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## Why read the Holy Scriptures?

Praying to God, loving and helping the brethren, or caring for the infirmed are all fine duties that a Christian does that show an inward guidance of The Holy Spirit. But let us forever remember that we are blessed indeed by God (and therefore can be a blessing to others) by remaining diligent readers of the Holy Scriptures. Daily reading of God's Word can transform not only a person, but an entire nation as well. When all is said and done, we need to read The Word.

Reading God's Word effects changes that nothing else has the power to do. The nation of Judah under the reigns of both King Manasseh and King Amon had for a long time fallen into idolatry and had incurred the wrath of God. They had forgotten obedience to Yahweh God to the extent that they even misplaced the books of the Law through non use of them. But with the reign of the next King, Josiah, a change was in the making that actually brought an exemption of divine judgment to those who simply read the Word and humbled themselves in their actions. In Josiah's days the High Priest Hilkiyah found the Law Book and had a scribe tell King Josiah about it. Upon reading God's Word in those Scripture books King Josiah “rent his clothes” in contrite repentance at how far Judah had strayed from God's commands. (I Kings 22:8-11). And although God later brought His wrathful judgment against that corrupt nation, Yahweh told King Josiah that the nation would not be sent captive in Josiah's days, but that judgment would be forestalled until after Josiah had died. This was done by God because of Josiah reading the Holy Scriptures of the Law (I Kings ch.22 & 23) and restoring true worship. It was in the reign of the next King, Jehohaz (who did evil) that national divine judgment came against Judah.

Reading God's Word also can remind us of our duties to God. When the people of Judah returned to Jerusalem from Babylon after their captivity punishment, Nehemiah read from the Book of the Law of God to the gathered people and “*God gave them to understand the reading*” (Neh.8:8). The Feast Days were reinstalled by the nation and the people immediately celebrated The Feast of Tabernacles (Neh.8:7-18) “*and there was very great gladness*”. (v.17) Reading Scripture caused the national reformation and gladness!

The Holy Spirit is close by those who read the Word of God with others. When an Adamite from Ethiopia was reading from the Book of Isaiah, The Spirit spoke to Philip and told Philip to go close to the man and read more Scriptures with him until a conversion to the faith was achieved. (Acts 8:27-37) God so cherishes when people read the Bible that He becomes personally attentive.

Finally, reading the Scriptures gives the believer a blessed advantage over the non-believing world by making future events knowledgeable. This is done by reading God's prophecies in His Word. “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” (Revelation 1:1-3)

Remember to read from God's Word daily for it is a lamp that lights our life's path (Psalm 119:105) and is quick to help us discern the very thoughts and intents of our hearts. (Heb.4:12)