

Joshua, Judges & Ruth

In Those Days There
Was No King in Israel

Lesson 2 • April 24 • Joshua 6-8 • Jericho, Ai & the Covenant Renewed

Now _____ was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. (Josh 6:1)

So how could the conquest of Canaan even begin against such a secure, well-fortified city?

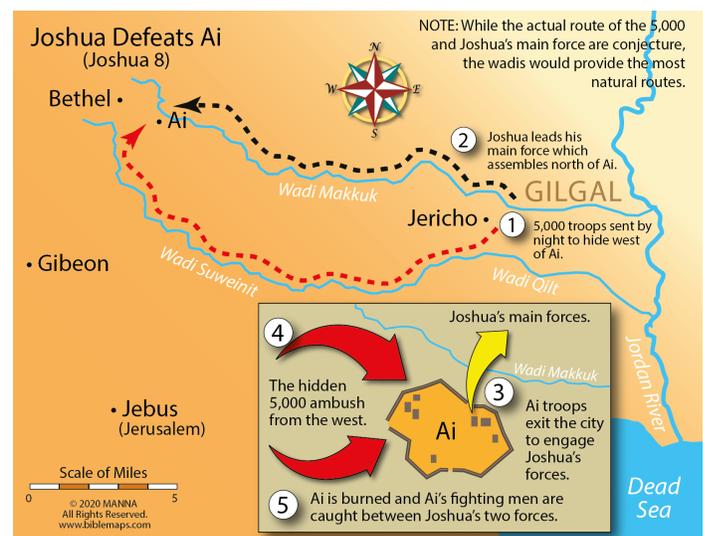
And the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have _____ Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. You shall _____ around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for _____ days. Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. On the _____ day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. And when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the _____ of the city will _____ down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him.” (Josh 6:2-5)

And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the LORD’s instructions were carried out. On the seventh day, the people were given a very specific warning:

“But you, _____ yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are _____ to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD.” (6:18-19)

When the people shouted and the trumpets were blown, the wall of Jericho fell down flat and the city was captured. But one man named _____ “_____ in regard to the devoted things” (7:1). _____ was the next city in the conquest and the Israelite spies sent by Joshua believed a much smaller group—just three thousand men—would be able to conquer it with no problems. But it was the Israelites who were defeated and the hearts of the people melted (7:5). *Why?* Why did this happen? The LORD revealed Achan’s sin in Joshua 7:10-26 and Achan and his family lost their lives as a result.

In Joshua 8, Joshua led Israel to victory against Ai. Afterwards, he built an altar to the LORD, wrote a copy of the law of Moses and reminded the people of their covenant with God. Valuable lessons were learned. Let’s talk about them....



For Class & Family Discussion:

- In [Joshua 6:1-7](#), the LORD gave Joshua a very unusual plan to conquer the city of Jericho. Why? Why do you think he gave *this* plan? What would it have taken to follow this plan? [Hebrews 11:30](#) might be helpful here...
- According to [Joshua 6:17](#), who did the Israelites need to watch out for as they destroyed the city of Jericho? Why?
- Let's reread God's very specific warning in [Joshua 6:18-19](#). That wasn't hard to understand, right? So why did Achan do what he did? Let's focus in on his own words in [Joshua 7:20-21](#). In your own words, how did Achan get himself in trouble?
- Does what he is describing sound familiar? Who else was tempted in a very similar way? Let's go back and read [Genesis 3:1-6](#) together...
- Interestingly, the apostle John describes the same sort of danger for all of us in [1 John 2:15-17](#). So what should we learn from the Bible repeatedly warning us about these pitfalls? How can we guard our own hearts today and "keep ourselves" from serious trouble?
- In [Joshua 7:2-3](#), the Israelite spies were very confident about conquering Ai. As you look at those verses, what's missing? Was this the wisest way to continue their conquest of Canaan? What would have been a better way? And what should we learn from this example?
- In [Joshua 8:30-35](#), Joshua leads the people in something very different from just another military campaign. As you look at what he did, why do you think he did it? What did he want to make sure the people realized, respected, and never forgot?
- If Joshua could speak with us today, what do you think he would tell us to learn and remember?