

July 8, 2018
DIVE IN - Part 1
"Study"

Every time God's people have dived into God's Word, lives have been changed.

2 Kings 21:10-12 (ESV): "¹⁰And the LORD said by his servants the prophets, ¹¹'Because Manasseh king of Judah has committed these abominations and has done things more evil than all that the Amorites did, who were before him, and has made Judah also to sin with his idols, ¹²therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing upon Jerusalem and Judah such disaster that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle.'"

2 Kings 21:19-20 (ESV): "¹⁹Amon was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem.... ²⁰And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as Manasseh his father had done."

Judah suffered through 57 years of evil leadership that led the people away from God.

2 Kings 22:1-2 (ESV): "¹Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.... ²And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left."

In about 640 B.C. Josiah began to reign over Judah in Jerusalem, and eight years later, at the age of 16, he begins to seriously seek after the LORD.

2 Kings 22:10-11 (ESV): "¹⁰Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, 'Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.' And Shaphan read it before the king. ¹¹When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes."

In Deuteronomy, Moses recounts many of God's laws and then lays out the blessings God's people will experience if they are obedient, but it also lays out the curses that will come upon the people if they fail to obey.

2 Kings 22:18-20 (ESV): ""¹⁸But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, ¹⁹because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the LORD, when you heard how 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 also have heard you, declares the LORD. ²⁰Therefore, behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in

peace, and your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring upon this place.”
And they brought back word to the king.”

2 Kings 23:1-3 (ESV): “¹Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. ²And the king went up to the house of the LORD, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. ³And 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 perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant.”

As “all the people” heard and reflected on the Word of God, they repented of their sins and “made a covenant before the LORD,” to seek Him and obey Him with all their heart and soul.

As Josiah and “all the people” focused on God and His Word, they experienced God working powerfully in their lives.

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV): “²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control....

The Bible is a collection of sixty-six different books, comprising several types of literature, including history, biography, poetry, prophecy and letters, written by about 40 different human authors over about 1500 years.

The Bible has a remarkable unity because, ultimately, it is believed and claimed by Christians that it actually has one Author, God, who guided its writing by these authors.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT): “¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”

STEPS TO STUDY AND MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE:

- 1. Ask God to meet you in Scripture.**
- 2. Read the Bible in its context.**
- 3. When needed, use study aids to help you understand the Scriptures.**

What we really want from our study and meditation is not simply information, but transformation.

4. Read the Bible in a repentant spirit.
5. Meditate on a fairly brief passage or narrative.
6. Memorize key verses and portions of Scripture.

The pain of discipline always costs less than the pain of regret.

Psalms 1:1-3 (NLT): “¹Blessed are those who do not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ²but who delight in the law of the LORD and meditate on his law day and night. ³They are like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.”

See “**Online Resources for Bible Study**” on Gateway’s Find It page (www.gateway-community.org/find-it/).

Get the *Life Journal* Bible Reading Plan at gateway-community.org/Find-it

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