

Dr. David Howard, Joshua - Ruth, Session 12, Deut. 17 and Joshua Excursus 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 12, Deut. 17 and Joshua Excursus, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture excerpt from Dr. David Howard's series on Joshua and Ruth focuses on the crucial role of God's word in godly leadership. He draws parallels between Deuteronomy 17's instructions for Israelite kings, Joshua's commission in Joshua 1, and the opening of Psalms, highlighting the consistent theme of success stemming from obedience to and meditation on scripture. The recurring motif emphasizes the importance of God's law in leadership, whether in a king, a military leader like Joshua, or any other position of authority. This connection is further underscored by the placement of these texts within the Hebrew Bible's structure, demonstrating a consistent message across the Law, Prophets, and Writings sections. Ultimately, Howard argues that this emphasis on God's word provides a model for all forms of godly leadership throughout the Old Testament.

**2. 9 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 12 – 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
_Session 12.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 12, Deut. 17 and Joshua Excursus

Okay, here is a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided source, "Howard_Josh_Ruth_EN_Session12_Covenant.pdf":

Briefing Document: Leadership Rooted in God's Word in the Old Testament

Main Theme: This session explores the idea that success in leadership, as presented in the Old Testament, is fundamentally linked to a leader's adherence to and meditation on God's word. This principle isn't limited to kings but applies to any form of godly leadership.

Key Ideas and Facts:

1. Deuteronomy 17 as a Model for Kingship:

- Moses, anticipating Israel's desire for a king, outlines criteria in Deuteronomy 17:15-17. God allows them to have a king, but there are specific limitations.
- Verses 18-20 provide the key to a king's success: "when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law... It shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life...".
- The king must be rooted in God's word, constantly reading and internalizing it. This ensures he will fear God, keep His laws, and not become arrogant. It also ensures the longevity of his rule and his descendants.
- **Quote:** *"So, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law approved by the Levitical priests. It shall be with him. He shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and by doing them."*

1. Broader Application to Leadership:

- The model of kingship in Deuteronomy 17 extends beyond kings to become a model for *all* godly leadership within the Old Testament.
- Examples include later leaders like Ezra and Nehemiah, who were deeply rooted in scripture.
- This model emphasizes leaders as not just figures of authority, but as examples who point the people to God.

- There are some godly kings who adhered to this model, although many did not, especially in the later period of the kings in Israel.

1. Joshua 1 as an Echo of Deuteronomy 17:

- God's charge to Joshua in Joshua 1:6-9 mirrors the principles laid out for the king in Deuteronomy 17.
- Joshua is commanded to be "strong and very courageous" (Joshua 1:7), to be careful to obey the law given to Moses, and not turn from it to the right or left.
- **Quote:** *"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to do according to all the law that Moses, my servant, commanded you. Do not turn aside from the right or the left, so that you may have good success wherever you go."*
- Verse 8 emphasizes the importance of the law not departing from Joshua's mouth and meditating on it day and night. This echoes the king's responsibility to continually read and internalize God's word.
- Joshua is not a king but a military and spiritual leader tasked with leading the people to God.
- The phrase '*meditate on it day and night*' is significant, implying a continuous, habitual reflection and internalization of God's word

1. Thematic Significance within the Hebrew Canon:

- The placement of Deuteronomy 17 (at the end of the Law) and Joshua 1 (at the beginning of the Prophets) is significant. It highlights the overarching theme of leadership tied to obedience to God's word.
- The Writings section, which begins with the Book of Psalms, also reflects this theme. Psalm 1 contrasts the godly man (who delights in God's law and meditates on it day and night) with the wicked, further emphasizing that this principle is a pervasive throughout the canon.
- The phrase '*meditate day and night*' is consistent across the sections of the Hebrew Canon, highlighting a crucial theme.

1. **Key Takeaway:** The success and effectiveness of any leader in the Old Testament is inextricably linked to their devotion to God's word. This includes studying the word, internalizing it, and allowing it to guide their decision-making and their overall character and conduct.

Conclusion:

This session highlights a critical theological and practical principle found throughout the Old Testament: the central importance of being rooted in and meditating on God's word for effective and godly leadership. This model transcends the position of king and is applicable to anyone who seeks to lead according to God's will. The consistent emphasis on the word, its internalization, and its application indicates its significance to the authors of the Old Testament.

4. Study Guide: Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 12, Deut. 17 and Joshua Excursus

Deuteronomy 17, Joshua 1, and Old Testament Leadership

Quiz

1. According to Deuteronomy 17:15-17, what is God's stance on Israel having a king?
2. What is the primary requirement for a king's success, as outlined in Deuteronomy 17:18-20?
3. How does the description of the ideal king in Deuteronomy 17 connect with the leadership role of Joshua in Joshua 1?
4. Besides being a military leader, what other role is Joshua intended to fulfill for the people?
5. Name two Old Testament leaders, aside from Joshua and the ideal king, that exemplified the principles of godly leadership discussed in the lecture.
6. What is the structure of the Hebrew canon, and how does the principle of being rooted in God's word appear in the first book of each section?
7. What specific actions does God command Joshua to take regarding the law in Joshua 1:7-8?
8. How does Psalm 1:2 echo the themes of Deuteronomy 17 and Joshua 1 regarding success?
9. According to the lecture, what is the broader application of the principles for leadership laid out in Deuteronomy 17?
10. How many good kings of Judah are mentioned in the lecture that followed the ideal of Deuteronomy 17?

Quiz Answer Key

1. God does not forbid Israel from having a king, and it is seen as part of his intent, as long as certain criteria are met.
2. The key to a king's success is to be rooted in God's word, continually reading and meditating on it, and keeping its statutes.

3. Similar to the king, Joshua is commanded to be strong and courageous, to meditate on the law, and to not turn from it, making it clear that following the law is crucial for both leaders.
4. Joshua is intended to be a leader who points people to God and is a model and example in his own life.
5. Ezra and Nehemiah are mentioned as leaders rooted in God's word.
6. The Hebrew canon consists of the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings, and the first book of each section (Deuteronomy, Joshua, Psalms) emphasizes the importance of being rooted in God's word.
7. God commands Joshua to be careful to do all that is written in the book of the law, meditate on it day and night, and not turn from it.
8. Psalm 1:2 emphasizes that the godly person's delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on it, mirroring the emphasis on meditation found in Joshua and Deuteronomy.
9. The principles in Deuteronomy 17 serve as a model for any type of godly leadership, not just for kings.
10. There were eight good kings in Judah that followed the model to one degree or another.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the parallels between the instructions given to the king in Deuteronomy 17 and the charge given to Joshua in Joshua 1, discussing the significance of these similarities for understanding leadership in the Old Testament.
2. Discuss the role of the "Book of the Law" in shaping the leadership of both kings and other leaders in the Old Testament based on the lecture and provided passages. How does this emphasis on the Law connect with the idea of "success"?
3. Compare and contrast the leadership styles exemplified by the ideal king described in Deuteronomy 17 and the actual kings of Israel and Judah. How does the lecturer suggest this ideal was put into practice?

4. Examine the significance of the placement of Deuteronomy 17 at the end of the Law and Joshua 1 at the beginning of the Prophets within the Hebrew canon. How does this structure support the principle of being rooted in God's word?
5. Considering the lecture's claim that these principles of leadership extend beyond kings, explore the practical implications of applying the themes of Deuteronomy 17 and Joshua 1 to contemporary leadership roles.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Covenant:** A sacred agreement or binding promise between two or more parties, often used in the Old Testament to describe the relationship between God and His people.
- **Deuteronomy:** The fifth book of the Old Testament, which contains Moses's final address to the Israelites, including instructions on the Law and leadership.
- **Joshua:** The first book of the Prophets in the Old Testament, detailing the conquest of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua.
- **Levitical Priests:** Members of the tribe of Levi who were responsible for religious duties and teaching the Law to the people.
- **Meditation:** The act of contemplating or reflecting deeply on something, often in the context of Scripture; a practice of thoughtful consideration.
- **Old Testament:** The first division of the Christian Bible, which includes the Jewish scriptures.
- **Hebrew Canon:** The collection of books that constitute the Jewish Bible, traditionally divided into the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings.
- **Godly Leadership:** A form of leadership that is rooted in a commitment to God, His word, and His principles.
- **Judah:** The southern kingdom of the divided monarchy, often associated with the Davidic line of kings.
- **Psalms:** A sacred song or poem in the Book of Psalms, expressing various emotions, including praise, lament, and thanksgiving.

5. FAQs on Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 12, Deut. 17 and Joshua Excursus, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ: Godly Leadership and the Word of God in the Old Testament

1. **What is the ideal model for a king in Deuteronomy 17, and how does it relate to broader leadership principles?**
2. Deuteronomy 17:18-20 outlines that the ideal king should write a copy of God's law, keep it with him, and read it daily. This practice is not just for kings, but establishes a broader model for all godly leadership. Leaders are to be rooted in God's Word, learn to fear the Lord, and obey His commandments. This includes not being prideful and not straying from God's path, ensuring success and longevity for both the leader and their kingdom. This concept is echoed in many other examples of leadership throughout the Old Testament.
3. **How does God's charge to Joshua in Joshua 1 echo the principles of leadership outlined in Deuteronomy 17?**
4. In Joshua 1:7-8, God instructs Joshua to be strong and courageous, adhering strictly to the law given by Moses. He must not deviate from it, promising success as a result. This directly mirrors the stipulations in Deuteronomy 17, highlighting that obedience to and meditation on God's Word are fundamental to effective and godly leadership. Joshua, though not a king, is to be a model of leadership through adherence to scripture, demonstrating that this is not a principle limited to monarchy.
5. **Why is meditation on God's Word emphasized in both Deuteronomy 17 and Joshua 1?**
6. Meditation on God's Word, as highlighted in both Deuteronomy 17 and Joshua 1, is essential because it allows leaders to internalize God's laws and principles. This process cultivates a "fear of the Lord," leading to right actions and decisions. It also serves as a continuous guide, preventing leaders from straying from God's commandments and ensuring they maintain a humble heart, focused on divine principles rather than personal ambition.

7. **How does the failure of many kings in Israel highlight the importance of the model in Deuteronomy 17?**
8. The contrast between the ideal king described in Deuteronomy 17 and the many ungodly kings in Israel serves to emphasize the importance of following this model. The failure of these kings, who strayed from God's Word and turned to other paths, demonstrates the negative consequences of ignoring God's guidance. The success of the few godly kings in Judah, who did adhere to the law, underlines that obedience to God's word is essential for true success and God's favor.
9. **Beyond kings, who else in the Old Testament embodies the principles of godly leadership rooted in the Word of God?**

Figures like Ezra and Nehemiah, as well as Joshua, also exemplified this form of leadership. They grounded their public actions and decisions in the scripture, publicly reading and teaching it to the people. These leaders were effective not simply due to their political or military acumen, but because they also embodied the spiritual values rooted in God's Word, demonstrating that this model of leadership applies beyond the role of kings.

1. **What does the structure of the Hebrew canon (Law, Prophets, Writings) reveal about the importance of God's Word?**

The Hebrew canon is structured with Deuteronomy 17, emphasizing the importance of God's law to the king, at the end of the Law section. The prophets then begin with Joshua 1, which reiterates this theme, and the writings begin with the Psalms, which again contrasts the blessedness of those who meditate on God's law with those who don't. This structure highlights the consistency of the emphasis of these ideals throughout the entire Old Testament. The three sections underscore that devotion to God's word and his laws is foundational for true success and right living.

1. **How does Psalm 1 connect to the theme of godly leadership and the importance of God's word?**
2. Psalm 1 mirrors the themes found in Deuteronomy 17 and Joshua 1, with its emphasis on meditating on God's law. It highlights the contrast between the righteous person, who delights in God's law and meditates on it day and night, and the wicked. The godly person's success and well-being are directly tied to their adherence to God's Word. This parallel reinforces the overarching message

that focusing on and internalizing scripture is crucial for success and for walking in God's path.

3. **What is the overarching message or principle that connects Deuteronomy 17, Joshua 1, and Psalm 1 in regard to godly leadership and personal success?**
4. The key overarching principle is that true success, whether for a leader or an individual, is rooted in obedience to and meditation on God's Word. The passages in Deuteronomy 17, Joshua 1, and Psalm 1 all stress the critical need to internalize God's commands, avoid straying from them, and make God's law a central part of one's life and leadership approach. This emphasis on grounding leadership and personal lives in the Word of God provides guidance and protection from straying into paths that lead to failure.