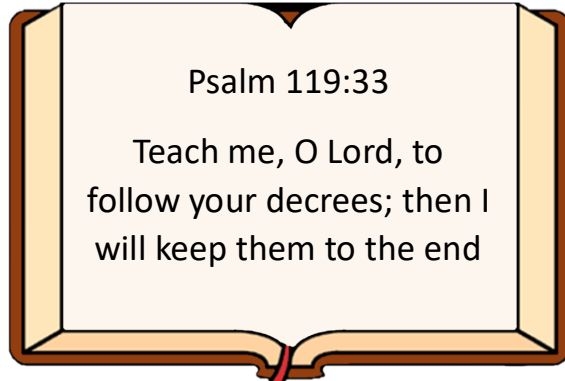


Weekly Memory Verse



Josiah Repairs the Temple



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What should we follow? _____

How long should we keep God's decrees? _____



mibibleclubs@bcmintl.org

MI Bible Clubs
2012 28th St. SE Suite C
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
616-457-3840



mibibleclubs.org



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After King Uzziah died, many kings reigned over Judah. Many of these kings were evil. Amon was one of the evil kings. He was killed only 2 years into his reign. His son, Josiah, was crowned as the next king. Josiah was only eight years old when he began to reign over Judah.

King Josiah did not follow the evil ways of his father, but instead he chose to follow God's Way. Josiah loved God and began following Him.

By the time he was twenty years old, King Josiah began to lead the people in following God's Way too. He knew they must stop worshiping false gods, and he began to destroy their idols.

But King Josiah knew there was another important thing that must be done if the people were going to follow God. The temple that was broken down had to be repaired so that the people could worship God there.

Josiah sent his trusted advisers to talk to Hilkiah, the high priest, about overseeing the repair of the temple. One day when Hilkiah went into the temple he made an incredible discovery. He found the Book of the Law! The words in this book were God's words—the very words God had commanded Moses to write down 800 years earlier for the people of Israel to obey.

The priests had been commanded by God to read the Book of the Law to the people once every seven years. But as the people turned to the worship of idols, they did not want to hear it. Hilkiah said to Shaphan, the king's secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the Lord." Then he gave it to Shaphan.

Shaphan went to King Josiah with the book and said, "We have finished the work that you have given us to do. The temple has been repaired and the workers have been paid. Hilkiah gave me a book that he found in the temple." Then Shaphan began to read from the Book of the Law.

When Josiah heard God's words, he became very troubled. His people and his family had been disobedient to God, and God was angry with them. Josiah never realized how much God hated sin and how terrible God's punishment for sin was until he heard God's Word. He became so upset that he tore his robes and cried.

Circle the correct answer.

Josiah was (8, 10, 12) years old when he became king.

Then Josiah spoke to Hilkiah and the others, saying, "We have not obeyed the Word of God. We have not obeyed the commands written in this Book of the Law. God is angry with us and He is going to punish us." Then he sent his advisers to Huldah. Huldah was a godly woman who gave God's message to the people as Isaiah and Jeremiah did. Huldah told the king's advisers, "Tell the king that God is going to punish the people of Judah for their disobedience. Since Josiah is sorry for his sins and the sins of his people and wants to make things right before God, this is not going to happen while he is alive."

After King Josiah received Huldah's answer, he called all the people together in Jerusalem. He wanted them to hear what God said and to obey it. Everyone, including the children, stood as the Book of the Law was read. The people listened closely. After the law was read, Josiah promised to obey God with all his heart and with all his soul. Then he made the people promise to do the same.

Josiah ordered the priests to remove everything from the temple that was used in worshiping idols. It was not easy for Josiah to do these things because the people had been worshiping those idols for many years. But God helped Josiah keep his promise. Then Josiah led the people in observing the Passover Feast, which had not been celebrated for many years. For as long as Josiah lived, the people kept their promise to follow the Lord.

God wants us to value the Bible. It is the most important book that has ever been written because it is God's very own words written to us. Since it tells us the absolute truth about God and how we can know Him through receiving His Son as our Savior, we can trust it completely. If we read the Bible and obey what it says, we will become the person God wants us to be—one who follows His way, The Bible Way.

Circle the correct answer.

Josiah commanded (*Christmas, Easter, Passover*) to be celebrated again. It was a special religious day the people had not kept for many years.