

Learning from Defeat Joshua 7, 8

I. Israel is Disobedient - 7:1

1. Achan is guilty of greed - 1, 20-21
God's command - Josh. 6:18-19
Material possessions were under a curse
Valuable metals were consecrated to God
Achan coveted what he saw - 21
He saw, he coveted and he took
2. Disobedience affected Israel - 1
One person's sin can affect others
Children of Israel committed a trespass
Anger of the Lord kindled against Israel

II. Defeat is Devastating - 7:2-9

1. Israel's battle plan was defective - 2, 3
Scouts sent to evaluate the enemy's strength
Report reflected a spirit of self-confidence
God did not direct nor was He consulted
2. Israel's army is soundly defeated - 4, 5
36 men died in this battle
Hearts of people melted - became as water
3. Joshua & elders wept before God - 6-9
There was deep sorrow and brokenness
Questioned what God was doing to them
Why did you bring us over Jordan?
We should have been content on other side
Pled for God's honor and glory - 9
What will you do about your great name?

III. Discovering the Problem - 7:10-18

1. God put His finger on Sin - 10-11
They transgressed God's covenant
They took what was cursed
Marked for destruction
They stole what belonged to God
There was deception and cover-up
2. God will withdraw from Israel - 12
Unless they deal with the sin
3. God gave direction for process - 13-15
How they were to discover the guilty one
God will indicate guilty one by lots - 14
Go by tribes, families, households, man
God directs sentence for the guilty
He shall be burned by fire with all that is his
4. Achan is taken with God's plan - 16-18
Achan did not attempt to stop process

IV. Dealing with the Sinner - 7:19-26

1. Achan acknowledges his guilt - 19-21
I saw, I coveted, I took, I hid
2. Evidence taken from his tent - 22-23
Evidence shown to people & before the Lord
3. Achan & family were executed - 24-25
Stoned to death and burned with fire

- Cursed things were burned with them
4. Monument built to remind Israel - 26
They must not forget consequences of sin
Justice is a must if God is to be with Israel
Sin affecting all must be dealt with publicly

V. Defeating the Enemy (Ai) - 8:1-29

1. The Lord promises victory - 1-2
God will give Israel victory over Ai - 1
God will give the spoils to His people - 2
2. Lord reveals His battle plan - 3-8
With sin put away God directs His people
The whole army was to be involved - 3
Plan involved setting up an ambush - 4-8
2. Joshua & Israel follow God's plan - 9-29
City was destroyed, burned with fire - 19, 28
The people of Ai were killed - 21-26
King was captured, taken to Joshua - 23
People were given the spoils - 27
Jericho was first-fruits - spoils belonged to God
Jericho fell by God's hand - the spoils were His
Now people fought and they are given the spoils
The King of the city was hanged - 29

VI. Dedication to God's Law - 8:30-35

1. After defeat, a review of the law
Must learn the importance of obedience
2. Joshua build an altar on Mt. Ebal - 30-31
Led people in worship, commitment to God
In accordance with Deut. 27:9-26
3. Wrote copy of Law on altar stones - 32
4. Blessings & Curses pronounced - 33-35
Blessings from one mountain, curses from other
4. God's Law was to be law of the Land
God's commandments to govern His people