

Immerse Yourself in the Word

1. Introduction

People say that the best way to learn a foreign language is to be immersed in it. When you are in a situation where you have to speak a second language, it really stretches your brain to pull up words that you have learned in that language. It is great mental exercise. The same applies to God's Word. When you read, study, and digest it every day, the more easily the Holy Spirit can pull up from within you a verse or just a phrase to help you in a situation. In learning another language, the more you use it, the more you retain what you have learned. Likewise, the more you read your Bible and study it, the more you will retain.

Have you ever read through the entire Bible? For many that is an overwhelming thought. God's Word is of paramount importance to us. God speaks through His Word, and shows us the answers to life's questions, the solution to life's problems, and wisdom for life's dilemmas.

2. The Bible Reading Guide

The Bible reading charts below have organized readings from four daily portions to offer variety. The first portion is the weekly reading from the Torah, or Pentateuch (Genesis-Deuteronomy). Observant Jews practice reading through the five books of Moses every year and have divided up that section of Scripture into weekly portions. There is also a special Torah portion table available for those who want to read just this part of the Bible over the year.

The second portion is a roughly chronological reading through the events and corresponding prophecies of the Old Testament. This gives the reader a glimpse into the historical events leading up to the end of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the exile of the Southern Kingdom of Judah into Babylon. It concludes with the return of the Jews from captivity and the reestablishment of the nation of Israel with the rebuilding of the Temple.

The third portion is a reading from the rich literature of the Scriptures. Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, and Ecclesiastes offer wisdom and inspiration for each day. While the readings jump around a bit in this portion, it is not a random selection. In as much as possible, we have looked for connections between the literature and something in the other reading portion that it is grouped with. It gives the reader a special nugget to help drive home the power of the events that are taking place in the chronological timelines. The psalmist, for example, may have written his psalm hundreds, or even thousands of years before or after events that they are grouped with. But it shows the impact of what both the psalmist and someone far removed from that point of time had in common. These literature connections are listed with the other