

Joshua 8:28 “So Joshua burned Ai and made it a permanent heap of ruins, a desolate place to this day.”

Joshua 8:29 “He impaled the body of the king of Ai on a pole and left it there until evening. At sunset, Joshua ordered them to take the body from the pole and throw it down at the entrance of the city gate. And they raised a large pile of rocks over it, which remains to this day.”

Joshua 11:20 “For it was the LORD himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that He might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses.”

What lessons can we take from the second battle with Ai?

A. We can be thankful that God gives us a second chance.

Jonah 3:1 “Then the Word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time:
^[2] Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

B. We need to stay on track and follow the Lord for victory.

John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

Luke 6:46 “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

C. We need to trust the Lord to keep His Word.

Joshua 8:1b “... I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land.”

Joshua 23:14 “Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.”

Victory in Round Two Joshua 8:1-29 Lesson #12 11/17/24

Psalm 37:23 “If the LORD delights in a man’s way, He makes his steps firm; ^[24] though he stumbles, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with His hand.”

I. God instructed Joshua concerning His battle plan.

A. God encouraged Joshua.

Joshua 8:1a “Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. ...”

Psalm 28:7 “The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him.”

B. God wanted the whole army engaged in battle.

Joshua 8:1b “... Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. For I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land.”

C. God entrusted the possessions of Ai to Israel.

Joshua 8:2a “You shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king, except that you may carry off their plunder and livestock for yourselves.”

D. God wanted an ambush established.

Joshua 8:2b “... Set an ambush behind the city.”

II. Joshua and the army implemented God’s battle plan.

A. Joshua and the army moved into position.

1. The first group of soldiers were positioned behind Ai.

Joshua 8:3 “So Joshua and the whole army moved out to attack Ai. He chose thirty thousand of his best fighting men and sent them out at night.”

Joshua 8:4 “With these orders: “Listen carefully. You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don’t go very far from it. All of you be on the alert.”

2. The second group planned to advance to the front of the city.

Joshua 8:5 “I and all those with me will advance on the city, and when the men come out against us, as they did before, we will flee from them.”

Joshua 8:6 “They will pursue us until we have lured them away from the city, for they will say, ‘They are running away from us as they did before.’ So, when we flee from them.”

Joshua 8:7 “You are to rise up from ambush and take the city. The Lord your God will give it into your hand.”

Joshua 8:8 “When you have taken the city, set it on fire. Do what the Lord has commanded. See to it; you have my orders.”

Joshua 8:9 “Then Joshua sent them off, and they went to the place of ambush and lay in wait between Bethel and Ai, to the west of Ai—but Joshua spent that night with the people.”

3. The third group were positioned between Ai and Bethel.

Joshua 8:12 “Joshua had taken about five thousand men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city.”

B. Joshua and the army moved forward to battle.

Joshua 8:10 “Early the next morning Joshua mustered his army, and he and the leaders of Israel marched before them to Ai.”

Joshua 8:11 “The entire force that was with him marched up and approached the city and arrived in front of it. They set up camp north of Ai, with the valley between them and the city.”

Joshua 8:12 “Joshua had taken about five thousand men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city.”

Joshua 8:13 “So the soldiers took up their positions—with the main camp to the north of the city and the ambush to the west of it. That night Joshua went into the valley.”

Joshua 8:14 “When the king of Ai saw this, he and all the men of the city hurried out early in the morning to meet Israel in battle at a certain place overlooking the Arabah. But he did not know that an ambush had been set against him behind the city.”

C. Joshua and his men moved away from Ai.

Joshua 8:15 “Joshua and all Israel let themselves be driven back before them, and they fled toward the wilderness.”

Joshua 8:16 “All the men of Ai were called to pursue them, and they pursued Joshua and were lured away from the city.”

****Joshua 8:17** “Not a man remained in Ai or Bethel who did not go after Israel. They left the city open and went in pursuit of Israel.”

D. Joshua held up the javelin and the next group moved into Ai.

Joshua 8:18 “Then the Lord said to Joshua, ‘Hold out toward Ai the javelin that is in your hand, for into your hand I will deliver the city.’ So, Joshua held out toward the city the javelin that was in his hand.”

Joshua 8:19 “As soon as he did this, the men in the ambush rose quickly from their position and rushed forward. They entered the city and captured it and quickly set it on fire.”

E. Joshua and the Israelite soldiers moved against the men of Ai.

Joshua 8:20 “The men of Ai looked back and saw the smoke of the city rising up into the sky, but they had no chance to escape in any direction; the Israelites who had been fleeing toward the wilderness had turned back against their pursuers.”

Joshua 8:21 “For when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city and that smoke was going up from it, they turned around and attacked the men of Ai.”

Joshua 8:22 “Those in the ambush also came out of the city against them, so that they were caught in the middle, with Israelites on both sides. Israel cut them down, leaving them neither survivors nor fugitives.”

Joshua 8:23 “But they took the king of Ai alive and brought him to Joshua.”

Joshua 8:24 “When Israel had finished killing all the men of Ai in the fields and in the wilderness where they had chased them, and when every one of them had been put to the sword, all the Israelites returned to Ai and killed those who were in it.”

Joshua 8:25 “Twelve thousand men and women fell that day—all the people of Ai.”

Joshua 8:26 “For Joshua did not draw back the hand that held out his javelin until he had destroyed all who lived in Ai.”

Joshua 8:27 “But Israel did carry off for themselves the livestock and plunder of this city, as the Lord had instructed Joshua.”

III. God initiated judgment on the king of Ai.