

**Timeline of Truth – God Defeats Ai (Joshua 8)**

<p><b>Joshua 8:1</b> Now the LORD said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. <sup>2</sup> "And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves. Lay an ambush for the city behind it."</p>	<p><b>1. God _____ Joshua</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. God commands Joshua not to fear             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Be afraid – fear</li> <li>ii. Be dismayed - חָתַתָּ – <i>chatat</i> - be shattered</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. God commands Joshua to attack Ai</li> <li>c. God promises to deliver Ai into their hands             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. They are to kill the people and the king.</li> <li>ii. They are allowed to take the animals and things.</li> </ol> </li> <li>d. God gives a strategy.</li> </ol>
<p><sup>3</sup> So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai; and Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men of valor and sent them away by night. <sup>4</sup> And he commanded them, saying: "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind the city. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you be ready. <sup>5</sup> "Then I and all the people who <i>are</i> with me will approach the city; and it will come about, when they come out against us as at the first, that we shall flee before them. <sup>6</sup> "For they will come out after us till we have drawn them from the city, for they will say, '<i>They are</i> fleeing before us as at the first.' Therefore we will flee before them. <sup>7</sup> "Then you shall rise from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will deliver it into your hand. <sup>8</sup> "And it will be, when you have taken the city, <i>that</i> you shall set the city on fire. According to the commandment of the LORD you shall do. See, I have commanded you."</p>	<p><b>2. Joshua Gives a _____</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Joshua devises an ambush             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 30000 men – sent them away by night</li> <li>ii. They are to lie in ambush – behind the city</li> <li>iii. The rest will go against the city</li> <li>iv. They will pretend to flee</li> <li>v. The people of the city will pursue</li> <li>vi. The men in ambush will take the city and burn it</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. They are following God’s command</li> </ol>
<p><sup>9</sup> Joshua therefore sent them out; and they went to lie in ambush, and stayed between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of Ai; but Joshua lodged that night among the people. <sup>10</sup> Then Joshua rose up early in the morning and mustered the people, and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai. <sup>11</sup> And all the people of war who <i>were</i> with him went up and drew near; and they came before the city and camped on the north side of Ai. Now a valley <i>lay</i> between them and Ai. <sup>12</sup> So he took about five thousand men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city. <sup>13</sup> And when they had set the people, all the army that <i>was</i> on the north of the city, and its rear guard on the west of the city, Joshua went that night into the midst of the valley.</p>	<p><b>3. Israel _____ the Battle Plan</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The men in ambush went out the night before</li> <li>b. Joshua stayed and went out with the men in the morning             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Everyone went up to Ai</li> <li>ii. The people of war drew near</li> <li>iii. Joshua sent an additional 5000 men toward Bethel</li> <li>iv. Joshua took the men into the valley</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><sup>14</sup> Now it happened, when the king of Ai saw <i>it</i>, that the men of the city hurried and rose early and went out against Israel to battle, he and all his people, at an appointed place before the plain. But he did not know that <i>there was</i> an ambush against him behind the city. <sup>15</sup> And Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness. <sup>16</sup> So all the people who <i>were</i> in Ai were called together to pursue them. And they pursued Joshua and were drawn away from the city. <sup>17</sup> There was not a man left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. So they left the city open and pursued Israel.</p>	<p><b>4. The King is _____</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The men of the city went out against Israel</li> <li>b. Joshua “flees” before the men of Ai</li> <li>c. The men of Ai pursue the Israelites             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. They were drawn away from the city</li> <li>ii. There was not a man left in Ai or Bethel</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

<p><sup>18</sup> Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Stretch out the spear that <i>is</i> in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the spear that <i>was</i> in his hand toward the city. <sup>19</sup> So <i>those in</i> ambush arose quickly out of their place; they ran as soon as he had stretched out his hand, and they entered the city and took it, and hurried to set the city on fire. <sup>20</sup> And when the men of Ai looked behind them, they saw, and behold, the smoke of the city ascended to heaven. So they had no power to flee this way or that way, and the people who had fled to the wilderness turned back on the pursuers. <sup>21</sup> Now when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city and that the smoke of the city ascended, they turned back and struck down the men of Ai. <sup>22</sup> Then the others came out of the city against them; so they were <i>caught</i> in the midst of Israel, some on this side and some on that side. And they struck them down, so that they let none of them remain or escape. <sup>23</sup> But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him to Joshua.</p>	<p><b>5. The Trap is _____</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. God gives a command: Stretch out the spear       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Stretch it out toward Ai</li> <li>ii. God promises to give the city to them</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. The men in ambush take the city</li> <li>c. The men of Ai are trapped       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. They realized they had nowhere to go</li> <li>ii. Joshua turned Israel back to fight</li> <li>iii. The men in the city came out against the men of Ai</li> <li>iv. The men were all killed</li> <li>v. They brought the king to Joshua</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><sup>24</sup> And it came to pass when Israel had made an end of slaying all the inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness where they pursued them, and when they all had fallen by the edge of the sword until they were consumed, that all the Israelites returned to Ai and struck it with the edge of the sword. <sup>25</sup> So it was <i>that</i> all who fell that day, both men and women, <i>were</i> twelve thousand -- all the people of Ai. <sup>26</sup> For Joshua did not draw back his hand, with which he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai. <sup>27</sup> Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as booty for themselves, according to the word of the LORD which He had commanded Joshua. <sup>28</sup> So Joshua burned Ai and made it a heap forever, a desolation to this day. <sup>29</sup> And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until evening. And as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his corpse down from the tree, cast it at the entrance of the gate of the city, and raise over it a great heap of stones <i>that remains</i> to this day.</p>	<p><b>6. Israel _____ the Battle</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. All the people are killed       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. First they killed all the men of war</li> <li>ii. Then they killed all in the city</li> <li>iii. 12,000 people were killed</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. The livestock and the spoils were saved</li> <li>c. Ai was burned – it is not inhabited</li> <li>d. The king was hanged       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. All day</li> <li>ii. They buried him in stones at the gate of the city</li> <li>iii. The heap of stones remained.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><sup>30</sup> Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal, <sup>31</sup> as Moses the servant of the LORD had 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 has wielded an iron <i>tool</i>." And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings. <sup>32</sup> And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.</p>	<p><b>7. Joshua _____ an Altar</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Location – Mt. Ebal</li> <li>b. He followed God's instruction to Moses       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Stones – not worked with tools</li> <li>ii. They offered an offering</li> <li>iii. Wrote the Law on the stones</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

<sup>33</sup> Then all Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, the stranger as well as he who was born among them. Half of them *were* in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel. <sup>34</sup> And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. <sup>35</sup> There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.

**8. Joshua \_\_\_\_\_ the Law**

- a. Everyone was there
  - i. Half on Mt. Gerizim, half on Mt. Ebal
  - ii. Did as Moses commanded
  - iii. They blessed the people
- b. Joshua reads the words of the law
  - i. He read the whole law
  - ii. Everyone heard the law.

**Deuteronomy 11:29-32** <sup>29</sup> "Now it shall be, when the LORD your God has brought you into the land which you go to possess, that you shall put the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. <sup>30</sup> "Are they not on the other side of the Jordan, toward the setting sun, in the land of the Canaanites who dwell in the plain opposite Gilgal, beside the terebinth trees of Moreh? <sup>31</sup> "For you will cross over the Jordan and go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and you will possess it and dwell in it. <sup>32</sup> "And you shall be careful to observe all the statutes and judgments which I set before you today.

**Deuteronomy 27:12-13** <sup>12</sup> "These shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you have crossed over the Jordan: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin; <sup>13</sup> "and these shall stand on Mount Ebal to curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

**Takeaways:**

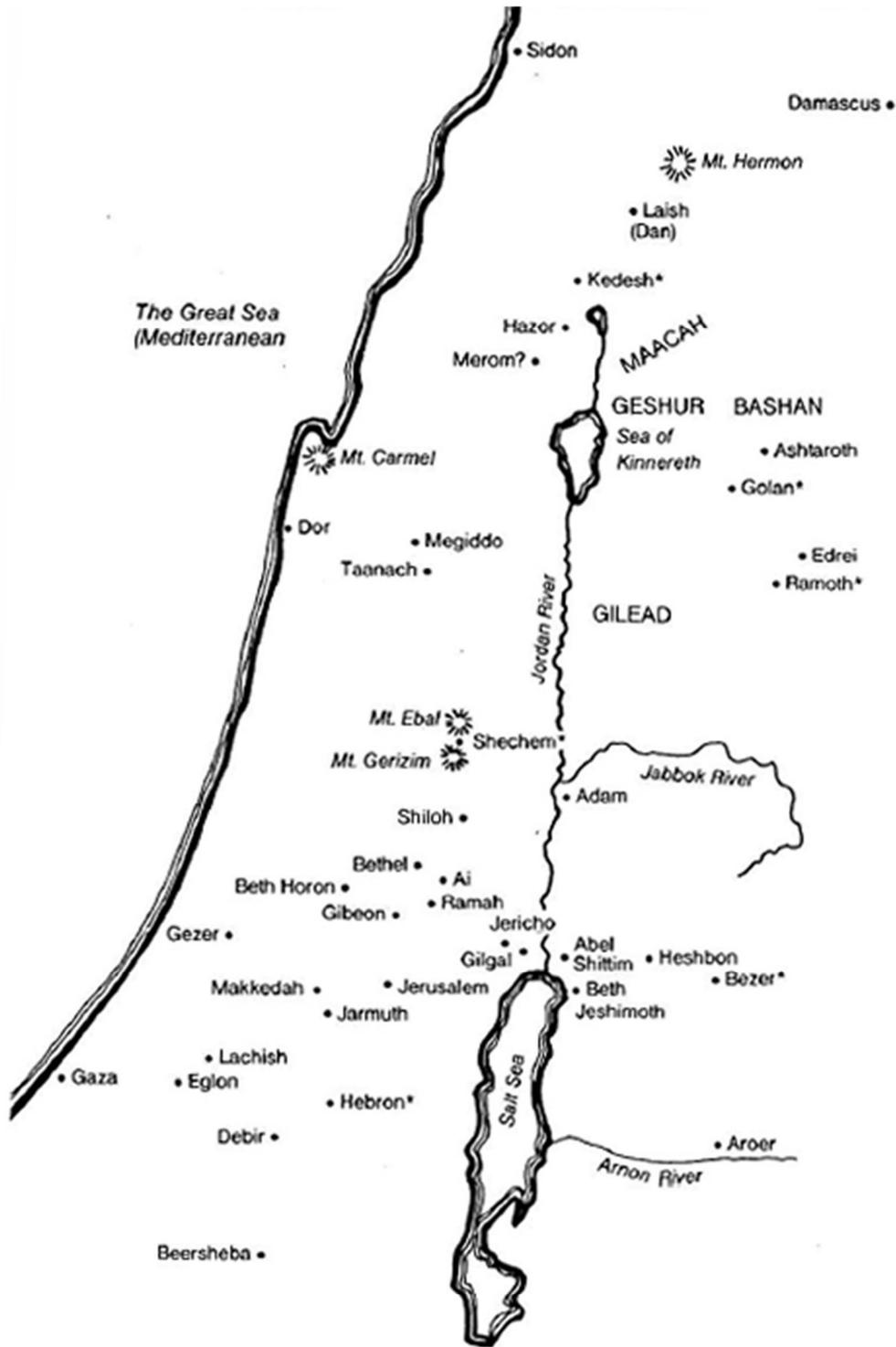
**Israel repented of the sin of Achan and followed God's instructions fully. It was only when Israel was walking with God and obeying His commands that God was going to fight the battles for them. God expects that His children walk in His ways.**

**1 John 1:5-7** <sup>5</sup> This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**1 John 2:4-6** <sup>4</sup> He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. <sup>6</sup> He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

**1 John 2:28 - 3:3** <sup>28</sup> And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. <sup>29</sup> If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. <sup>NKJ</sup> **1 John 3:1** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

# CANAAN IN THE CONQUEST



\* = Cities of Refuge

NEGEV

• Kadesh Barnea

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