



JOSHUA - DOING THINGS OUR OWN WAY

Joshua and the Israelites have just conquered Jericho. All the people and livestock were slain except for Rahab and her family. Everything made of iron, bronze, silver or gold was to go into the treasury of the Lord.

Read Joshua 7:1-9

Joshua 7:1-5

1. What was the people's suggestion about how to attack Ai?

2. What happened?

3. What was the Israelites' reaction?

Joshua 7:6-9

4. What did Joshua and the leaders do now, that they had forgotten to do before attacking Ai?

5. What were they afraid would happen?

Read Joshua 7:10-26

Joshua 7:10-15

6. What did God show them was the reason for their defeat?

7. *1 Timothy 6:9-10* What does the Bible tell us is the source (or root) of all kinds of evil?

Joshua 7:16-26

8. What had Achan taken for himself?

9. What were the four steps by which Achan described his disobedience?

Read Joshua 8:1-9

Joshua 8:1-9

10. What was the Lord's plan for the attack on Ai?

11. How were His instructions about the contents of the city different from those concerning Jericho?

Read Joshua 8:10-29

Joshua 8:10-17

12. Why did the men of Ai leave the city unprotected?

Joshua 8:18-29

13. What signal did Joshua make to show God was giving him the city?

14. How did the men of Ai find themselves cornered?

The End Bit!

Achan did things his own way and brought down the terrible wrath of God upon himself. The Israelites did things their own way, and only by immediately searching themselves to find out the sin in their nation did they escape God's wrath.

The people living in Canaan were so sunken in sin that God's wrath was upon them. Spiritual evil had taken complete control of them and their time of punishment had now come - the Israelites were the instrument by which God inflicted His judgement.

The Israelites had been chosen by God as the nation that was to bring God's message of salvation to the world. He had promised them a land of their own but they had to remove all possibility of infection by heathen religions if they were to be kept pure and true to Him.

Jesus showed very clearly God's horror and hatred of sin and also that a just God must punish those who break His laws. He would not be a God of justice if He didn't react in this way. So, the lesson which God teaches us so dramatically in the Old Testament, He continues to teach us in the New Testament – sin must be punished. We also learn of the solution to our problem of sin in the New Testament – Jesus' atoning sacrifice on the cross at Calvary.

Verses to remember

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6