

How to Read the Bible

Part 4: Case Study - Joshua 1:1-9

O For a Thousand
Tongues to Sing



How to Read the Bible

Part 4: Case Study - Joshua 1:1-9

Of the 7,000+ languages spoken around the world, approximately **3,511** have little to no **Scripture**. We are working to change this reality.



illumi**Nations**

An alliance of Bible translation partners whose goal is to see all people gain access to God's Word in a language they can clearly understand by 2033.

Donate at:
[Illuminations.bible](https://illuminations.bible)



Interpretation

The art of moving from what a Bible passage says to what it means for the here and now.



Five Step Interpretive Method

1. What did the passage mean to the biblical audience?
2. What are the differences and similarities between the biblical world and mine?
3. What is the theological principle?
4. How does the principle fit with the rest of scripture?
5. How should Christians live this principle today?

Joshua 1:1-9
New International Version

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide:

2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.

3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.

4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.

7 "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Step 1:

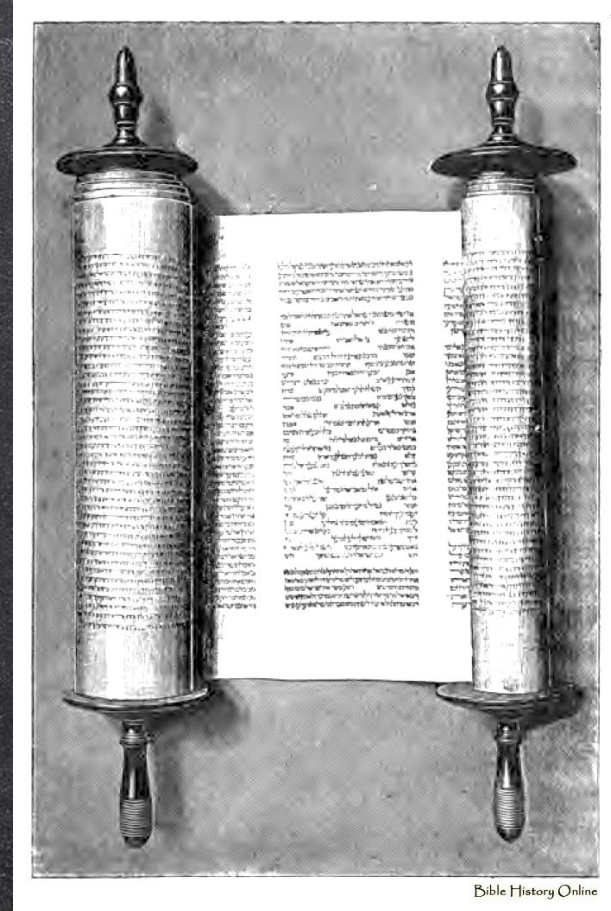
What did the passage mean to the
biblical audience?

Observations

- "After the death of Moses"
- "Joshua"
- "Jordan River"
- God has made promises
- God's commands:
 - Be strong and courageous
 - Be obedient

Observations

- "Book of the Law"
 - Speak it
 - Think about it
 - Do it
- "Do not be afraid"



Historical Context

Authorship & Audience

- Unknown author
- Written in Israel's early monarchy - about 200 years after events.

Joshua's Setting

- Weakness of ANE superpowers
- Canannites - cruelty toward others, pagan temples

Literary Context

- God's promise to Abraham (Genesis)
- Israel enslaved 400 years in Egypt and delivered (Exodus)
- Israel wanders 40 years on the wilderness (Numbers - Deuteronomy)

Summary statement

God spoke to Joshua, the new leader of Israel, commanding him to draw strength and courage from God's presence, to be obedient to the law of Moses, and to meditate on the law so he would be successful in leading the Israelites into the Promised Land.

Step 2:

What are the differences and similarities
between the biblical world and mine?

Differences

- Not leaders of Israel
- Not facing battle with the Canaanites
- Not under old covenant law
- Not freed from slavery
- Not called to lead Israel into the Promised Land

Similarities

- We may be leaders
- We each face challenges and battles
- We are under the new covenant and the Bible
- Have been saved by God's grace
- Called to do something for God's purpose

Step 3

What is the theological principle revealed
in the passage?

Timeless truths

- We are called by God to serve
- Faithfulness requires courage
- We are called to obey God's Word
- The importance of reflecting on God's Word daily
- The need to rely on God's presence and strength

Theological principle

To serve God and succeed in the tasks to which He calls us, we must draw strength and courage from his presence, and be obedient to his word, meditating on it constantly.

Step 4

How does this principle fit with the rest
of scripture?

Biblical themes

- Promise of God's presence as source of strength
- "Do not be afraid"
- The indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- Let the word dwell in you

Step 5

How should Christians apply the principle today?

Applications

- What challenge is God calling you to face?
- Are you relying on your own strength?
How can God's presence empower you?
- How do you experience God's presence?
- How can you meditate on God's Word daily?

How to Read the Bible

Part 4: Case Study - Joshua 1:1-9