

A Covenant Renewed: Refocus on the Father

1. Introduction

a. Recap Chapter 7

- i. Israel lost the battle of Ai (Ay-ee)
 1. Overconfidence
 2. Prayerlessness
- ii. Achan's sin
 1. Lack of Trust in God's provision
 2. Greed
 3. Not honoring sacred things
 4. Disobedience
- iii. Overall, Joshua and Achan took their eyes off God.
 1. Joshua 7:6, "fell to the earth on his face"
 2. Joshua 7:10, "Why have you fallen on your face?"
 3. Joshua 7:21, "When I saw among the spoil..."

b. Chapter 8 Themes

- i. Outline is like previous chapters
 1. God talks to Joshua
 2. Joshua tells Israel
 3. Israel listens
- ii. Importance of Following God
- iii. Importance of Focusing on God

2. **God's Rapid Reassurance (vs 1-2)**

a. Direct your attention toward God (Focus)

- i. God is talking so Joshua must be attentive and looking toward Him.
- ii. "Get up!" Joshua 7:10

b. Submit your feelings to God (Follow)

- i. "Do not fear and do not be dismayed." (vs 1)
- ii. Joshua was feeling the defeat and loss of a leader.
- iii. God reminds Him who is in charge.

c. Be patient for God's provision (Focus)

- i. "Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves." (vs 2)
- ii. Achan only needed to trust that God would provide and care for him.

d. Be patient for God's plan (Focus & Follow)

- i. "Lay an ambush against the city, behind it." (vs 2)
- ii. Joshua didn't seek God's plan in Chapter 7.

3. **Joshua's Invasion Instructions (vs 3-8)**

a. Obey to the Lord's Instructions (Follow)

- i. Joshua repeated God's commands
 1. "You shall do according to the word of the Lord" (vs 8)
 2. Showed the people that his eyes were again on God
- ii. Joshua regained respect
 1. "I have commanded you" (vs 8)
 2. Israel can see that Joshua is in charge BUT under God's charge

- b. Recognize who gets the glory (Focus)
 - i. Some men become proud and insolent because they ride a fine horse, wear a feather in their hat or are dressed in a fine suit of clothes. Who does not see the folly of this? If there be any glory in such things, the glory belongs to the horse, the bird and the tailor.
 - ii. “the LORD your God will give it into your hand” (vs 7)
 - iii. It’s God’s work to equip and provide, it’s God’s victory, it’s God’s glory
- 4. **God’s People Positioned** (vs 9-13) ****Show Map On Screen**** (“*Joshua Chapter 8 locations*” in Planning Center)
 - a. “At night Joshua and his army marched fifteen miles from Gilgal to Ai, and, using thirty thousand soldiers, Joshua set up an ambush behind the city from the west (vv 3-9). He put another five thousand men between Ai and Bethel, which was about two miles away. This detachment would make sure that the army from Bethel wouldn’t make a surprise attack from the northwest and open another front. Leading the rest of the Jewish army, Joshua would make a frontal attack on Ai from the north.” BE Strong OT Commentary
 - b. Being positioned by God can be time consuming and unappealing but it is crucial to His plan.
- 5. **Enemy City Emptied** (vs 14-17)
 - a. King of Ai mirrored what Joshua did in Chapter 7 (Focus)
 - i. Overconfident
 - ii. Quick, poor decision
 - iii. “As soon as the king of Ai saw this...they hurried and went out” to pursue Israel (vs 14)
 - b. “Not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who did not gout after Israel. They left the city open and pursued Israel.” (vs 17)
- 6. **God’s Constant Counsel** (vs 18)
 - a. In the middle of the battle, God never left them. (Follow)
 - i. “Then the Lord said to Joshua” (vs 18)
 - ii. Guiding them to victory
 - b. In the middle of the battle, Joshua never took his eyes off God (Focus)
 - i. “And Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city” (vs 18)
 - ii. He listened and obeyed.
- 7. **Ambush in Action** (vs 19-23)
 - a. The ambush entered the empty city and burned it.
 - b. “When the men of Ai looked back” (vs 20) (focus) the men of Israel “turned back and struck down the men of Ai” (vs 21)
- 8. **Ai Destroyed and Defeated** (vs 24-29)
 - a. Joshua did as God commanded
 - i. “according to the word of the Lord that He commanded Joshua” (vs 27)
 - ii. It brought victory to his people and destruction to his enemy
 - b. King of Ai didn’t do as God commanded
 - i. It brought destruction to his home

1. Didn't protect his base
 2. Didn't protect his people
 - ii. It brought destruction to his people
9. **Eyes on the Everlasting** (vs 30-35)
- a. Joshua remembered what was important (Focus)
 - i. He did as Moses commanded
 1. Deuteronomy 27:1-8
 - a. "On the day you cross over the Jordan...set up large stones" vs 2
 - b. "Write on them all the words of this law" vs 3
 - c. "On Mount Ebal" vs 4
 - d. "build an altar" vs 5
 2. Joshua 8:30-35
 - a. Built an altar vs 30-31
 - b. Wrote the law on the stones vs 32-33
 - c. Read the law vs 34-35
 - ii. He did as God commanded
 1. Joshua 1:7
 - a. "Be strong and courageous"
 - b. "Do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you"
 2. Joshua 7:11
 - a. "They have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them"
 - b. Obedience is important
 - b. Joshua remembered who was important (Follow)
 - i. God is to be obeyed
 1. Joshua 1:9
 - a. "for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go"
 - b. He remembered that God is important before, during, and after the battle.
 2. Obey God above ALL things
 - ii. God is to be glorified
 1. This is now the fourth monument of stones to remember what God has done. (Joshua 4:20, 7:26, 8:29)
 2. Glorifying God needs to be a habit that we work on doing consistently
 - c. Joshua maintained focus
 - i. Wasn't distracted by temporal things
 1. Success of man is temporary
 2. Success of God is eternal
 - ii. Wasn't distracted by other emotional things
 1. Victory could've been distracting
 2. Victory is worth celebrating
 3. Victory can be self-promoting
 - iii. Reminded Israel of what's important
 1. He took time to read

- a. "And afterward he read all the words of the law" vs 34
 - b. "There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read" vs 35
2. He took time to lead

****Fathers: Review the subpoints (a, b, c, i, ii, etc.) but read them as a guide to Godly Fathering****