



Pointers and questions on
JOSHUA 1-12

Session 6

8:1-35

Ai destroyed and the covenant renewed

Summary

- 8:1-8** With Achan dealt with, God assures Joshua that he is still with his people and issues instructions for taking the city of Ai.
- 8:9-29** Joshua adopts the strategy of ambush at God's command and the city is quickly taken.
- 8:30-35** Joshua takes the people to Mount Ebal, where they renew their covenant with the LORD who has given them victory.

Questions to get you thinking

1. Look at the LORD's opening words to Joshua. What do they tell us about God's attitude towards *us* when we are trying to get back on track after making some major mistake?
2. In what way do God's orders concerning the conquest of Ai differ from his orders concerning Jericho (v2)? Leaving the plain commands of Scripture out of consideration for a moment, do you think he can give changing orders by the Holy Spirit to you? Give some examples.
3. If Achan had just waited, he could have taken all the plunder he wanted and had God's blessing, too. We all tend to be impatient. Talk about the virtues of patience. Can you recall any Bible references on this important subject?
4. Whose commands were the soldiers to follow in v8? Can Christian leaders give commands to God's people today?
5. All the soldiers were in the right place for making a success of the attack on Ai. How important is it for believers to be correctly placed (in terms of their gifts and experience) for the church to take territory from Satan? Would you say that you yourself are rightly placed at the moment?
6. The plan of action seems to have worked perfectly (v14-22). Why do you think that was? Are there any lessons for us here?
7. Caught in the middle, with Israelites on both sides (v22). How can we get the devil and his forces in a similar position?
8. Look at v29 and compare it with Deuteronomy 21:22-23. Bodies were hung on trees as a warning to others not to sin in the same way.¹ Who was hung on a tree in the New Testament? See Galatians 3:13.
9. Read v30-33. Here, Joshua was obeying God's word given earlier through Moses (see Deuteronomy 27:1-8). What was the point of this exercise (see v34)? Obedience was dangerous from a military angle. Can you learn something from this about holding fast to God's word at all times?
10. Do we, like the Israelites, need to renew our covenant with the Lord? If so, how would we do it?



¹ The tree itself is not particularly significant. The curse is on the person because he has committed a crime worthy of death.