

Call to Summon

Sometimes you'll encounter some confusing concepts when reading the Bible like the word call. One method to understand the many ways the Bible uses this word is by looking into how it is used in the Old Testament. This means looking into the Hebrew word "qārā" from which the English word "call" is translated from.

The Hebrew word **qārā'** has several meanings. It can mean: a) to call or cry out a loud sound, b) to name or designate, c) to read out loud, or d) to summon or invite.

1. What meaning does God intend here when He called Moses?

Moses went up to God, and the Lord called (**qārā'**) to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: (Ex 19:3, NASB)

2. What meaning does Moses intend here when he called the elders?

So Moses came and called (**qārā'**) the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. (Ex 19:7, NASB)

3. What meaning does Moses intend here?

Then he took the book of the covenant and read (**qārā'**) it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!" (Ex 24:7, NASB)

4. What meaning does Moses intend here? Besides the Mosaic Covenant made some 40 years earlier, this is now about the Land Covenant.

These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the sons of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He had made with them at Horeb.

And Moses summoned (**qārā'**) all Israel and said to them, "You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and all his servants and all his land; the great trials which your eyes have seen, those great signs and wonders." (Deut 29:1-3, NASB)

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Teacher Notes

Sometimes you'll encounter some confusing concepts when reading the Bible like the word call. One method to understand the many ways the Bible uses this word is by looking into how it is used in the Old Testament. This means looking into the Hebrew word "qārā" from which the English word "call" is translated from.

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Introduce the student to the concept that our Bible is a translation of ancient manuscripts written in Hebrew and Greek. A good illustration is to point to a student's ethnicity and inquire what language their parents or ancestors would write a love letter to them in. For a student to read their parents' / ancestors' love letter, they would need to have it translated into English.

Review the various definitions for the Hebrew word **qārā'**.

1. What meaning does God intend here when He called Moses?

Moses went up to God, and the Lord called (**qārā'**) to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: (Ex 19:3, NASB)

Dramatically read the passage to the student, and ask him what meaning God intended when He called Moses.

God called out loudly.

2. What meaning does Moses intend here when he called the elders?

So Moses came and called (**qārā'**) the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. (Ex 19:7, NASB)

Dramatically read the passage to the student, and ask him what meaning Moses intended here when he called the elders. Ask questions to elicit the student's observation.

Moses summoned the elders.

3. What meaning does Moses intend here?

Then he took the book of the covenant and read (**qārā'**) it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!" (Ex 24:7, NASB)

Dramatically read the passage to the student, and ask him what meaning Moses intended here when he called in the hearing of the people.

Moses loudly called out / read the book of the covenant.

Ask the student: what is this book of the covenant?

Introduce the Mosaic Covenant to the student. After leaving Egypt in the Exodus, God made an agreement with the nation of Israel through Moses. God shows the nation of Israel how to live in a holy manner.

Do this behavior and I will bless you.

Don't do this behavior or I will punish you.

Ask the student: what choice do people make? Do they commit to the agreement?

4. What meaning does Moses intend here? Besides the Mosaic Covenant made some 40 years earlier, this is now about the Land Covenant.

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And Moses summoned (**qārā'**) all Israel and said to them, "You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and all his servants and all his land; the great trials which your eyes have seen, those great signs and wonders." (Deut 29:1-3, NASB)

Dramatically read the passage to the student, and ask him what meaning Moses intended here when he called all of the nation of Israel.

Moses summoned the whole nation. God told Moses something so important that all of God's people had to hear it.

Ask the student: do you know why God wants to Moses to speak to the nation now 40 years after the earlier covenant with Moses?

The kids of the Exodus are grown up; but, their parents died before entering the Promised Land because they complained and doubted God's ability to fulfill His promises.

"You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and all his servants and all his land; the great trials which your eyes have seen, those great signs and wonders" is a reminder that the invisible God is real and living.

This new covenant is the Land Covenant where God makes promises about the inheritance of the Promised Land.