

**"Historical Books Of The Bible"**

**Joshua 8:1-35**

**Wednesday June 13, 2012**

**Josh 8:1-10**

**Joshua 6-12 – Deals With The Defeat Of The Enemy – (7 Years)**

**Theme – "The Book Of Conquest"**

**Joshua 6, Jericho – "Victory Through Faith"; then "Joshua 7, Ai – "Defeat Through Sin"; Now "Joshua 8, Ai – "A New Victory"**

**As Israel walked with God in Faith – Joshua 6**

**When Israel walked in Sin – Joshua 7**

**Josh. 7:11-12**

**Josh. 7:26**

**1. Verses 1-2 – A New Start**

**2. Verses 3-13 – A New Plan**

**3. Verse 14-29 – A New Success**

**4. Verses 30-35 – A New Commitment**

**1. Verses 1-2 – A New Start:**

Joshua 8:1

After Israel had judged their sin, Josh. 7:26

Lesson – The Power From Purity: That Israel had lost bitterly, 36 men, because of the sin of Achan.

Lesson – Fight Together: It was not going to be just one man, but many.

1 John 1:9

Lesson – Many battles can be lost but it does not determine the outcome of the war.

Joshua 8:2

God's plan at Ai is the opposite that He used at Jericho:

1. Jericho – involved a week of marches during the day. Ai – was a night operation that culminated in the day.
2. Jericho – had the whole army involved in the assault. Ai – God had the army divided in 3 parts.
3. Jericho – God did a miracle, the walls fell flat. Ai – there was no such miracle; the people obeyed God's commands and He gave victory.

## **2. Verses 3-13 – A New Plan:**

Joshua 8: 3

restoration is "it is returning."

Verse 3 – This is the first group: "Joshua chose 30,000 men, valiant warriors,"

God's Strategy was to divide Israel into 3 groups:

1. (Verse 3) First were 30,000 warriors – From Gilgal to Ai by night, which was 15 miles (to the West), that would burn down the city.
2. (Verse 5) Second group led by Joshua – Main body that camped in plain view (Camped on the North)
3. (Verse 12) The third group was 5,000 men between Ai and Bethel – Which is about 2 miles away. This was so those from Bethel would not make a surprise attack.

Joshua 8: 4

Verses 5-8 – The second group: This group was in plain sight, on the north.

Joshua 8: 5-9

Strategy – comes from two Greek words that together mean "to lead an army"

Joshua 8: 10-11

Verse 12 – The third group:

Joshua 8:13

### **3. Verse 14-29 – A New Success:**

Joshua 8:14-18

Exodus 17:6-16 – with the battle of Amalek.

Joshua 8:19-26

Lesson – No compromise with the enemy.

Joshua 8:27

Jericho – the victory was theirs because of a miracle. In Ai – the people actually had to fight, so they earned their reward.

Joshua 8:28-29

This was humiliating to be hung on a tree. Deut. 21:22-23

### **4. Verses 30-35 – A New Commitment:**

Joshua 8:30

Deut. 27

Deut. 27:1-8

Gen. 12:6-7

Joshua 8:31

“an altar of uncut stones,” – It was not to be beautiful because man is not to glory in God’s sight. It is not the beauty of man-made religion that saves a person; It is for God not man.

“on which no man had wielded an iron tool;” – (Exodus 20:25)  
There was to be no human work associated with sacrifice, because the sinner can not be saved by works.

Lev. 1

Joshua 8:32

1. Joshua 4:20 – (Stones of River) Israel's passage across the Jordan; God's fulfills His promise.
2. Joshua 7:26 – (Achan's sin) God's judgment on sin.
3. Joshua 8:29 – (Grave of king of Ai) God's faithfulness to help his people.
4. Joshua 8:32 – (Law on Stones) Success lies in obedience to God's Law.

Joshua 8:33

What happened to them in the land depended on where they lived. (Duet. 27:11-13)

Mount Gerizim – Gerizim = "cuttings off", was the blessings. The blessings were a result of keeping the law.

Mount Ebal – Ebal = "stone" or "bare mountain", was the curses. This would result from not keeping the law.

Joshua 8:34-35

### **Application:**

1. "Battles Can Be Lost But It Does Not Determine The Outcome Of The War."
2. "It Is Important To Seek God For The Battle And Victory In Each Undertaking. In Israel's Case The Strategy Was Based On Their Past Failure."
3. "Failure Never Means The End; God Stands Ready To Forgive, Restore And Use Us Yet Again."
4. "This Evening, There Is The Opportunity Of Blessing Or A Curse. The Ark Of The Presence Of Jesus Is In Our Midst. We Must Choose Where We Will Dwell."