

JOSHUA 8



THE DESTRUCTION OF AI

The Background....

- Joshua 1 - the Lord instructs Joshua*
- Joshua 2 - 4 - recce & crossing Jordan River*
- Joshua 5 - circumcision & Passover*
- Joshua 6 - the first conquest - Jericho*
- Joshua 7 - the sin and stoning of Achan*

Chronology

Success - crossing of Jordan River
- miraculous victory @ Jericho

Failure - the first defeat of Joshua's
Army at Ai (Joshua 7: 4,5)

Chapter 8 - the second battle of Ai

The reasons for the first defeat:

- * Disobedience of Achan
- * Joshua's self-confidence

God's intolerance of disobedience

- Adam & Eve banished from Eden
- The big flood
- The Tower of Babel
- Moses barred from the promised land
- Achan's theft in Jericho

God's assurance to Joshua:

- "do not be afraid, do not be discouraged"

God's Promise:

*- "For I have delivered into your hands,
the king of Ai"*

God's detail instructions to Joshua:

v2 – **destroy the city, seize their livestock**

v2 – ***set an ambush behind the city***

v18 – ***stretch out your javelin toward Ai,
as a signal to the ambush force***

The Strategy for the Battle at Ai

God-instructed strategy:

*split soldiers into: **Main Attack Force**
Ambush Force*

Concept: *to feign retreat and lure the
enemy into the valley*

N



Main Attack Force
(led by Joshua)



Valley



Bethel



Ai


Ambush Force

Dilution of Combat Power

- Split the troops instead of concentration of fighting forces

***Risk - poor communications
between 2 forces***

God's promises to the obedient

Deut 28:9 – “The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him.”

2 Chron 6:31 - “so that they will fear you and walk in obedience to you all the time they live in the land you gave our ancestors.”

But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Joshua 22:5

Obedience starts from our heart

But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.

Romans 6:17

Our daily battles (contest)

*-Old self vs **New self***

*-Self control vs **Submission***

*-Desires vs **Discipline***

*-Self Confidence vs **Faith***

The end of slavery -> Journey of Faith

1st Faith Journey:

- crossing the Red sea;
- relationship for 40 years in the desert

2nd Faith Journey:

- crossing Jordan River;
- claiming the Promised Land;
- conquest of 31 territories

Where is our Faith journey leading us today?

How often we stretch our faith?

Ability to listen?

What are we unable to give up ?

The Obedience => to walk in love

“And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.”

2 John 1:6

