



JOSHUA - RIGHT? - OR WRONG?

Joshua and the Israelites are still in the process of conquering the Promised Land. To date, they have taken both the cities of Jericho and Ai. Before the crusade continues, they take the necessary 'time out' to renew their covenant with the Lord.

Read Joshua 8:30-35

Joshua 8:30-32

1. Why do you think the altar was built out of uncut stones?

Joshua 8:33

2. *Deuteronomy 11:29-32* From which mountain were the curses to be read? And which the blessings?

3. *Deuteronomy 27:11-14* How many tribes were to stand on each mountain? What was to be in between?

Joshua 8:34-35

4. *Deuteronomy 27:15-26* From the list of curses, which ones are particularly relevant in our society today?

5. Why do you think the people were to answer 'Amen'?

Read Joshua 9:1-27

Joshua 9:1-13

6. *Exodus 23:31-33* What had God commanded His people should not do?

7. What was the plan by which the Gibeonites hoped to deceive the Israelite leaders and cause them to disobey God?

Joshua 9:14-21

8. How was it that the Israelites fell into the trap?

9. What do you think God's command in 2 Corinthians 6:14-15 means for us today?

Joshua 9:22-27

10. What was the curse pronounced on the Gibeonites?

11. Why did the Israelites not kill them?

12. *Deuteronomy 30:15-19* What was the choice offered to the people?

13. *1 Thessalonians 5:21-24* Some people today say there is no such thing as 'right' or 'wrong' – it depends on your situation. How would you answer them?

The End Bit

The Lord made sure there was no fence to sit on between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim! Because of the way God has planned things, there are only two categories of people in His sight:

Those who have chosen life and those who have chosen death.

Those who are right with God and those who are not right with God.

Those enjoying God's blessing and those under God's curse.

Those who obey God and those who disobey God.

Similarly, in daily life, God shows us that certain things are right, while other things are wrong. This was what He wanted to impress upon His people soon after they came into the Promised Land and what a dramatic way He chose to do it. With the sound of the blessings and cursings in their ears, the people came down from the mountains and proceeded to get on with everyday living.

RIGHT Of course they would obey all of God's laws!
Of course they were eager to put them into practice!
'All that the Lord has spoken we will do.'

And what is the next episode in the story?

WRONG They allied themselves with the people of the land.
They did exactly what God had forbidden.
'But they were deceived,' you say, 'they wouldn't have signed the treaty if they had known.'

We must remember, Satan the deceiver is very cunning! He breaks through the believer's armour whenever he sees the smallest chink. In this case, the chink was prayerlessness – not keeping in touch with God.

Does Satan ever pierce your armour at this point?

If we are to know what is right and what is wrong in every situation, we must keep in touch constantly with God. Once we neglect this, Satan will be in with his tricks.

How can we know the will of God? What is right and what is wrong?

It's summed up in the verses below:

Verses to Remember

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2