

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S7E6

How To Carefully Follow God's Law - Joshua 1:6-9

Description – Join us today as we continue to examine the layout of the Hebrew Bible and focus on the Nevi'im, the section on the prophets.

Today on the podcast we're going to talk about the Hebrew Bible, the Tanak, and how it was divided.

The Hebrew bible was / is the exact same as far as content, but less books because they consolidate some of the books. For example, 1 & 2 Kings is just "Kings." Same for Chronicles and Samuel.

They divided the Bible into three separate sections:

1. Torah
2. Nevi'im
3. Ketuvim

Remember, we talked about this last time:

Torah - Law - Don't think of this as "Do this, don't do that" Speed limit on a road, etc. The Law was given to protect, to act as guardrails to keep people safe and from things that would harm them.

God's law isn't meant to restrict, it's meant to protect. Paul says in Romans 10 that the Law is Life.

Nevi'im - Prophets - Begins with the book of Joshua, Kings, Samuel, and the prophets (Major and minor)

Ketuvim - Writings - Begins with the Psalms, includes Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, etc.

Question: Are there hints about what God expects at the beginning of these sections?

Let's look at Joshua 1

Joshua 1:6-9

⁶ "Be strong and courageous, for you will distribute the land I swore to their ancestors to give them as an inheritance. ⁷ Above all, be strong and very courageous to observe carefully the

whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. ⁸ This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. ⁹ Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

1:8 - "book of instruction" is talking about the law, the law of Moses. You could also translate this as "book of the law."

1:8 - "that you may carefully observe everything written in it..." - What does it mean to observe? This is different from being a passive observer, like the hobby of birdwatching. You're not moved by your observation of the birds. The word here "observe" means to see & obey, or hear & do.

Lifeway research did a deep dive and study on the disciplines in the Christian life. The most important of the disciplines, the one that had more impact than all the others in the life of a Christian is Bible engagement. You read and apply what the word says.

Joshua, right out of the gate the Lord says you will be successful if you meditate / marinate on the Word of God.

God tells Joshua something that we all need to understand. Whether you're in full time vocational ministry or not. We all have a ministry field that we're in.

Notice what God says to Joshua: Before you do anything, before you set foot in the land, before you take the job, before you walk out your door, you need to develop a spiritual rhythm of being in the word. That's before God does anything through you.

God was trying to build them up internally to be able to withstand the external attacks of the world.

The problem with those who fall in ministry is that their internal life with God was out of balance with their external work or ministry.

If you're looking for a reading plan, you can find the 3 Foundations plans here: (The New Testament, The Old Testament and the Original F260 bible reading plans)

<https://longhollow.com/follow-the-nt260-bible-reading-plan-1>