

Joshua 8 – June 8-13

Monday – Day One

Prayer: Pray for God to unfold His word to you, for the Spirit to teach you and for Christ to shine His light and truth in your life.

The “How” of Taking Ai – Read Joshua 8:1-2

- Further Reading: Deuteronomy 1:21; Deuteronomy 31:8
- The spies had a plan and God had a plan for taking the city of Ai. What is different about God’s plan? **(Take the whole army, not just some. Set up an ambush. You can keep the spoils this time.)**
- What were God’s instructions (in verse 2) regarding the “stuff” in the city? Why do you think they changed for those given for Jericho? **(They were able to keep the spoils this time. God’s instructions were different for different situations. This guaranteed that they would listen to Him for each and every battle and fully obey.)**
- Notice how God shifts immediately to comfort and protection at the beginning of Chapter 8 after the sin has been dealt with at the end of Chapter 7. God is always working to strengthen His relationship with you, even after we make mistakes. Are you eagerly doing the same towards Him?

Pray today that you would be sensitive to God’s voice and love in your life.

Tuesday – Day Two

Prayer: Pray for God to unfold His word to you, for the Spirit to teach you and for Christ to shine His light and truth in your life.

Preparing to Take Ai – Read Joshua 8:3-13

- In verse 2, God graciously tells His children, “You will take the city... just like you took Jericho.” Now, in verse 7, Joshua makes it clear who really will really win the battle of Ai. Who is it? **(The Lord your God.)**
- For the first attack Joshua sent 3,000 men to attack the city. How many men did it appear he was sending the second time? **(5,000 but 30,000 remained hidden behind Ai.)**
- There are many times when we are called to “do” things but God is the one that actually empowers that action and determines the outcome. Do you ever find it hard to remember that we must rely on God for the results?

Pray that, as you “go” and “do” today, you will fully rely on God for the outcomes.

Wednesday – Day Three

Prayer: Pray for God to unfold His word to you, for the Spirit to teach you and for Christ to shine His light and truth in your life.

Setting the Trap – Read Joshua 8:14-17

- If you were one of the soldiers of Ai, what would you have thought was happening when the battle began? **(They would have surely thought that Joshua was repeating his mistake but with a larger army. Once the Israeli army turned and ran, they were clearly confident this battle would end the same way as the first.)**
- What did the over-confidence of the army of Ai lead them to do in verse 17 that left the city completely vulnerable? **(They left the city gates open.)**
- God used Joshua’s failed attempt to conquer Ai as the foundation for His plan to take the city. Has God ever done something similar in your life?

Pray that God would continue to use even your weaknesses and mistakes for His glory.

Thursday – Day Four

Prayer: Pray for God to unfold His word to you, for the Spirit to teach you and for Christ to shine His light and truth in your life.

Trapped! – Read Joshua 8:18-20

- Further Reading: Exodus 14:16; Exodus 17:8-13
- What must have gone through the minds of the soldiers of Ai when they noticed the smoke behind them? (Confidence turned to horror as they realized there was big trouble in the city they had left unprotected.)
- What was symbolism of Joshua stretching out the javelin that he had? (Moses had used his staff many times during his leadership. This was another example of God placing Joshua as the new leader of the Hebrew people.)
- Even though Ai was a pagan city, it's a great example of how over-confidence can lead to disaster. In what areas of your life are you so confident that you tend to forget your need for God's help and blessing?

Pray that you would be aware of the traps the world sets around us every day and how God would have you escape.

Friday – Day Five

Prayer: Pray for God to unfold His word to you, for the Spirit to teach you and for Christ to shine His light and truth in your life.

Ai Left in Ruins – Read Joshua 8:21-29

- Further Reading: Deuteronomy 21:22-23
- Did anyone from Ai survive this event? (Not a single one.)
- The king's body was treated in a particular and unique way. What does Deuteronomy 21:22-23 suggest about why this happened as it did? (The king was guilty of a capital offense – killing 36 men of Israel in the first attack for sure, but likely countless human sacrifices as well, as part of their religious practice. He was also cursed by God for his city's and his own wickedness.)
- Again, sin is treated with devastating thoroughness and finality. Do you treat sin in your life this way as well?

Pray today that you would courageously devote your own sin to destruction as God reveals it to you.

Saturday – Day Six

Prayer: Pray for God to unfold His word to you, for the Spirit to teach you and for Christ to shine His light and truth in your life.

Renewal of the Covenant – Read Joshua 8:30-35

- Further Reading: Deuteronomy 11:29; Deuteronomy 27
- Who had given the instructions that Joshua carried out at the end of Chapter 8? (Moses. See "Further Reading.")
- Why do you think this was important? (Everyone needs reminders of the important things in our lives. God wanted Israel to remember the covenant He had established and the manner in which they were to live in this new land they were conquering.)
- Why did Joshua give honor to Moses for all that had been done rather than speak of the victories he had been involved with? What does this tell you about Joshua's character? (Joshua had great respect for his mentor, Moses, and had a deep sense of humility regarding his own God-given abilities and success.)
- Do you take time to remember what God has instructed in His Word and how He has provided for you?

Pray that God will help you remember His promises and blessings in your life so you can share those with others.