



Joshua 8

BBTC WOW

22 APRIL 2020

Observation Questions: 5 Ws and 1 H

- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- When?
- Why?
- How?

Joshua 8:1

And the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land.



Joshua 8:2

2 And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves. Lay an ambush against the city, behind it.”

Joshua 6:18, 19, 21 (Jericho)	Joshua 8:2 (Ai)
Keep from things devoted to destruction	
Keep all silver and gold, bronze and iron for the Lord's treasury.	Keep spoil and livestock as plunder for yourselves
Devoted all in the city to destruction - men, women, young, old, oxen, sheep, donkeys.	Do to Ai as you did to Jericho and its king.

A misty, mountainous landscape with a waterfall, serving as a background for the text. The scene is dominated by lush green forests covering steep slopes. In the center, a waterfall cascades down a rocky cliff, partially obscured by mist. The sky is overcast and grey, with mist rising from the valley and clinging to the mountain ridges. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

Joshua 8:3

3 So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai. And Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them out by night.

A misty, mountainous landscape with a waterfall, serving as a background for the text. The scene is lush with green vegetation and shrouded in a soft, ethereal fog. A waterfall is visible in the distance, cascading down a rocky cliff. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

Joshua 8:4

4 And he commanded them, “Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind it. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you remain ready.”

Joshua 8:5-6

5 And I and all the people who are with me will approach the city. And when they come out against us just as before, we shall flee before them.

6 And they will come out after us, until we have drawn them away from the city. For they will say, 'They are fleeing from us, just as before.' So we will flee before them.

Joshua 8:7-9

7 Then you shall rise up from the ambush and seize the city, for the Lord your God will give it into your hand.

8 And as soon as you have taken the city, you shall set the city on fire. You shall do according to the word of the Lord. See, I have commanded you.”

9 So Joshua sent them out. And they went to the place of ambush and lay between Bethel and Ai, to the west of Ai, but Joshua spent that night among the people.

Joshua 8:10-13

10 Joshua arose early in the morning and mustered the people and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai. **11** And all the fighting men who were with him went up and drew near before the city and encamped on the north side of Ai, with a ravine between them and Ai. **12** He took about 5,000 men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city. **13** So they stationed the forces, the main encampment that was north of the city and its rear guard west of the city. But Joshua spent that night in the valley.

Joshua 8:14-17

14 And as soon as the king of Ai saw this, he and all his people, the men of the city, hurried and went out early to the appointed place^[a] toward the Arabah to meet Israel in battle. But he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city. **15** And Joshua and all Israel pretended to be beaten before them and fled in the direction of the wilderness. **16** So all the people who were in the city were called together to pursue them, and as they pursued Joshua they were drawn away from the city. **17** Not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. They left the city open and pursued Israel.

Reflection

With what lenses do we look at a situation?

With the Holy Spirit's lenses or our own natural understanding?

Joshua 8:18-19

18 Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand.” And Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city.

19 And the men in the ambush rose quickly out of their place, and as soon as he had stretched out his hand, they ran and entered the city and captured it. And they hurried to set the city on fire.

Crossing the Red Sea	The Battle with Amalek	Battle at Ai
Exodus 14:15-16	Exodus 17:11-13	Joshua 8:18
¹⁵ The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.	¹¹ Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed.	¹⁸ Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city.
How did it end?		
²⁹ But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.	¹³ And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.	²⁶ But Joshua did not draw back his hand with which he stretched out the javelin until he had devoted all the inhabitants of Ai to destruction.

Joshua 8:20-22

20 So when the men of Ai looked back, behold, the smoke of the city went up to heaven, and they had no power to flee this way or that, for the people who fled to the wilderness turned back against the pursuers. **21** And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had captured the city, and that the smoke of the city went up, then they turned back and struck down the men of Ai. **22** And the others came out from the city against them, so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side. And Israel struck them down, until there was left none that survived or escaped.

Joshua 8:23-27

23 But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him near to Joshua.

24 When Israel had finished killing all the inhabitants of Ai in the open wilderness where they pursued them, and all of them to the very last had fallen by the edge of the sword, all Israel returned to Ai and struck it down with the edge of the sword. **25** And all who fell that day, both men and women, were 12,000, all the people of Ai. **26** But Joshua did not draw back his hand with which he stretched out the javelin until he had devoted all the inhabitants of Ai to destruction. **27** Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as their plunder, according to the word of the Lord that he commanded Joshua.

Joshua 8:28-29

28 So Joshua burned Ai and made it forever a heap of ruins, as it is to this day.

29 And he hanged the king of Ai on a tree until evening. And at sunset Joshua commanded, and they took his body down from the tree and threw it at the entrance of the gate of the city and raised over it a great heap of stones, which stands there to this day.

Deut 21:22-23

22 “And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, **23** his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance.

Joshua 8:28-29

28 So Joshua burned Ai and made it forever a heap of ruins, as it is to this day.

29 And he hanged the king of Ai on a tree until evening. And at sunset Joshua commanded, and they took his body down from the tree and threw it at the entrance of the gate of the city and raised over it a great heap of stones, which stands there to this day.

Joshua 8:30-31

30 At that time Joshua built an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal,
31 just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, “an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool.” And they offered on it burnt offerings to the Lord and sacrificed peace offerings.

Genesis 12:6-8

6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. **7** Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. **8** From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord.

Genesis 35:6

6 And Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, **7** and there he built an altar and called the place El-bethel, because there God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother.

Joshua 8:30-31

30 At that time Joshua built an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal,
31 just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, “an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool.” And they offered on it burnt offerings to the Lord and sacrificed peace offerings.

Joshua 8:32-33

32 And there, in the presence of the people of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.

33 And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel.

Joshua 8:34-35

34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law.

35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.



Learning Points

1. God delights in obedience
2. God is a God of second chances
3. Follow God, not a formula.
4. Total obedience is the key to victory.



Reflection and Application

- What does the Lord require of you?
- What did you learn today about God today?
- What questions do you have in mind (for Him)?

The background of the slide is a wide-angle photograph of a volcanic landscape. In the foreground, there is a dark, textured expanse of what appears to be a lava field. Beyond this, a series of rolling hills and small volcanoes are visible. The hills have various colors, including shades of green, brown, and a prominent reddish-brown on one of the more prominent peaks in the middle ground. The sky is filled with soft, white and grey clouds, and a bright yellow, brush-like stroke is visible in the upper left corner. Centered over the sky is the text 'Q&A' in a large, black, serif font.

Q&A