

# When God's Word Is Available, God Moves

*A Biblical Reflection on Bible Access (by Jaap Van Bezooijen, BAL Project Manager)*

## The Word that Precedes the Move: A Scriptural Foundation

Throughout Scripture, we see a consistent truth: when God's Word is made accessible and understood, transformation follows. The availability of Scripture is not merely a resource — it is a **precursor to revival**, a spark for repentance, healing, and national renewal.

When **King Josiah** heard the Book of the Law read aloud (2 Kings 22–23), he tore his robes in repentance, led his nation back to covenant faithfulness, and a national reformation was ignited.

When **Ezra** stood and read the Law to the returned exiles (Nehemiah 8), the people wept, worshiped, and rebuilt their identity in the Lord. A broken community was restored.

When **Philip** helped the Ethiopian eunuch understand the prophecy of Isaiah (Acts 8), it led to personal salvation and the expansion of the Gospel into new regions.

When **Jehoshaphat** sent Levites throughout Judah to proclaim the Word (2 Chronicles 17:7–10), peace reigned, and the fear of the Lord fell on surrounding nations.

These moments show that **when the Word is heard, understood, and embraced, God moves powerfully**. Lives change. Communities are healed. Nations are awakened.

Scripture also shows us the cost of spiritual silence. Hosea declares, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). Amos prophesies a time of famine — not of food or water, but of hearing the words of the Lord (Amos 8:11). Where the Word is absent, **confusion, wandering, and despair** take root.

## Why This Matters in 2025

Today, that same famine persists in many parts of the world. Initial research across **88 countries** has shown that Bible access is **severely restricted** or **insufficient** for tens of millions of people.

In some nations, the barriers are **political**: government restrictions, censorship, or policies that ban the Bible altogether. In others, the threat comes from **religious extremism** or other hostile actors who target those who seek or distribute Scripture.

Elsewhere, the barriers are **economic and infrastructural**: deep poverty, remote geography, limited electricity, or unreliable internet make it difficult to access either printed or digital Bibles.

Despite varied challenges, the result is the same: **millions are cut off from God's Word**. And wherever the Word is withheld, the opportunity for spiritual transformation is delayed.

## What Can We Do?

This is not just a logistical problem — it is a spiritual one. And the Church has a role to play.

- **Pray** for those living without access to Scripture.
- **Learn** about the realities in each of the 88 countries through the Bible Access List.
- **Reflect** on the biblical call to make God's Word known.
- **Support efforts** that get Bibles to those who wait: through printing, distribution, or digital access.
- **Encourage your church or mission group** to prioritize Bible access as part of its global engagement.

## Let the Church Rise

Wherever the Bible is available, **God still moves**. Let us pray, serve, and give so that more people can encounter His Word. Let us not allow a famine of Scripture to continue when the harvest is ready.

**Because when the Word is available, God moves.**