

## **Dr. David Howard, Joshua - Ruth, Session 5, Joshua 1:10-18**

### **Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

#### **1. Abstract of Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 5, Joshua 1:10-18, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. David Howard's lecture** analyzes Joshua 1:10-18, focusing on **Joshua's instructions** to his officers and the Transjordan tribes. He examines **three key segments**: Joshua's charge to prepare for crossing the Jordan, his words to the tribes settling east of the Jordan (connecting it to Numbers 32 and Deuteronomy 3), and the people's affirmation of Joshua's leadership. Howard **interprets the people's response** in verse 16 as coming from the entire nation, not just the Transjordan tribes, based on the Hebrew syntax. Finally, he **highlights the recurring theme** of strength and courage, concluding with the people's pledge of obedience to Joshua.

**2. 17 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 5 – Double click icon to play  
in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org  
[BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old  
Testament → Historical Books → Joshua-Ruth).**



**Howard\_Josh\_Ruth  
\_Session05.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 5, Joshua 1:10-18

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. David Howard's lecture on Joshua 1:10-18:

#### Briefing Document: Joshua 1:10-18 Analysis

**Overview:** This document analyzes Dr. Howard's lecture on Joshua 1:10-18, focusing on the structure, key speeches, and interpretations within the text. Dr. Howard breaks down this section into three segments: Joshua's charge to the officers (10-11), his instructions to the Transjordan tribes (12-15), and the people's response to Joshua (16-18). He emphasizes the interconnectedness of themes within the book and the importance of the grammatical structure.

#### Key Themes and Ideas:

1. **Inheritance and Possession of the Land:** The theme of God giving the land to the Israelites to "possess" or "take possession" is central. This is emphasized through the phrasing "the land that the Lord your God is giving you" (verse 11). This echoes throughout the book as a key part of the covenant. The concept of inheritance is "intertwined all the way through the warp and woof of the books down to the specific wording of verses."
2. **Joshua's Leadership and Authority:** Joshua's role as the successor to Moses is highlighted. He is actively giving instructions to prepare the people for crossing the Jordan and claiming their inheritance. This is demonstrated in his commands to the officers to prepare the camp (10-11) and his reminder to the Transjordan tribes of their obligation (12-15).
3. **The Transjordan Tribes and Their Commitment:** The historical context of the Reubenites, Gadites, and half-tribe of Manasseh settling east of the Jordan is reviewed, referencing Numbers 32 and Deuteronomy 3. Their initial desire to settle east was met with skepticism by Moses, who questioned their dedication to the whole nation of Israel. They pledged to fight alongside the other tribes and then return. Howard notes the near verbatim echo of Moses' words in Deuteronomy 3 and Joshua 1, emphasizing the continuity of the obligation.

4. **Narrative Structure and Grammatical Nuances:** Dr. Howard emphasizes the importance of the narrative framework, identifying narrative markers that explain who spoke and to whom. He argues against a common interpretation of the people's response.
  - **Four Blocks of Speech:** He outlines the chapter's structure, seeing four blocks of speeches: God to Joshua, Joshua to the officers, Joshua to the Transjordan tribes, and finally, the people's response.
  - **Disjunctive Syntax in Verse 12:** Dr. Howard highlights the break in the typical Hebrew narrative flow at the start of verse 12, using a “disjunctive type” of narrative structure. He argues that this break indicates that Joshua’s speech to the officers and to the Transjordan tribes are conceived as part of the same larger address. This connection is critical to understanding who is responding.
1. **The Whole Nation Affirms Joshua:** Based on this grammatical analysis, Dr. Howard argues that the response in verses 16-18 is not solely from the Transjordan tribes, but from the entire nation of Israel. This is crucial because it is the only place in the book where the entire nation affirms Joshua as their leader. "The narrative or the verb form and the syntax there in verse 12 is of a disjunctive type. And I would argue what it's doing is telling us that these two blocks of speech go together...the response then is by everybody addressed in that speech."
2. **The People's Affirmation and its Limitations:** The people's response to Joshua is enthusiastic, promising obedience: "Everything you have commanded us we will do. Wherever you send us we will go. Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you." (16-17). Dr. Howard humorously notes the irony, "I often chuckle when I read these verses because I think that their intent was good, but I think their words kind of undermine their intent a little bit because it says, just as we obeyed Moses in all things. Imagine Joshua thinking, well, if that's the standard, that's a pretty low standard."
3. **Themes of Strength and Courage:** The theme of being "strong and courageous" is highlighted, mentioned previously in God's words to Joshua, and now reiterated by the people in their affirmation of Joshua's leadership (verse 18). This reinforces the divine command and people's willingness to align themselves with God's purposes.

**Key Quotes:**

- "This is the land that the Lord your God is giving you." (Joshua 1:11)
- "...even those themes that we talked about, the seven themes, are intertwined all the way through the warp and woof of the books down to the specific wording of verses."
- "Everything you have commanded us we will do. Wherever you send us we will go. Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you." (Joshua 1:16-17)
- "...the response then is by everybody addressed in that speech."
- "Only be strong and courageous." (Joshua 1:18)

**Conclusion:** Dr. Howard's lecture offers a detailed analysis of Joshua 1:10-18, revealing that the text is rich with interconnected themes and carefully constructed literary and grammatical elements. His argument for understanding the people's response as a national affirmation of Joshua's leadership adds depth to our understanding of this crucial passage. It emphasizes the importance of considering both the narrative structure and grammatical nuances when interpreting biblical texts.

## 4. Study Guide: Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 5, Joshua 1:10-18

### Joshua 1:10-18 Study Guide

#### Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What are the three segments of Joshua 1:10-18?
2. What is the significance of the phrase "to possess" in verse 11?
3. Why did the tribes of Reuben and Gad, along with half of Manasseh, request to settle east of the Jordan River?
4. What was Moses' initial reaction to the request of the Transjordan tribes, as described in Numbers 32?
5. According to Numbers 32, what condition did Moses place on the Transjordan tribes settling east of the Jordan?
6. What is the significance of Deuteronomy 3:18-20 in relation to Joshua 1:12-15?
7. According to the lecture, how is the narrative framework of Joshua chapter 1 structured?
8. What is the typical narrative pattern in Hebrew and how is it broken in Joshua 1?
9. According to the lecturer, who is responding to Joshua's instructions in verse 16 and why is that significant?
10. What does the affirmation of Joshua by the people in verses 16-18 reveal about the nation's commitment and leadership dynamic?

#### Answer Key

1. The three segments are Joshua's instructions to the officers of the people (10-11), his instructions to the Transjordan tribes (12-15), and the people's response to Joshua (16-18). Each segment contributes to the larger narrative arc of the initial steps toward conquering the promised land.
2. The phrase "to possess" relates to the theme of inheritance and emphasizes God's promise to give the land to the Israelites. It highlights the idea that the land is not merely to be occupied, but to be owned and inherited as a gift from God.

3. The Transjordan tribes noticed that the land east of the Jordan was fertile and suitable for their large livestock and so they requested to settle there. Their desire to settle there became a pivotal moment, leading to negotiations with Moses regarding their role in future battles.
4. Moses was initially angry and skeptical because he believed they were trying to avoid the upcoming conflicts in Canaan. He feared their request was an act of rebellion and would discourage the other tribes from fulfilling their obligations to inherit the Promised Land.
5. Moses stipulated that the men of valor from the Transjordan tribes would need to take up arms and fight alongside the other tribes in the conquest of Canaan. Only after helping their brethren conquer the land would they be free to return and settle their land east of the Jordan.
6. Deuteronomy 3:18-20 foreshadows Joshua 1:12-15, echoing the same conditions given to the Transjordan tribes regarding their obligation to help conquer Canaan. It is a reiteration of an earlier agreement and emphasizes continuity and unity in the nation's purpose.
7. The narrative framework is structured as a series of alternating narrative blocks and blocks of direct speech. The author describes who is speaking to whom, which serves as a backbone for the chapter and provides context for the speeches delivered.
8. The typical narrative pattern in Hebrew uses a consecutive string of verbs (the *waw* consecutive). The verb form in Joshua 1:12 breaks from this pattern, indicating a break in the narrative sequence and a relationship between the two speeches of Joshua.
9. According to the lecturer, the "they" in verse 16 represents all the tribes, not just the Transjordan tribes. The author suggests that this interpretation demonstrates that the whole nation has accepted Joshua as their new leader.
10. The people's affirmation of Joshua demonstrates a willingness to follow his leadership just as they followed Moses, though the lecturer notes their obedience was not always complete. It shows their renewed commitment to the covenant and to the overall mission of conquering and possessing the Promised Land.

## Essay Questions

**Instructions:** Develop a well-organized essay for each of the following prompts.

1. Analyze the role of leadership transitions in Joshua 1:10-18, focusing on how Joshua establishes his authority and how the people respond to his leadership.
2. Discuss the significance of the Transjordan tribes' request to settle east of the Jordan, and how it impacts the narrative of Joshua 1:10-18.
3. Explore the theme of inheritance in Joshua 1:10-18, specifically how it relates to the land and the promises of God.
4. Examine the structural elements of Joshua 1, as discussed in the lecture, and their implications for understanding the relationships between various speeches.
5. How does the narrative of Joshua 1:10-18 contribute to the overarching themes of the book of Joshua?

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Transjordan Tribes:** The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh, who requested to settle east of the Jordan River.
- **Inheritance:** The land promised by God to the Israelites, which they are to possess and occupy as their own.
- **Waw Consecutive:** A typical Hebrew verb sequence in narratives, creating a "and...and...and" chain of events, and any break in the pattern carries significance.
- **Narrative Framework:** The structuring of a story with elements of who speaks to whom and the overall timeline, as opposed to just the direct speeches.
- **Men of Valor:** The men of fighting age from the Transjordan tribes who were required to participate in the conquest of Canaan.
- **Covenant:** An agreement or promise between God and his people, establishing a specific relationship and mutual obligations.
- **Disjunctive:** The breaking of a typical pattern, in this case, in Hebrew syntax, which signals a shift in the narrative's flow.

## 5. FAQs on Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 5, Joshua 1:10-18, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### Frequently Asked Questions about Joshua 1:10-18

1. **What are the three segments of Joshua 1:10-18, and what is the overall focus of this passage?** This passage is comprised of three segments: Joshua's instructions to the officers of the people (verses 10-11), his instructions to the Transjordan tribes (Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh) (verses 12-15), and the people's response to Joshua (verses 16-18). The overall focus is on Joshua preparing the Israelites for the conquest of Canaan, emphasizing the theme of inheritance of the land, and securing the loyalty and commitment of all the tribes.
2. **What specific instruction does Joshua give to the officers in verses 10-11?** Joshua instructs the officers to pass through the camp, prepare the people, and announce that within three days, they will cross the Jordan River to take possession of the land that the Lord is giving them as an inheritance. This reinforces the theme of divine promise and the importance of immediate action and preparation.
3. **Why did the Transjordan tribes settle east of the Jordan, and what agreement did they make with Moses?** The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh, possessing a large number of livestock, noticed that the land east of the Jordan was fertile and suitable for grazing. They requested to settle there, which initially angered Moses who perceived this as an attempt to avoid the upcoming battles in Canaan. However, after negotiations, they agreed that their men of valor would fight alongside the other tribes in conquering Canaan. After the land was conquered they were permitted to return to their homes east of the Jordan. This agreement is recorded in Numbers chapter 32.
4. **How does Joshua's instruction to the Transjordan tribes in Joshua 1:12-15 connect with Numbers 32 and Deuteronomy 3?** Joshua's words to the Transjordan tribes in verses 12-15 are almost verbatim repetitions of the agreement made by Moses to them in Numbers 32, and later reiterated in Deuteronomy 3:18-20. These words remind them of their promise to fight for the other tribes before they would be able to settle in the land east of the Jordan. This underscores the importance of keeping prior agreements and emphasizes the continuity of God's plan through Moses and Joshua.



5. **Who does the text identify as answering Joshua in verse 16, and why is this significant according to the source?** While many commentators assume the response in verse 16 comes solely from the Transjordan tribes, the source argues, based on Hebrew syntax, that the "they" in verse 16 actually refers to all the people, or at least representatives of all the tribes, and not just the Transjordan tribes. The Hebrew phrasing separates this speech from the immediately preceding one. This is significant because it serves as an affirmation of Joshua's leadership by the whole nation, not just a segment.
6. **What is the significance of the phrase "Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we obey you" in verse 17, and how does the speaker of the source interpret it?** The phrase is meant to express the people's full allegiance and obedience to Joshua, drawing a parallel to their obedience to Moses. However, the speaker notes the irony that the Israelites were not always obedient to Moses, thus their pledge to obey Joshua using their prior obedience to Moses as a measuring stick is not very high praise, although its intent was good. However, the speaker also acknowledges that it was the people's intention to convey their sincere loyalty.
7. **How does the theme of being "strong and courageous" appear in this passage?** The theme of being "strong and courageous" appears in God's words to Joshua earlier in the chapter, as well as in the people's concluding words in verse 18. The people say, "only be strong and courageous." This repetition emphasizes the importance of these qualities for both Joshua's leadership and for the people to conquer Canaan.
8. **How does the narrative framework in Joshua 1 contribute to the structure and meaning of the passage?** The narrative framework outlines who spoke to whom, while the actual words provide the substance of those speeches. In the chapter it consists of God to Joshua, Joshua to the officers of the people, Joshua to the Transjordan tribes and then a response by the whole nation to Joshua. This structure highlights the transfer of authority from God to Joshua, then to the leaders of the people, and then to the people themselves. It also reveals the commitment of the entire nation to the divine plan and leadership of Joshua. This structure also highlights the main points of the chapter - the promises to the people, and their willingness to follow Joshua.