

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 31 – Israel Is Given Jericho Through A Rest From War (Joshua 6-11)

1. Why was Jericho straitly [securely] shut up?
 - “Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in” (**Joshua 6:1**). Remember, fear had spread far and wide (**Joshua 5:1**).
2. What did God instruct the children of Israel to do for six days?
 - “And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days” (**Joshua 6:2-3**).
3. What did God instruct concerning the seventh day wherein they circled Jericho?
 - “And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him” (**Joshua 6:4-5**).
4. Were the children of Israel supposed to take the accursed things?
 - No, (**Joshua 6:18**; cf. **Deuteronomy 7:25-26**).
5. Did things go as planned in the taking of Jericho?
 - Yes, the wall fell flat on the seventh day as the children of Israel did what God commanded. They destroyed the city with fire and killed everyone within except for Rahab and her family who dwelled now in Israel for hiding the spies (**Joshua 6:6-25**).
6. Would the man who rebuilt Jericho be blessed?
 - No, he'd lose his eldest and youngest son in the cursing God would send on him (**Joshua 6:26**; cf. **I Kings 16:34**).
 - The **NJKV** says: “Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, “*Cursed be the man before the Lord who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates*” (**Joshua 6:26**).
7. Did the children of Israel please the Lord in all they did in Jericho?
 - No: “*But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against the children of Israel*” (**Joshua 7:1**).
8. Why were the children of Israel defeated by the men of Ai?
 - “*And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east side of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai. And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the*

people to labour thither; for they are but few. So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai. And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water. And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the Lord until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. And Joshua said, *Alas, O Lord God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?* And the Lord said unto Joshua, *Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you”* (Joshua 7:2-12).

9. What did God instruct Joshua to do to correct the wrong which had been done by Israel?

- “Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the Lord God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you. In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which the Lord taketh shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which the Lord shall take shall come by households; and the household which the Lord shall take shall come man by man. And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel” (Joshua 7:13-15).

10. What exactly were the accursed things which were taken out of Jericho?

- “And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it” (Joshua 7:20-21).
- Achan, like many today, has not realized you cannot hide things from God (I Samuel 16:7, Proverbs 5:21, and Hebrews 4:13).

11. What events occurred to have the fierceness of the anger of the Lord turned away from Israel?

- “And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the

valley of Achor. And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the Lord shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the Lord turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day” (Joshua 7:24-26).

12. What was the “battle plan” (that God provided) to defeat Ai?

- “And the Lord said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land: And thou shalt do to Ai and her king as thou didst unto Jericho and her king: only the spoil thereof, and the cattle thereof, shall ye take for a prey unto yourselves: lay thee an ambush for the city behind it. So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai: and Joshua chose out thirty thousand mighty men of valour, and sent them away by night. And he commanded them, saying, Behold, ye shall lie in wait against the city, even behind the city: go not very far from the city, but be ye all ready: And I, and all the people that are with me, will approach unto the city: and it shall come to pass, when they come out against us, as at the first, that we will flee before them, (For they will come out after us) till we have drawn them from the city; for they will say, They flee before us, as at the first: therefore we will flee before them. Then ye shall rise up from the ambush, and seize upon the city: for the Lord your God will deliver it into your hand. And it shall be, when ye have taken the city, that ye shall set the city on fire: according to the commandment of the Lord shall ye do. See, I have commanded you... And he took about five thousand men, and set them to lie in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city.” (Joshua 8:1-8; 12).

13. How many people of Ai were called to pursue after Israel?

- All the people that were in Ai till there was not a man left as they left the city open (Joshua 8:16-17).

14. What happened to the men of Ai when they saw their city burning?

- “And when the men of Ai looked behind them, they saw, and, behold, the smoke of the city ascended up to heaven, and they had no power to flee this way or that way: and the people that fled to the wilderness turned back upon the pursuers. And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city, and that the smoke of the city ascended, then they turned again, and slew the men of Ai. And the other issued out of the city against them; so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side: and they smote them, so that they let none of them remain or escape. And the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him to Joshua. And it came to pass, when Israel had made an end of slaying all the inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness wherein they chased them, and when they were all fallen on the edge of the sword, until they were consumed, that all the Israelites returned unto Ai, and smote it with the edge of the sword. And so it was, that all that fell that day, both of men and women, were twelve thousand, even all the men of Ai. For Joshua drew not his hand back, wherewith he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai. Only the cattle and the spoil of that city Israel took for a prey unto themselves, according unto the word of the Lord which he commanded Joshua. And Joshua burnt Ai, and made it an

heap for ever, even a desolation unto this day. And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until eventide: and as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his carcase down from the tree, and cast it at the entering of the gate of the city, and raise thereon a great heap of stones, that remaineth unto this day” (Joshua 8:20-29; cf. Proverbs 16:18).

15. What did Joshua do with the Law of Moses after the victory in Ai?

- *“Then Joshua built an altar unto the Lord God of Israel in mount Ebal, As Moses the servant of the Lord commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the Lord, and sacrificed peace offerings. And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel. And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, as well the stranger, as he that was born among them; half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal; as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel. And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law. There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them” (Joshua 8:30-35).*

16. What did all the kings, of the land Israel would invade next, do when they heard about the events in Ai?

- *“And it came to pass, when all the kings which were on this side Jordan, in the hills, and in the valleys, and in all the coasts of the great sea over against Lebanon, the Hittite, and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard thereof; That they gathered themselves together, to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord” (Joshua 9:1-2).*

17. How did the inhabitants of Gibeon trick Joshua and the men of Israel?

- *Instead of admitting that they would be of the land Israel was invading, this occurred: “They did work wilily [craftily], and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy. And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us. And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, Peradventure ye dwell among us; and how shall we make a league with you? And they said unto Joshua, We are thy servants. And Joshua said unto them, Who are ye? and from whence come ye? And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the Lord thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt, And all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites, that were beyond Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, which was at Ashtaroth. Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake to us, saying, Take*

victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them, **We are your servants: therefore now make ye a league with us.** This our bread we took hot for our provision out of our houses on the day we came forth to go unto you; but now, behold, it is dry, and it is mouldy: And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they be rent: and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey. **And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord.** And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation swore unto them” (**Joshua 9:4-15**).

- Does this not teach us to be observant and to always seek the Lord’s counsel (through His word), rather than to just be naïve [simple] (**Proverbs 1:22; 14:15; 22:3**)?

18. Did the inhabitants of Gibeon get off the hook without any consequences?

- They did not die for the oath made unto them, but “Joshua made them that day hewers of wood and drawers of water for the congregation, and for the altar of the Lord, even unto this day, in the place which he should choose” (**Joshua 9:27**).

19. What did the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon seemingly fail to realize when they went to war against the men of Gibeon?

- They failed to realize that the men of Gibeon would call upon Joshua and the children of Israel, which ultimately meant God would be joining this battle (**Joshua 10:6-8**).

20. What events occurred as Israel came to the defense of Gibeon?

- “Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night. And the Lord discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah. And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword. Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel” (**Joshua 10:9-14**).
- Note* The book of Jasher or the “Book of the Upright” is theorized to be many things, but no known copy exists to know for sure. We’ll see this again in **II Samuel 1:18**.
- We can trust in God’s providence that we have all inspired books (**Psalms 119:89, Matthew 24:35, and I Peter 1:23-25**).
- Therefore, we could conclude it is a referenced book much like the poets or prophets were referenced by Paul (**Acts 17:28 and Titus 1:12**).

21. Did the five kings who fled and hid in a cave escape the children of Israel?
- No, the cave was sealed unto all those who fled were killed. Then they came back and hung the kings on five trees until the going down of the sun wherein they cast them back into the cave and sealed it (**Joshua 10:16-27**).
 - In this account Joshua reminds the children of Israel of their instructions to kill all whom they conquered (**Joshua 10:25**).
22. In a brief point, what happened to the people of Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Gezer, Eglon, Hebron, Debir, all the country of the hills, of the south, of the vale, and of the springs?
- The Lord God of Israel fought for Israel and delivered all of these people and their lands into their hands (**Joshua 10:28-42**).
23. What did Jabin king of Hazor do when he heard of what Israel had done?
- *“And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor had heard those things, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph, And to the kings that were on the north of the mountains, and of the plains south of Chinneroth, and in the valley, and in the borders of Dor on the west, And to the Canaanite on the east and on the west, and to the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Jebusite in the mountains, and to the Hivite under Hermon in the land of Mizpeh. And they went out, they and all their hosts with them, much people, even as the sand that is upon the sea shore in multitude, with horses and chariots very many. And when all these kings were met together, they came and pitched together at the waters of Merom, to fight against Israel”* (**Joshua 11:1-5**).
24. Was Joshua successful in defeating all the nations God wanted to give Israel for an inheritance?
- After a long time of war (**Joshua 11:18**), there was success.
 - *“Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war”* (**Joshua 11:23**).