

Why write out a book of the Bible?

In Deuteronomy 17, there are some instructions given for the kings of Israel as they take office:

¹⁸ “When he sits on the throne as king, he must copy for himself this body of instruction [the law] on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ He must always keep that copy with him and read it daily as long as he lives. That way he will learn to fear the LORD his God by obeying all the terms of these instructions and decrees. ²⁰ This regular reading will prevent him from becoming proud and acting as if he is above his fellow citizens. It will also prevent him from turning away from these commands in the smallest way. And it will ensure that he and his descendants will reign for many generations in Israel.

Notice the king is not only to have a copy of God’s word, but is to hand write his own copy of the law so that he:

- would read it daily
- would learn to fear the Lord
- would obey the terms, instructions and decrees
- would not become proud
- would not turn away from the commands
- would ensure his family would continue to rule the nation

Obviously God knew that writing out his Word would have many good benefits in the lives of his people. It is no different today! 3400 years later, educators have discovered that a student who physically writes out their notes by hand have a much greater retention rate than simply hearing or visually reading the information.

So our prayer is that this exercise of writing out a portion of God’s Word will have wonderful results in your life! Feel free to write it out in the translation of the Bible you feel most comfortable with. If you don’t have a preference, I would recommend the New International Version (NIV) or the New Living Translation (NLT). Also, you might want to write with pencil, so that if you make a mistake (oops!) you can simply erase and correct it.

Blessings,

PJ

