

**“Neither right nor left”: a biblical figure of speech,
most common in the Deuteronomistic History: some examples**

You must therefore be careful to do as YHWH your God has commanded you; you shall not turn to the right or to the left. (Deuteronomy 5.32)

You must carry out fully the law that they interpret for you or the ruling that they announce to you; do not turn aside from the decision that they announce to you, either to the right or to the left. (Deuteronomy 17.11)

**“Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go.”
(Joshua 1.7)**

The cows went straight in the direction of Beth-shemesh along one highway, lowing as they went; they turned neither to the right nor to the left, and lords of the Philistines went after them as far as the border of Beth-shemesh. (1 Samuel 6.12)

Asahel pursued Abner, turning neither to the right nor to the left as he followed him. (2 Samuel 2.19)

The king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" The woman answered and said, "As surely as you live, my lord the king, one cannot turn right or left from anything that my lord the king has said. (2 Samuel 14.19)

[Josiah] did what was right in the sight of YHWH, and walked in all the way of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the left. (2 Kings 22.2)