!

Therefore, my purpose is to teach you how to study the Bible

for yourself so you can discover truth for yourself. To introduce you to some basic study skills that will open the Word of God for you in an incredible, life-changing way. Because we only have 28 days, I won't teach you everything I could, but I promise that by the end of this book you'll be discovering truth for yourself in a way that will transform your life. And if you want to know more, I'll tell you where to go next.

When Jesus prayed for you (the Bible tells you God knew you before you were ever born), He asked the Father to keep you from the evil one by setting you apart through His truth. In Jesus, who cannot lie because He is the truth, made the statement that God's Word is truth. You'll find Jesus' prayer for you in John 17:15-17.¹ Let me quote it for you so you can read it for yourself.

I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

The Bible explains in many ways throughout the Old and New Testaments that it *is* the very word of God; not that it contains His words, but that it is "My word...which goes forth from My mouth" (Isaiah 55:11)! The words are recorded by men using their own personality and vocabulary, but in God's divine mystery, He superintended over the writers as He moved them by His Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21). God inspired (breathed) the words, as 2 Timothy 3:16 says.

Let's take a few minutes *so you can see for yourself* what God said through His messenger, Hosea, about the state of His

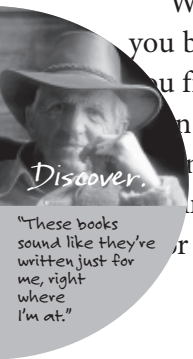
1. We know from John 17:20—"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word"—that this prayer includes all believers. John the apostle was among the "these," and this is what he wrote under the divine moving of the Spirit of God.

chosen people, the Israelites (later referred to as the Jews). In God's message to them, He has a message for us.

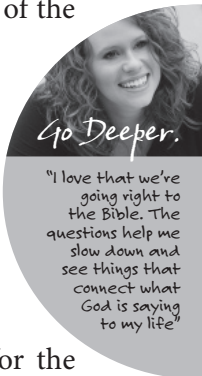
Hosea 4:1-3,6 is printed out below. I am going to ask you to read these verses more than once. The first time, simply read them aloud. Do it slowly so that you hear every word. Remember, these are God's words—so listen carefully!

- 1 Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel,
For the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land,
Because there is no faithfulness or kindness
Or knowledge of God in the land.
- 2 There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery.
They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.
- 3 Therefore the land mourns,
And everyone who lives in it languishes
Along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky,
And also the fish of the sea disappear.
- 6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge,
I also will reject you from being My priest.
Since you have forgotten the law of your God,
I also will forget your children.

Now read verse 1 aloud again. As you do, look for the answers to the following questions and record them by simply stating what the text tells you. This step is called *observation*. You don't need to use your imagination or make any additions



Discover.
"These books sound like they've written just for me, right where I'm at."



Go Deeper.
"I love that we're going right to the Bible. The questions help me slow down and see things that connect what God is saying to my life."

or suppositions. Just state the facts of the text. In other words, see what the text says and record your observations.

- Who is speaking?
- To whom?
- Why? What is the reason these words are being spoken?

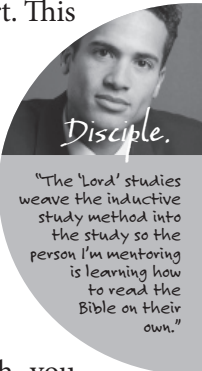
Great start. Now, read Hosea 4:1-3 again. This time, mark the word *knowledge*. If you have colored pencils as we suggested in the “Before You Begin” section, color *knowledge* green. If you don’t have colored pencils, simply put a rectangle around the word until you get your colored pencils. You are marking a *key word*. A key word is an important word that helps you unlock the meaning of the text you are studying.

For the next 28 days you are going to color code important words—key words God uses to make His point. We use the color-coding process (rather than just symbols) because colors are easier to see, and too many markings can keep you from spotting key words easily.

Double underline in green the phrase *the land*. According to the book of Genesis, *the land* is the land God gave to Abraham, Isaac (one of Abraham’s sons), Jacob (one of Isaac’s two sons),

and Jacob’s descendants as an everlasting possession. (God changed Jacob’s name to Israel, so Jacob’s descendants are the 12 tribes of Israel.)

You’ve marked a few words in the text. It’s colorful. But what’s the point? Look at verse 2. Write down what you learn about *knowledge* from the setting or context of verses 1-3. Don’t read any further until you do this assignment. If you truly want to learn how to study your Bible, you have to do your part. This is interactive—so now is the time to get active!



Now then, since I’m not sitting right there with you (although I would count it a privilege to do so), let me ask you some of the 5 W’s and an H (who, what, when, where, why, and how) about *knowledge*. See how many of them you have already answered strictly from your observations of Hosea 4:1-3.

- What’s God’s concern about Israel’s knowledge?
- Knowledge of what or whom?
- Where?

- Who is saying this and to whom? (I know you have answered this once. It's a short answer—do it again so you get the impact.)
- What is happening because there is no faithfulness, kindness, or knowledge? (Answer this from verses 1-3.)

Good. Now read Hosea 4:6 out loud. Mark the other two uses of *knowledge* in verse 6.

Now we are going to use the 5 W's and an H to cross-examine verse 6, or as I often say, to “interrogate” the text. Look at where you marked *knowledge*. As you examine the text, find the answers in verse 6 to these questions.

- What is God's concern about Israel's knowledge?
- Who is saying this?
- Who is being affected?

- What have these people done?
- Once again, who are these people (see verses 1 and 6)?
- What is going to happen to them as a result?
- Who else will be impacted and why?

By the way, *languishes* (verse 3) means wastes away. Pretty sad, isn't it!

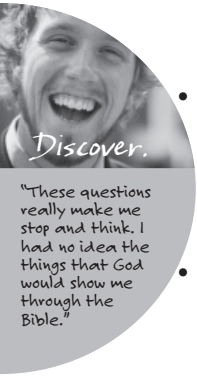
Now let's wrap up today by applying these truths to our lives.

God tells us in Romans 15:4 that what was written in earlier times was written for our instruction so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. In the light of this, let's take what you have just discovered about *knowledge* in these Old Testament verses spoken to the people of Israel and see what you can learn.

What instruction in these verses in Hosea 4 will help you persevere in doing what God says, encourage you, and give you hope? This, by the way, is *application*. Application is studying God's Word and then ordering your life and your thinking in accordance with the truth of what you just learned or discovered. Let's answer a few application questions from these verses

in Hosea. Some of them may overlap a little, but you don't need to write an answer more than once.

- When you studied *knowledge*, did you see anything that parallels our situation today? What was it?



- Do you think people are being destroyed or ruined for a lack of knowledge of God? How?

- Has anything happened in your family, your state, or your country because of a lack of knowledge of God—of His Word? Is anything being ruined? What? (Remember, the Bible is the Word of God, so knowledge of God comes through His Word. His Word is the plumb line, the standard of all we believe.)

- Has anything happened in your life as a direct result of your knowledge of God's Word—or your lack of knowledge of God? How has your knowledge of God helped you in a specific situation? What circumstances might you have handled differently had you known God's Word better? Jot down your answers.

- Do you have children? According to what you saw in Hosea, what might happen to them if you reject knowledge? Have you seen the effects of a lack of the knowledge of God in your country?
- Finally, has God touched your mind and heart in any way as you have observed and applied these four verses from Hosea? How? Write out your answer. Expressing yourself in words is part of the learning process.

Day Two

What Happens When You Don't Know God?

Today we are going to look at an account from the book of 2 Kings in the Old Testament. It's interesting, it's true, and it's right in line with our purpose as we begin this book—which is to show you how vital it is to know God.

Life can get distorted and out of whack when you don't know God. And you can't really know Him in truth apart from the Word of God. Look around you at the lives people are living. Find out how important the Bible is in their lives and how much time they devote to studying it. Notice the relationship between their knowledge of God and the way they handle life.

Read through 2 Kings 22:1-20 twice. You'll find the text on pages 147–149.

- The first time you read the chapter, pick any color except blue or green and color every reference to *King Josiah*. Mark all the pronouns (he, him, his, you, your) that refer to *Josiah* the same way, along with any other reference to him, such as *king*.

- The second time you read the chapter, put a green circle over every reference to time—the year in which something happens in Josiah's life—or you might draw an old-fashioned clock like this: 🕒.

Good. Now, briefly summarize what this chapter is about.

Disciple.

"These studies are all about connecting me and my class with Christ!"

Day Three


The Word of God Lost in the House of God

We're going to return to 2 Kings 22 today because it contains so much more for you, and I want you to be absolutely convinced of the importance of knowing God by knowing His Word and therefore knowing truth.

Yesterday when you read 2 Kings 22:1-20 and marked the references to King Josiah you undoubtedly noticed that this chapter is about finding the book of the law, which had been lost in the house of the Lord. In fact, you probably noticed quite a few references to the book of the law and to the house of the Lord. These are key phrases that will help us understand more about the chapter.

Therefore, here is your assignment for today:

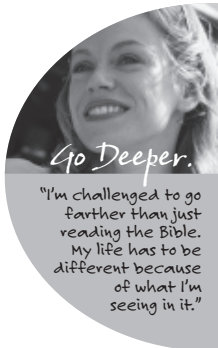
- Color or underline every reference to *the house of the Lord* in blue. Mark all synonyms in the same way, as well as any pronouns, such as *it*. In other words, mark every reference to this house in the same way.
- Mark every reference to *the book of the law*—whether

it is simply called *it* or *this book* or *the words which you have heard*. Color each reference green or draw this symbol over it and color it green: .

When you finish, look at every place you marked *the house of the Lord*. What do you learn about *the house of the Lord* from marking these references? List your observations below.

Now, look at the references you marked to *the book of the law*. The Israelites (later known as the Jews) refer to Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy as the *Torah*, which is the Hebrew word for “law.” Sometimes they refer to the Torah as “the books of Moses” or even just “Moses,” referring to the author. Christians have traditionally followed the Greek translation of the Old Testament, which refers to the same books as the *Pentateuch* (“five books”).

What do you learn from marking the references to *the book of the Law*?



Good job! This is interesting, isn't it? Have you seen anything at this point that confirms the value of knowing God and His Word? If so, write it out.

Day Four

Seeking the Lord

Can you remember when you first read the Bible? I mean, *really* read it? I can.

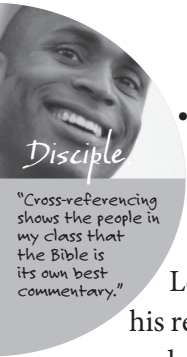
I was raised in church and read portions of the Prayer Book every Sunday, but the Bible was a closed and boring book to me until I was saved at the age of 29.

Of course, the Bible didn't change—it has never changed and it never will. Rather, I changed. The Spirit of God took up residence in my body and gave me, as He does all believers, a hunger and thirst for righteousness. I now had an in-residence tutor just as you have if you are a true child of God, born of the Spirit, saved by faith in the Son of God.

Let's take a closer look at what 2 Kings 22 tells us about Josiah. Remember marking chronological references with a green circle—a clock? Let's see what you can learn from them. Answer the following questions by looking at those green clocks, starting with the first one.

- How old was Josiah when he became king?
- How long did Josiah rule?

- Where did he rule? (Double underline the name of the place with two green lines.)
- What was Josiah like?
- What happened in the eighteenth year of his reign?
- Now, do your math! How old was he?



Let's look at an interesting cross-reference about Josiah and his reign in 2 Chronicles 34. Read the verses printed out below and do three things:

- First, color the references to *Josiah* as you did in 2 Kings 22.
- Second, mark the references to time with a green circle or clock.
- Third, double underline in green all geographical references (where something occurred).

2 Chronicles 34:1-8

1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.

- 2 He did right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David and did not turn aside to the right or to the left.
- 3 For in the eighth year of his reign while he was still a youth, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, the carved images and the molten images.
- 4 They tore down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and the incense altars that were high above them he chopped down; also the Asherim, the carved images and the molten images he broke in pieces and ground to powder and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.
- 5 Then he burned the bones of the priests on their altars and purged Judah and Jerusalem.
- 6 In the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon, even as far as Naphtali, in their surrounding ruins,
- 7 he also tore down the altars and beat the Asherim and the carved images into powder, and chopped down all the incense altars throughout the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.
- 8 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah an official of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.

Now then, look at the time phrases you just “clocked,” and let's compare them with what you learned from 2 Kings 22.

- What new insights into Josiah's life did you find in 2 Chronicles?

- How old was Josiah when he began seeking the Lord?
- How old was Josiah when he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem?
- What did Josiah “purge”?
- According to 2 Chronicles, why did Josiah do all this purging?

Are you thinking, “*Wow!*” I did when I saw this. I thought, “God, this is neat! I just learned something about Josiah that I wouldn’t have known if I hadn’t read 2 Chronicles 34.” I gained new insight into Josiah by comparing Scripture with Scripture—checking out a cross-reference.

Tomorrow we will do another *wow!* But before we call it a day, what do you think about Josiah at this point—before he’s in the eighteenth year of his reign, before he is 26? Write it down.

Day Five

Hearing God’s Word

When you read 2 Chronicles 34 and saw that Josiah began seeking the Lord in the eighth year of his reign, when he was 16 years old, did you wonder, “Why? What caused this?” I did. I am always interested in the reasons people seek the Lord.

Look at the cross-reference in Zephaniah 1:1 below and see for yourself when God spoke to Zephaniah.

The word of the LORD which came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah...

Zephaniah got his message from the Lord during the days of Josiah, son of Amon, king of Judah!

Zephaniah delivered a hard message. God was going to move in judgment—He was going to stretch out His hand against Judah and Jerusalem.

Jerusalem! Josiah lived there! The Lord was going to search Jerusalem and punish those who were “stagnant in spirit, who say in their hearts, ‘The LORD will not do good or evil’” (Zephaniah 1:12).

And what did Zephaniah call the people to do? Listen to

Zephaniah 2:1-3. As you read it below, put a cloud like this around every occurrence of the word *seek*.

- 1 Gather yourselves together, yes, gather,
O nation without shame,
- 2 Before the decree takes effect—
The day passes like the chaff—
Before the burning anger of the LORD comes upon
you,
Before the day of the LORD's anger comes upon you.
- 3 Seek the LORD,
All you humble of the earth
Who have carried out His ordinances;
Seek righteousness, seek humility.
Perhaps you will be hidden
In the day of the LORD's anger.

When I read this I got goose bumps. I remembered what we read in 2 Chronicles 34. Look at it yourself. What in 2 Chronicles 34:3 relates to Zephaniah 2:1-3?

Once again I stood in awe at the Word of the Lord and how Scripture interprets Scripture. Zephaniah's message during the days of Josiah was this: "Judgment is coming, so seek the Lord." And Josiah listened!

Zephaniah's ministry is dated between 636 and 623 BC. (Remember, the calendar goes down until it reaches AD.)

- Josiah became king about 640 BC. In 636 Josiah would

have been 12. When Zephaniah's ministry ended Josiah would have been 25.

- 2 Chronicles tells us when he was 16 he began to seek the Lord. Perhaps Josiah gained the knowledge of God through the prophet Zephaniah and responded accordingly, seeking the Lord.
- When he was 20, Josiah began to purge Judah and Jerusalem.

Now then, for the sake of review, what happened in the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign—when he was 26?

And what happened then? We'll delve into that more tomorrow. Let me just ask you a question at this point, dear student. What has brought you to the point that you want to do a study such as this—to learn how to study your Bible, to seek the Lord?

Have you read anything this week that has encouraged you? What?



Do you know that God says you will search for Him and find Him when you seek Him with all your heart? This was Jeremiah's message from God as recorded in Jeremiah 29:13 after the death of Josiah. Jeremiah was another prophet who prophesied during the days of King Josiah. He began in the thirteenth year of Josiah's reign! Josiah would have been about 21!

Day Six

The Impact of Firsthand Knowledge

Hilkiah found the Word of God, which had been lost in the house of God. How did this impact a 26-year-old king who had been seeking the Lord—and doing all he could to follow Him to the best of his ability? What did a true knowledge—a *firsthand knowledge*—of God's Word do to Josiah?

Read through 2 Kings 22:3-20 again and list below what happened when Josiah heard the written word for the first time in his life.

- What did Josiah realize and why?
- What was his response to the “words of the book of the law”?

Have you ever wondered how God feels about certain things? Can we possibly know, or do we have to simply wonder? Beloved, there is no wondering to it. A careful study of the

Word of God, beginning with the Old Testament, will give you great insight, as 2 Kings 22 clearly shows.

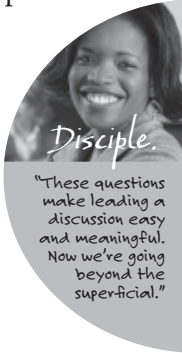
Did you notice the phrase *the wrath that burns against this place* and the repeated phrase that talks about God bringing *evil on this place*? Read verses 11-20 again and underline these phrases in red.

- According to the text, why was this wrath, this evil going to come?
- When would it come? Why this timing? Why not sooner? (This is an important answer—find it in the text!)

When you read the last three verses of this chapter you know how God feels about Josiah's response to God's Word.

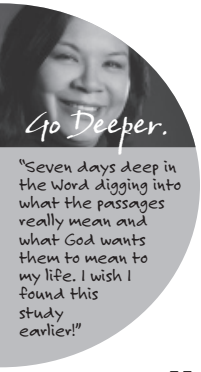
- What do you learn from these verses?
- What does this tell you about God? About His character, His ways?

Now, what can you learn from all this for your own life? Is there any application for you to make? Any principles or precepts for you to embrace?



Day Seven

Responding to God



Have you ever wondered why America seems to have lost its founding fathers' reverence for God? You might ask the same thing about Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Josiah. Why was Josiah so shocked when he heard the reading of the book of the law? Shouldn't Josiah have known these things?

The answer is found in Deuteronomy 17:14-20, which is printed out below. It is a portion of the book of the law Josiah would have heard Shaphan the scribe read. Read this passage and mark every reference to the *copy of this law*, including the synonyms and pronouns. Mark them as you marked the references to *the book of the law* in 2 Kings 22.

- 14 "When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,'
- 15 you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman.
- 16 "Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he

- cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.'
- 17 "He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself.
- 18 "Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests.
- 19 "It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes,
- 20 that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel."

- List what you learn from these references.
- List what the king was to do when he came to power.

- Now, from what you've observed just in 2 Kings 22, why hadn't Josiah written his own copy of the law?

You will find 2 Kings 23:1-3 printed on page 149. Although the whole chapter is worth reading, we'll not do that. I simply want you to read these verses and see what Josiah did after he found the Word of God. His response to the Word of God stayed God's hand of judgment.

Oh, that the same thing would happen in our time! Oh, that we would find the Word of God in the house of God—beginning in us individually, for as a child of God your body is His temple, His house, and then in the church, His temple, the body of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2-3). Oh, that grace and peace would be multiplied in our lives in the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ.

This is my prayer for you, fellow student:

that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the

Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light (Colossians 1:9-12).

It is what Paul prayed for those in Colossae...and I am sure it is what our precious Lord Jesus Christ prays for us.

Now, Beloved of the unseen face but like heart, do you realize what you have been doing these past seven days?

You have been studying the Bible inductively. By *inductively*, I mean you have gone directly to the Word of God to discover what God says—to discover truth for yourself.

Reason with me. No one has told you what the text says, what it means, or how you are to think or live. Instead, by marking the text and by asking and answering the right questions, you have been observing, interpreting, and applying the Word of God. Congratulations! How proud I am of you—*and I really mean it!* You may not realize what you've been doing, but you've begun the process of learning how to study the Bible, how to discover truth for yourself. And it wasn't all that difficult, was it?

Tomorrow, as we begin our second week of study or day eight, I am going to explain what we've been doing, how you can develop the skills you've exercised and learn even more, and how to use them to study the very words of God book by book. It's going to be quite an adventure.

Observation Worksheets



2 Kings 22

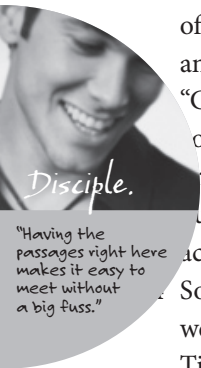
- 1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath.
- 2 He did right in the sight of the LORD and walked in all the way of his father David, nor did he turn aside to the right or to the left.
- 3 Now in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king sent Shaphan, the son of Azaliah the son of Meshullam the scribe, to the house of the LORD saying,
- 4 "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest that he may count the money brought in to the house of the LORD which the door keepers have gathered from the people.
- 5 "Let them deliver it into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD, and let them give it to the workmen who are in the house of the LORD to repair the damages of the house,
- 6 to the carpenters and the builders and the masons and for buying timber and hewn stone to repair the house.
- 7 "Only no accounting shall be made with them for the money delivered into their hands, for they deal faithfully."
- 8 Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan who read it.
- 9 Shaphan the scribe came to the king and brought back word to the king and said, "Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand

of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD.”

- 10 Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king saying, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read it in the presence of the king.
- 11 When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes.
- 12 Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Micaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king’s servant saying,

“Go, inquire of the LORD for me and the people and all Judah concerning the words of this book that has been found, for great is the wrath of the LORD that burns against us, because our fathers have not listened to the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.”

So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe (now she lived in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter); and they spoke to her.
- 15 She said to them, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘Tell the man who sent you to me,
- 16 thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I bring evil on this place and on its inhabitants, *even* all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read.
- 17 “Because they have forsaken Me and have burned incense to other gods that they might provoke Me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore My wrath burns against this place, and it shall not be quenched.”’
- 18 “But to the king of Judah who sent you to inquire of the LORD thus shall you say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel, “*Regarding* the words which you have heard,
- 19 because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before



“Having the passages right here makes it easy to meet without a big fuss.”

the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before Me, I truly have heard you,” declares the LORD.

- 20 “Therefore, behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you will be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes will not see all the evil which I will bring on this place.”’” So they brought back word to the king.

2 Kings 23:1-3

- 1 Then the king sent, and they gathered to him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.
- 2 The king went up to the house of the LORD and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.
- 3 The king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all *his* heart and all *his* soul, to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people entered into the covenant.

Jonah 1

- 1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,
- 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”
- 3 But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.
- 4 The LORD hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up.



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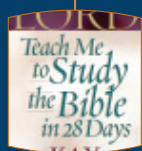
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