Joshua 8

Joshua 8.1-2
<u>V 1</u> – **Message of God?** Don't be afraid; I have given you the city of Ai
    -God forgives the past and starts out fresh with his people
    -**Who was to go to Ai for the attack?** All the people of war (all the soldiers)

<u>V 2</u> – **What could they take?** Only spoil and cattle (maybe relaxed ban?)
    -**How were they to attack Ai?** Set an ambush

Joshua 8.3-9
<u>V 3</u> – **How many soldiers this time?** 30,000 of the best
    -**When were they to be sent out?** At night

<u>V 4</u> – **Why would an ambush work?** The people of Ai would be full of pride; they had already
    defeated the Israelites once – easy to do it the second time

<u>V 5</u> – **What would Joshua do?** Take a small group to the front of city to draw the people of Ai out

<u>V 6</u> – **The plan?** Joshua would "flee"

<u>V 7</u> – **What were the other soldiers to do?** Ambush them from behind

<u>V 8</u> – **What was to be done after the victory?** The city was to be burned with fire

<u>V 9</u> – Plans were set up that night
    -**Why did Joshua spend the night with the people?** To instruct them thoroughly in what they
    were to do the next day

Joshua 8.10-17
<u>V 10</u> – **Next morning?** The people went up to Ai

<u>V 11</u> – Joshua and the people camped on the north side of Ai

<u>V 12-13</u> – **Where did Joshua put the men for the ambush?** West of the city (toward Bethel)

<u>V 14</u> – The people of Ai attacked Joshua

<u>V 15</u> – **What did Joshua pretend?** To be beaten

<u>V 16-17</u> – **Situation in Ai?** Everyone was in pursuit of Joshua and the people; the city was deserted

Joshua 8.18-23

V 18 – **Signal for the ambush to begin?** Joshua pointed the javelin in his hand toward Ai

V 19 – **Result?** Soldiers entered Ai and set it on fire

V 20 – The people of Ai had no place to retreat to, but they still did not repent and ask for mercy from God

V 21 – The men of Ai were slain

V 22 – All the men from Ai were killed

V 23 – **The survivor?** The king of Ai

Joshua 8.24-29

V 24 – The Israelites killed the people of Ai

V 25 – **How many of Ai were killed?** 12,000

V 26 – Joshua held up the javelin until the battle was over
- **Remind us of anything? Read Exodus 17.8-12** – Moses held his staff up during the battle with the Amelekites
- **2 men who held up the arms of Moses?** Aaron and Hur (Joshua conducted the battle)
Note: The effect of courage on younger men and women (in the congregation)

V 27 – Israelites took spoil and cattle (according to *v 2*)
- They obeyed exactly the word of God this time
- **Why?** They could remember what happened to Achan

V 28 – **What was done to Ai?** Burned, and stones put over it – a desolation

V 29 – **Final act?** The king of Ai was hanged

Joshua 8.30-35

V 30 – Mt. Ebal was about 30 miles north of Ai
- **Why would Joshua have taken the Israelites that far after this battle?**
- Into the heart of the enemy territory – to prove that this land was theirs (given to them by the only true God (*Beacon Bible Commentary*, II, 54)
- Mt. Ebal was a mountain above the valley of Shechem – **Read Gen. 12.6-7**
- The original land promise to Abraham was made there – about 400 years before this time
So the promises of God had come true

V 32 – **What did Joshua do?** Wrote the Law of Moses on stones (10 commandments)

V 33 – **Procedure?** One-half of the people were on Mt. Ebal, and one-half were on Mt. Gerizim –

alternated in reciting the Law of Moses

V 34 – Joshua read the rest of the law

V 35 – Very interesting – **Who was present for this reading?** - Men, women, children, strangers
　-Notice that the children were not off in a separate worship service
　-Strangers – already some outside the Law of Moses were being accepted into God's family
　-Who was among these strangers? Rahab and her relatives

Lessons from *Joshua 8*:

1. All the promises of God eventually come to pass.

2. Achan's sin had affected everyone else (36 men lost their lives in the first battle)

3. Once sin was forgiven, God again granted the Israelites success

4. God wanted things done His way – man's way would not work

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