



Course: A Survey of the Bible: Genesis to Revelation

Lesson: 11 (Part 8)

Pressing Forward into 2022

- Our Discipleship Catechism Questions
 - ① What is the chief end of man?
 - ② What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify Him?
 - ③ What do the Scriptures principally teach?
 - ④ What is God?
 - ⑤ Are there more gods than One?
- Our memory work:
 - 1 Corinthians 6:20
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
 - Psalm 73:25-26
 - Isaiah 46:9-10

For whatever things were written before were written **for our learning**, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

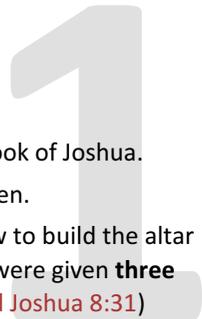
(Romans 15:4)

The Fall of Jericho (Joshua 6)

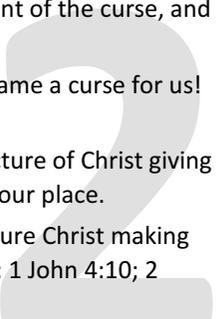
Failure and Victory at Ai (Joshua 7-8)

An Altar (Joshua 8:30-31)

- This is the first time we have the word *altar* in the book of Joshua.
- An altar was the **meeting place** between God and men.
- For this reason God gave specific instructions on how to build the altar – **He did not leave it to man!** (These instructions were given **three times!** – **Exodus 20:24-25; Deuteronomy 27:5; and Joshua 8:31**)



- The altar was the place where the **holy, holy, holy God** and **sinful** man dealt with sin and salvation.
- It was only at the **altar** where God would accept man!
- The altar was to be made “of **whole** stones which have not been touched (chiseled or cut) by man.” (See Exodus 20:24-26)
- The altar was not to be made “beautiful” by man because it was a “picture” of his worthlessness as a sinner. To beautify the altar would cause man to have a warped view of himself.
- The altar must be God’s workmanship, unbeautified by man’s skill..
- “altar” is מִזְבֵּחַ *mizbeach* and means “the place of slaughter”.
 - ★ From the beginning God taught **sinful** man that there could be no fellowship between Himself and sinful man **except** through the shedding of blood and that of a **perfect substitute**. (Hebrews 9:22)
- The “altar” was also a “picture” of Jesus Christ, who took upon Himself the **likeness** of sinful flesh (Romans 8:3)
 - ★ There is only **one meeting** place between God and sinful man and that is Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:12; John 14:6; 10:7, 9)
 - ★ In Scripture, Christ is prefigured as the **High Priest** (the Offerer; Hebrews 9), the Altar (Hebrews 13:10) and the Offering (John 1:29; Hebrews 9:11-14, 27-28)
 - ★ When Christ came “He had no form or comeliness, and when we saw Him, there was no beauty that we should desire Him.” – thus the “altar” was made from ordinary stones.
 - ★ The stones were to be **whole** stones – Christ’s life was **perfect** – nothing was to be “chiseled” away from Christ’s life!
 - ★ The “altar” was built on Mount Ebal, the mount of the curse, and not Mount Gerizim, the mount of blessing.
 - ★ Christ came to the place of the curse and became a curse for us! (Galatians 3:13)
- On the altar a **burnt offering** (Leviticus 1) was a picture of Christ giving Himself “wholly” and “completely” unto God in our place.
 - Also a **peace offering** was made and was a picture Christ making **peace** between God and man. (Romans 5:1; 1 John 4:10; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Luke 2:14).



The Gibeonites (Joshua 9-10)

- “And” (Joshua 9:1) וְ is a **conjunction** (a word that joins two thoughts, etc. together)
- “and” tells us not to forget what just read and to know that it is intimately connected to what we are about to study.
- “It Came to Pass” (v. 1) וַיְהִי־כֵן means “to happen”; “become”; “come to pass”
- We remind ourselves that this conquest of Canaan is the working of the Lord who works **all things** according to His will. (Ephesians 1:11; Isaiah 46:10-11; Psalm 33:11; Proverbs 19:21; Daniel 4:35; Lamentations 3:37-38)
- Even Satan can do nothing without God’s permission, authority, or strength. (Job 1:11; 2:5; Luke 22:31)
- We must remain in **AWE** of Who God really is!
- Enemy Number One: The Roaring Lion (vv. 1-2)
 - ★ **REMEMBER:** This is for our learning.
 - ★ Joshua and God’s people are now in the enemies’ territory – just as **we** are in the “enemy’s” territory.
 - ★ This reminds us that we must always be on our guard against the enemy! We must be aware of our enemy’s tactics. (2 Corinthians 2:11)
- “when all the kings . . . heard of it”
 - What is “it”?
 - ① The victories at Jericho and Ai.
 - ② The setting up of God’s Law at Ebal and Gerizim.
- All the kings on this side of the Jordan (all the Canaanites) now **join together** to do battle against God’s people.
- These kings had “heard” – just like the people of Jericho – see Joshua 2:9-11.
- Notice what the kings of Canaan **not** do:
 - They did not surrender to Israel – and in so doing to Yahweh.



- They did not consider themselves outnumbered. Israel has an army of over 600,000 soldiers.
- They did not cast themselves at the feet of Joshua begging for mercy.
- This reminds us of Psalm 2. It is foolish to fight and rebel against God.

Some Teaching Points for Us

- ① Satan never quits! (See Luke 4:1-13)
- ② We are in the territory of the enemy, just like Joshua and God’s people.
- ③ When we set out to live holy lives we must expect the enemy to attack. (2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:18-20)
- ④ We should expect a “counterattack” after a victory.
- ⑤ The enemy comes in many different forms.
- ⑥ We are commanded to be aware of our enemy’s tactics. (2 Corinthians 2:11)

Sometimes A Lion; Sometimes A Deceiving Serpent

- Sometimes Satan come as a “roaring/devouring lion”. (1 Peter 5:8)
- Sometimes he comes as a **deceiving serpent**. (2 Corinthians 11:3, **see vv. 13-15**). See also Revelation 12:9.
- We are **warned** over and over about being deceived:
 - **BEWARE** of false teachers/prophets. (Matthew 7:15; 24:4-5, 11, 24-25; Deuteronomy 13:1-3.)
 - ★ We are warned that **many** will be deceived!
 - We are **warned** not to allow false teachers to “sneak” into the Church. (Jude 3-4; Acts 20:29-30; 2 Peter 2:1)
 - We are **told** that “evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” 2 Timothy 3:13.

Who Were the Gibeonites? (Joshua 9:3)

- The Gibeonites **heard** what Joshua and Israel had done to Jericho and Ai.
- Gibeon was only about 25KM from Israel’s camp at Gilgal.

3

4

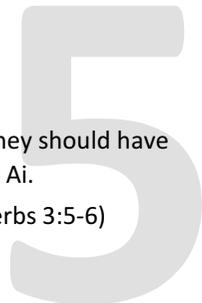
- **REMEMBER:** Gilgal is the place of **circumcision** (which was a symbol of putting “no confidence in the flesh”. (Philippians 3:3)
- Gibeon was on Joshua’s list to destroy – see Deuteronomy 7:1-11. They were Amorites. (2 Samuel 21:1-2)
- God had made a provision in His Law that Israel could make a **treaty** of peace with cities that were **far away** after the conquest of Canaan!
- **BUT** right now, Gibeon is on **GOD’s** destroy list.

The Deception (Joshua 9: 4-13)

- The **lies** –
 - They pretended to be **ambassadors** (but their clothing and supplies testified against them).
 - They “**fixed**” their garments to look **old** and **traveled**.
 - They said they came from a **far country**. (See v. 9, “a **very far** country).
 - They **lied** about their food supplies.
 - They said they came as **servants** when they were really Joshua’s **enemy**.
 - They said they had come “because of the name of the Lord”. They really came because they feared for themselves.
 - They had heard the same reports as the people of Jericho but refused to put their faith in the Lord, as did Rahab.
 - **NOTICE:** They did not report to Joshua that they had heard of his victories in Jericho and Ai!! — Word of Joshua’s victories would have not yet gotten to a **very far away** country!
- ★ **NOTICE:** Joshua and his men “sense” that something is not right. (vv. 7-8)

Why the Deception Worked (v. 14)

- “they did not ask counsel of the Lord”
 - They walked by **sight** and not by **faith**.
 - They used their “**common sense**”. Something they should have learned not to trust sense their dealings with Ai.
 - They leaned on their own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5-6)



- ★ Joshua had **not** followed God’s commands – see Numbers 27:18-21. - Isaiah 30:1-2
- ★ We are commanded to “**live on every word that comes from the mouth of GOD**” – Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4 – not our own understanding.

A Covenant Sworn (vv. 15-19)

- Joshua made peace with the Gibeonites – he **sinned** though he was **ignorant**. (Leviticus 4:1-3; 5:4, 17-19)
- Joshua **sinned** because he did not follow God’s commandments.
- Joshua and the rulers swore an oath – giving themselves no way out of this blunder.
- See God and vow meeting: Ecclesiastes 5:4-5; Deuteronomy 23:21-22; Numbers 30:2)

LESSONS FOR US:

- ① We are to live on every word that God gives us and not on our own understanding. (Deut. 8:3; Proverbs 3:5-6)
- ② What seems to be true is not always true. A counterfeit looks like the real thing. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
- ③ We are commanded to test everything. (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; 1 John 4:1)
- ④ **GOD holds us to our word!**

Keeping the Covenant (Joshua 10)

- (Joshua 10:1) “Now it came to pass” - a test for the Gibeonites.
- (Joshua 10:3-5) FIVE KINGS assemble to fight the Gibeonites.

The Gibeonites “Pray” to “Joshua” (v. 6)

- **REMEMBER** the Gibeonites were “all mighty men”.
- **YET**, they look to Joshua for help.
 - ① Joshua had save their lives.
 - ② Joshua had entered into a **covenant** with them.



- In their request they call themselves **servants!** – Joshua being their “LORD”.
 - This shows that they were **dependent** on Joshua.
 - They were not trusting in their own strength, wisdom, or sufficiency, though all their men were mighty men.
 - They were not trusting in their walled city or their might! (See Isaiah 30:1)
- ★ LESSON: We are call upon the LORD in our times of trouble!
 - See Psalm 46:1-3; 50:15; 77:2; 91:15

So Joshua Ascended from Gilgal (v. 7)

- Joshua dropped everything and came to the aid of those whom he had made a covenant with!

The LORD Fights the Battle (vv. 8-15)

- (v. 8) The LORD promise to Joshua.
 - ★ God is **sovereign** over battles, armies, and governments. (See Jeremiah 27:5-8; Daniel 4:17)
- (v. 10) The LORD routs out the enemy from the mountains.
- (v. 11) ★ God is **sovereign** over the weather – as He rains hailstones upon the enemy. (See Psalm 135:7; 148:8)
- (vv. 12-13) ★ God is **sovereign** over the sun! (See Isaiah 38:8 where God turns the “shadow” backwards.)

HAVE WE LEARNED!

Romans 15:4

