

JOSHUA 8:19-35 SACK (Part II)
06 April 13 by Glenn Palmer
Review

Joshua 1: *Strong in the Lord*
Joshua 2: *Spies*
Joshua 3: *Surge*
Joshua 4: *Stones*
Joshua 5: *Sacrament*
Joshua 5: *Supreme Commander*
Joshua 6: *Sound of the trumpet*
Joshua 7: *Sin*
Joshua 8: *Sack*

SACK

Joshua 8:19

1. "Fire, fire, fire"
2. The texts:
 - a. Vs. 19: "*quickly* set the city on fire"
 - b. Vs. 20: "smoke of the city rising to the sky"
 - c. Vs. 27: Israelites enter Ai and carry off the plunder
 - d. Problem: How could the fire be big enough to be seen (vs. 20) yet not too hot so that after the battle they could enter the city and loot it?
 - e. Solution: Fire mentioned in vs. 19 is a different fire than the burned up of vs. 28.

Review: Describe how the Lord is actively involved:

1. Vs. 1: *Encourager: The Lord encourages*
2. Vs. 2: *General: The Lord tells how - ambush*
3. Vs. 7: *Comforter: The Lord will give you it into your hand*
4. Vs. 8: *General: Do as the Lord commanded.*
5. Vs. 18: *General: Tells Joshua precisely when to stretch out his hand*
6. Vs. 27: *General: Tells Joshua what to do with the city*

Practical Application: What comfort do we get from these passages?

- A. *The Lord is actively involved; we do not serve a far away God or a God that is too busy.*
- B. *The Lord is in control.*
- C. *God has a specific plan for our lives.*
- D. *God is really interested in our lives so we need to pray. He loves us and has power to help us.*

Joshua 8:20

3. What is a pincer movement? *Attack from two sides.*

Joshua 8:21-22

4. Difference between what Hebrew and Western thought
 - a. Vs. 18 Joshua holds out his javelin
 - b. Vs. 19 Men in ambush rush forward and set Ai on fire
 - c. Vs. 20
 - i. Ai men see smoke
 - ii. Main army sees smoke and turns around and attacks
 - iii. No chance of escape
 - d. Vs. 21 Main army sees the smoke and turns around and attacks
 - e. Vs. 22 Men of ambush come out of the city and attack
 - f. Vs. 24 Main army kills all the men of Ai in the fields, desert, then in the city.

Joshua 8:24

5. What does the Lord’s army do? *Killed all the men of Ai; chased them down*

Joshua 8:27

6. What is the payment? *Livestock and plunder*

7. Why does the Lord permit them to seize the plunder in Ai but not in Jericho? *He wanted the first fruits - received that in Jericho. Now the Lord blesses the others.*

Practical Application: *How does God show his love in this verse?*

Think back to chapter 7. What was Achan’s sin?

Think first fruits and tithe! God wants us to richly enjoy all things. He just wants to be first.

God is not against us for having money. But He wants to be first - in tithe, then how we use it.

Joshua 8:28-29

8. What does he treat the king?

- a. *Hangs him on a tree*
- b. *Has him taken down before sunset*
- c. *Thrown down at the entrance of the gate*
- d. *Raised a large pile of rocks*

9. Look up Deuteronomy 21:22-23. *You must not leave his body on the tree overnight. . . Anyone who is hung on the tree is under God’s curse.*

Practical Application: *How do you interpret the scriptures? These verses are about capital offense. Can this be applied to the King of Ai in Joshua 8:28?*

Look up John 19:31.

Look up Philippians 2:8.

Look up Galatians 3:13

10. Why does the LORD have Joshua sack the city? *The Canaanites were incredibly evil*

Look up Deuteronomy 20:10-18

Numbers 25:1-3

The Covenant at Mt. Ebal & Mt. Gerazim

11. Look up Deuteronomy 11:26-32

12. Look up Deuteronomy 27:1-29:1

Practical Application:

May a Christian date an unbeliever? Not marry, but just date? NO. You must marry a believer, and since the purpose of dating is to find a suitable spouse, don’t go down that path.

What is the danger of marrying an unbeliever? Your faith will be destroyed.

Joshua 8:29-32

13. Contrast between Joshua 8:29-32

Ai	Mt. Ebal & Mt Gerazim
King disgraced	King of kings worshipped
Dead human <i>under</i> the stones	Dead animals sacrificed <i>on top of</i> the stones
Curse	Blessings and Curses
Stones cast and heaped up <i>against</i> a sinner	Altar built of stones <i>for</i> sinners
Disorganized	Organized

14. Purpose: Humanly speaking, the battles of Jericho and Ai have been won, but two battles do not a war make. There are 29 more kings to go. (See Joshua 12:9-24, especially vs. 24.) Divinely speaking, it is time to acknowledge God's claim. Marten Woudstra writes that **"The right of possessing the promised land is tied to the proclamation of, and subjection to, God's covenant claim upon his people."**¹

15. What are three things that Joshua does?
- Vs. 30. *Built an altar with uncut stones*
 - Vs. 31. *Offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings*
 - Vs. 32. *Copied on the stones the law of Moses*

16. What type of altar is it? Exodus 20:25-26.

17. Why uncut stones? Bible does not specifically say, but what are your thoughts?

Emphasis should be on what is happening on the altar, and not the altar itself.

18. Note the parallels between the altar in Exodus 20:25-26

- Where were they built?
Both on mount
- Both built at God's command
- Both built after a total victory
- Both built after crossing an *impassible body of water*
- Both built with heavy emphasis on the law
- What type of offerings were offered up?

Exodus 24:5 & Joshua 8:31

- burnt offerings*
- fellowship offerings*

19. What is on Marcus Aureleas's and Hadrian's column? *Battle scenes of victory*

20. What is recorded on the stones that Joshua builds? *Not scenes of battle, but the law*

Joshua 8:33

21. Where physically were the 10 commandments?
Hint: see map (Fig. 4 on page 4.)



Figure 1: Map. <http://www.biblemaps.com/OTAnswerKey.html> accessed on 01 Apr 13



Figure 2: Mt. Ebal (left) and Mt. Gerazim (right) <http://www.pearlmancta.com/Shechem.htm> accessed on 02 Apr 13



Figure 3: Marcus Aureleus column <http://www.nickwinter.com/journeys/europe/rome.htm> accessed on 02 Apr 13

¹ Marten H. Woudstra, *The Book of Joshua*, (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1981), 144.

In the ark of the covenant between the two mts.

Joshua 8:34

22. What was read?
Probably Deuteronomy 27-30

23. What is the purpose of reading the law?

Cf. Deuteronomy 27:10



Figure 4: Map of Mt Gerazim and Mt Ebal <http://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-altar-of-joshua-ceremony-at-shechem.jpg> accessed on 30 Mar 13

Cf. Deuteronomy 28:1-2

For the people to acknowledge that the Lord was king and that they understand the rules.

Joshua 8:35

24. To whom did Joshua read the law?
- a. The men
 - b. The women
 - c. The children
 - d. The aliens

Practical Application: In Joshua 8:35, the children and the little ones listened to Joshua read the law - at least one if not two chapters. Based on the this passage, should the children attend church with the grown-ups? When we take our children to a baseball game, do they understand the nuances between a curve or a fast ball, a hit and run play? Probably not. But they do understand that baseball is important and that they are important to go to the game. We don't drop them off at the sand box and say "See you in two hours."