

Episode 8: THE HUMILIATION AND VICTORY AT AI

*Ai defeats Israel* (7:1–26): The Israelites’ second military encounter in Canaan is with the city of Ai.

1. **Achan’s Sin**
   1. The sin (7:1): Achan disobeys God’s command and takes some of the spoils from Jericho for himself.
   2. Israel suffers defeat (7:2–5): Israel is totally routed in their attempt to capture Ai.
   3. Joshua’s reckoning (7:6–9): In great anguish Joshua complains to the Lord concerning Israel’s defeat.
   4. The solution (7:10–15): The Lord responds to Joshua by telling him two things regarding their defeat.
      1. The cause (7:10–12): Someone in the camp has both stolen and lied.
      2. The cure (7:13–15): The Lord tells Joshua to find the sinner and destroy him.
      3. The search (7:16–23): The Lord gives Joshua specific instructions for determining who the guilty person is.
         1. The method (7:16–17): The Lord points out the tribe to which the guilty person belongs; then he points out the clan, then the family, and finally the person himself.
         2. The man (7:18–23): Achan is found to be the guilty person.
      4. Achan’s fate (7:24–26): Achan and his guilty family members are stoned and their bodies burned.
2. **Israel defeats Ai (8:1–29).**
   1. The encouragement (8:1–2): The Lord now gives Joshua a new plan to defeat Ai. He instructs him to set an ambush behind the city.
   2. The Strategy: During the night, Joshua sent one detachment of soldiersto the west of Ai to lie in wait. The next morning he leda second group north of Ai. When the army of Ai attacked, the Israelites to the north pretended to scatter, only to turn on the enemy as the men lying in ambush moved in and burned the citv.
   3. The execution (8:3–29): Joshua carries out the Lord’s instructions and captures Ai.
      1. He sets an ambush (8:3–9, 12);
      2. He stages an attack (8:10–11, 13–14);
      3. He pretends to retreat (8:15–17);
      4. He signals to the men in ambush (8:18–20); and
      5. He captures the city (8:21–29).
3. ***The Two Mountains* (8:30–35):** After Joshua conquers Jericho and Ai he carries out Moses’ parting instructions.
   1. **The altar** (8:30–32): Joshua builds an altar on Mount Ebal and copies the law of God onto the stones.
   2. **The announcement** (8:33–35): At the foot of Mount Ebal half of the Israelites read the blessings for keeping the law, and at the foot of Mount Gerizim the other half read the curses for disobeying the law. Then Joshua reads the entire Book of the Law to the people.