

JOSHUA 5 –8

JOSHUA 5: Preparation for Battle

- Obedience to God ...
 - 1) Prepares us for VICTORY (2-6)
 - 2) Frees us from BONDAGE (9) “reproach of Egypt”
 - 3) Opens the door to MATURITY (10-12)
 - * When Israel obeyed, God took off the training wheels!
- A Brush with Greatness: this episode demonstrates ...
 - 1) God is not ON OUR SIDE, but we can be ON HIS SIDE (13-14)
 - 2) A GREAT LEADER is he who is GREAT at SUBMISSION (15)
sandal removal = sign of SUBMISSION

JOSHUA 6 – 8: A TALE OF TWO CITIES

JERICHO (Read 6:1-5,10,16-21,24-27)

- **Joshua’s strategy for taking Jericho was A MILITARY SIEGE (1-2)**
 - * Joshua was PROACTIVE – He made plans! (Beth’s question: what are your plans?)
 - * “I have given ...” Though the victory was complete, Israel still had responsibility!
 - **God’s instructions were clearly NON-MILITARY (3-5)**
 - * In fact, to the military-minded, the plans would seem absurd. There is no human strategic value to the plan!
 - * God’s plan SUPERCEDED Joshua’s planning: a model for our success! (CE class – no study)
 - * Application: We must PLAN! We must FOLLOW HIS PLAN when it differs from ours!
 - **There’s no room for COMPLAINING- when we’re following God! (10)**
 - 1) A call to SILENCE (contrast with Israel’s grumbling in the desert)
 - 2) A call to SHOUT! (with obedience, our words become powerful) (6)
 - 3) Prohibit UNBELIEVING and DEMORALIZING speech from your lips!

> *Our refusal to speak doubt and fear will keep our hearts more inclined to what God can do.*
 - **Obedience to God brings COMPLETE victory! (4)**
 - * Note the use of “7” (priests, trumpets, days, laps)
 - **Jericho was to be DEVOTED to God! (17-21)**
 - * The law of “*harem*”: complete DESTRUCTION of life & ...
 - * dedication of SPOILS to God (*contrast with raping, looting*)
 - > Deut. 7:1-5; 20:16-18
- Q: Why would God destroy so much human life?
1. Removes SPIRITUAL THREAT of temptation
(2 definitive aspects of Canaanite religion: a. Polytheistic b. Fertility oriented)
 2. DIVINE JUDGMENT
- * A CURSE on Jericho (26-27) (see 1 Kings 16: 34)

THE CITY OF AI #1 (Read 7:1-5,10-15,19-26)

➤ **The children of Israel SINNED**

- * Upon what did Israel base its strategy for fighting Ai? (2-3)
 - > Significance: Israel can't even defeat SMALLER NUMBERS w/out obedience
- * What was Israel's "sin"? (1)
 - > Achan failed to carry out harem upon Jericho
 - > Why does the entire nation suffer for the sin of one?
 - * No person sins ALONE
- * What was the result of the battle? (4-5)
 - > FLIGHT > FEAR > FATALITIES (36)
- * What was Joshua's response to the battle? (6-9)
 - > GRIEF & SORROW > CONFUSION (Why?)

➤ **The sin of Achan**

- * God brings clarity to the confusion: (10-11)
 - > No need to grieve or be confused
 - > The problem: DISOBEDIENCE has caused this!
 - > The sin: some DEVOTED items were kept for personal use
- * God's instructions: (12-13)
 - > DESTROY the one who refused to destroy.
 - > "Sanctify yourselves": to have success, we must separate ourselves from the offense and offender.
- * The Method of Judgment: (14-18)
 - > The SACRED LOT (Proverbs 16:33)
 - > Likely, Joshua used the *Urim & Thummim* (Exodus 28:30)
- * Achan's Confession (19-23)
 - > All was risked for: EXOTIC ROBE, 5 LBS OF SILVER, 1 ½ LBS OF GOLD
 - > "Give glory to the Lord" = placing your hand ON THE BIBLE
- * The Sentence (24-26)
 - > Harem will be carried out on Achan
 - > Why was Achan's family judged?
 - * common knowledge of sin
 - * principle of corporate guilt (Deut. 5:9)
 - > A heap of stones: REMEMBER what happens when we're unfaithful!
"Achor" – "TROUBLE"

THE CITY OF AI #2 (Read 8:1-8,25-29,30-32,35)

* **A DIFFERENT DIVINE Plan (1-2)**

- > Destruction of inhabitants, but spoils go TO THE PEOPLE!
- > **Principle:** If we're willing to obey totally, our needs will be met! (ex: tithing)

* **God's instructions were clearly MILITARILY SOUND (3-29)**

- > Contrast with the plan for taking Jericho

- > Sometimes God's plans MAKE SENSE sometimes they DON'T

- > How do you think the Israelites would have reacted to such different methods for warfare?

- > **What about the King? (23)**
 - * Taking him alive didn't violate the harem: he was later killed.
 - * Hanging on a tree indicates a curse: emphasized who was in control – God OVER king!

* **Joshua renews the covenant (30-35)**

- > Demonstrates obedience (“*not a word ...*”)
- > Israel chose to “live up” to their side of the covenant CORPORATELY!!!