

JOSHUA: *presence. courage. action.*

Conquest Resumed - Joshua 8:1-35

April 2, 2017

I. Conquest Resumed (Joshua 8:1-29)

- The basis of Joshua and Israel's confidence was to be in God and His Word (Joshua 1:6-9).
- Joshua had every reason to fear (7:1-27) - they had experienced their first defeat, they had neglected the Word of the Lord and people had died.
- God gently nudged Joshua to move forward; the battle is the Lord's, but we have a role (Philippians 2:12; Colossians 1:29; 2 Timothy 2:7; 2 Peter 1:10).
- Joshua's raised javelin is another reminder that he is like Moses (Exodus 17:8-16).
- They don't take Ai lightly this time...a recommitment demands renewed vigor.
- God allows the people to take spoil this time...only pick ripe fruit.

II. Covenant Renewed (Joshua 8:30-35)

- Chapter 5 began with covenant sacraments and now it closes with covenant renewal.
- Obedience is the most important thing.
- God told Moses this would happen (Deut. 11:29-32).
- Obedience does not result in redemption, but redemption demands covenant obedience.
- There is an altar on Mount Ebal...we need an altar.
- Our altar is the cross; Jesus takes the covenant curses and bestows unto us the covenant blessings.
- Hosea 2:14 - the valley of Achor has become a door of hope!
- There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Joshua chapter 8.

1. How did the military tactics change from chapter 7 to chapter 8?
2. What differences exist between the victories at Jericho and Ai?
3. How committed are you to God's Word? What barriers exist that keep you from it? What are some things that you can do to commit yourself to God's Word?
4. What is the significance of reading the blessings and the cursings after the victory at Ai?
5. Have a few people in your group share their testimony. When did their valley of Achor become a door of hope?
6. What verses of scripture have you committed to memory that encourage you?