

JOSHUA CHAPTER EIGHT

“VICTORY OUT OF DEFEAT”

Introduction

Psalm 127:1; Psalm 20:7; 2 Corinthians 4:16 -

Note: The victorious Christian life is a series of new beginnings!

Note: We need not grow discouraged because of the ongoing battles that we face!

Lamentations 3:22-23 - “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”

I. THE CONQUEST RESUMED

A. The Gracious Assurance (verses 1-2)

Note: God encourages, inspires, and instructs His people THROUGH His Word!

Psalm 119:28, 50, 76, 81, 147, 165; Proverbs 28:1; Philippians 4:5b-7 -

B. The Gathered Army (verses 1a & 3)

Note: God commands the WHOLE ARMY to go to battle. No one stays home!

2 Timothy 2:3; 1 Corinthians 9:26-27 -

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 - “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

1 Corinthians 4:2 - “...it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”

Dale Davis - “Israel must have God’s power for even little Ai. With the power of God the great Jericho could be taken; without His power not even the smallest post could be overrun. How utterly dependent God’s people are upon God’s power for any success! This is what the text preaches to us.”

C. The Guileful Ambush (verses 4-23)

1) Trust your Commander; He knows your enemy well.

Warren Wiersbe - “The strategy for Ai was based on Israel’s previous defeat; for God was organizing victory out of Joshua’s mistakes.”

2) See the sad unsuspecting condition of those opposed to God.

2 Peter 3:3b-7 -

D. The Generous Award (verses 2, 27)

Dale Davis - "How needless Achan's covetousness was! When Yahweh's priority is recognized and satisfied, He then gives to His people. God never seeks to impoverish His people. It is only as His people lose sight of His generosity, His provision, His goodness, that the cancer of covetousness consumes them. Indeed this is one of the first principles of 'serpent theology', for the tempter was sharp enough to place his emphasis on the restriction God has imposed rather than on the riches He had lavished."

Psalm 16:11; John 10:10; 2 Corinthians 4:17 -

E. The Gruesome Aftermath (verses 24-29)

Note: This is now the FOURTH Pile of memorial stones.

Now why does Joshua have the king of Ai hanged on a tree?

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 -

Galatians 3:13-14 - "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us - for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree' - so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith."

II. THE COVENANT RENEWED

A. The Priority of Worship

Why does God require the altar to be made of uncut stones which no man has shaped?

Ephesians 2:8-9 -

B. The Place of Worship

What's so important about this specific place? (Hint: Genesis 12:6-7)

Deuteronomy 11:29; Deuteronomy 27:1-13 -

Remember how we began... ***John 5:39 - "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me."***

On which mountain does there exist an altar made of uncut stones, on the Mount of Blessing or the Mount of Cursing?

Hebrews 10:12-14 - "But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet. For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified."