

## Joshua 8: A Second Chance at Victory

Getting started: Name a time when you failed but then were given a second chance to succeed.

**Read vv. 1-22      Victory at Ai**

1. What promise did God give Joshua concerning Ai before the second attempt against the city? (v. 1-2) What strategy did God suggest? (v. 2) What permission did God grant? (v. 2)
  
2. How did this battle plan differ from the first attack? (vv. 3-8, see also Josh. 7:4)
  
3. What effect did Israel's hasty retreat toward the wilderness have? (vv. 16-17) What signal was used to release the ambush? (vv. 18-19) What happened to the men outside the city after it had been set on fire? (v. 21-22)

**Read vv. 23-29      Destruction of Ai**

4. How many people escaped or were spared in Ai? (vv. 22-26) What happened to the spoils and the livestock? (v. 27) Why did God release these spoils now but not the ones in Jericho? (Prov. 3:9-10) What was left of the city after the spoils were taken and the army was done? (v. 28) What reason does God give for the complete destruction of these Canaanites? (Lev. 18:24-25).

5. What happened to the king? (v. 29) Why did Joshua have him taken down and buried at the end of the day? (Deut. 21:22-23). Where does respect for the dead, even that of your enemies, come from?

**Read vv. 30-35      Assembly at Mt. Ebal**

6. What did Joshua build at Mt. Ebal? What was the purpose of this project? (vv. 30-31)
  
7. What is a peace offering? (v. 31, tip: if you don't know, search for it on the web). What do these offerings tell you about Joshua and the people?
  
8. Name some features of the stones used (v. 31) What did Joshua write on the stones? (v. 32) What did Joshua do while the people were split before Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal? (v. 33-35) What point was Joshua seeking to make to the people?
  
9. What hope can we draw from this passage? Name the terms by which we can be restored to the favor of God after failure (vv. 32, 34-35, see also 7:22-26).