

A TALE OF TWO BATTLES

Henry Wong | 17 June 2018

Joshua

Joshua

Joshua the servant of Moses said to Joshua son of Nun and all these people, "Go through the Jordan River into the land I am about to give you. Every place where you set foot shall be yours. I have commanded Moses and Aaron and all the Israelites, saying, 'The Lord your God is giving you the land for your own.'"

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

10 So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: "Go through the camp and tell the men to get their supplies ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to enter the land I am giving you for your own." 11 "Go through the camp and tell the men to get their supplies ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to enter the land I am giving you for your own."

A quick recap

BEGINNING OF WORLD HISTORY	BEGINNING OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE	BEGINNING OF THE JEWISH NATION
Creation Fall of Man	The Patriarchs	The Exodus & Wilderness Wanderings
Flood Tower of Babel	Abrahamic Covenant	Mosaic Covenant
GENESIS 1-11	GENESIS 12-50	EXODUS - DEUTERONOMY

GENESIS	THEME	Beginnings
	SETTING	Mesopotmia, Canaan & Egypt
	TIME ELAPSED	c. 2,000 yrs
	OUTLINE	Beginning of History, Patriarchs

Job

EXODUS	THEME	Redemption; Deliverance out of Egypt
	SETTING	Egypt & Sinai Peninsula
	TIME ELAPSED	c. 80 yrs
	OUTLINE	Exodus ; Covenant ; Tabernacle

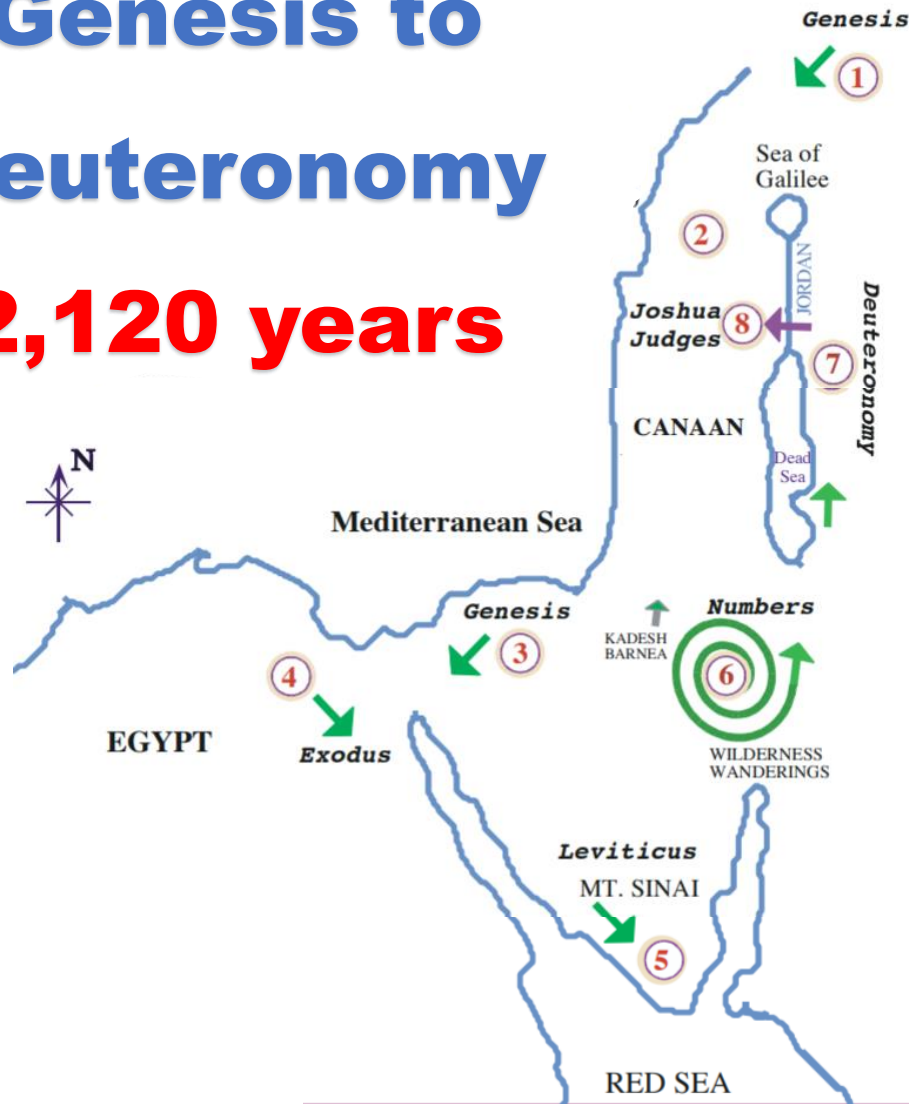
LEVITICUS	THEME	Atonement & Holiness
	SETTING	Mt Sinai
	TIME ELAPSED	c. 1 month
	OUTLINE	Sacrifice ; Sanctification

NUMBERS	THEME	Wilderness wandering
	SETTING	Sinai Peninsula, Trans-Jordan
	TIME ELAPSED	c. 39 yrs
	OUTLINE	Preparation & Failure of 1st Gen; Preparation of 2nd Gen

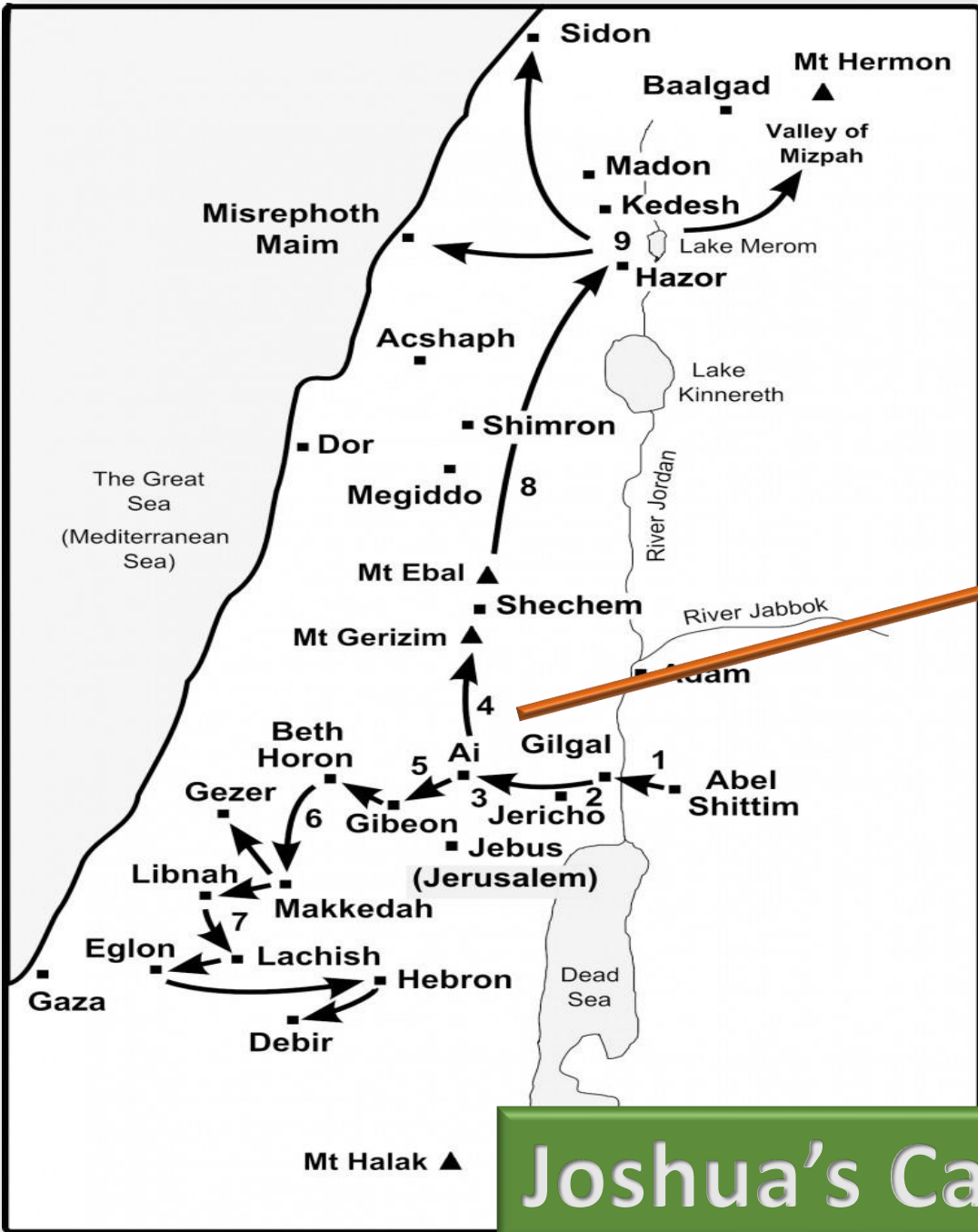
DEUTERONOMY	THEME	Mosaic Covenant renewal
	SETTING	Plains of Moab
	TIME ELAPSED	c. 1 month
	OUTLINE	WHAT GOD has done; expects of Israel ; will do

Genesis to Deuteronomy

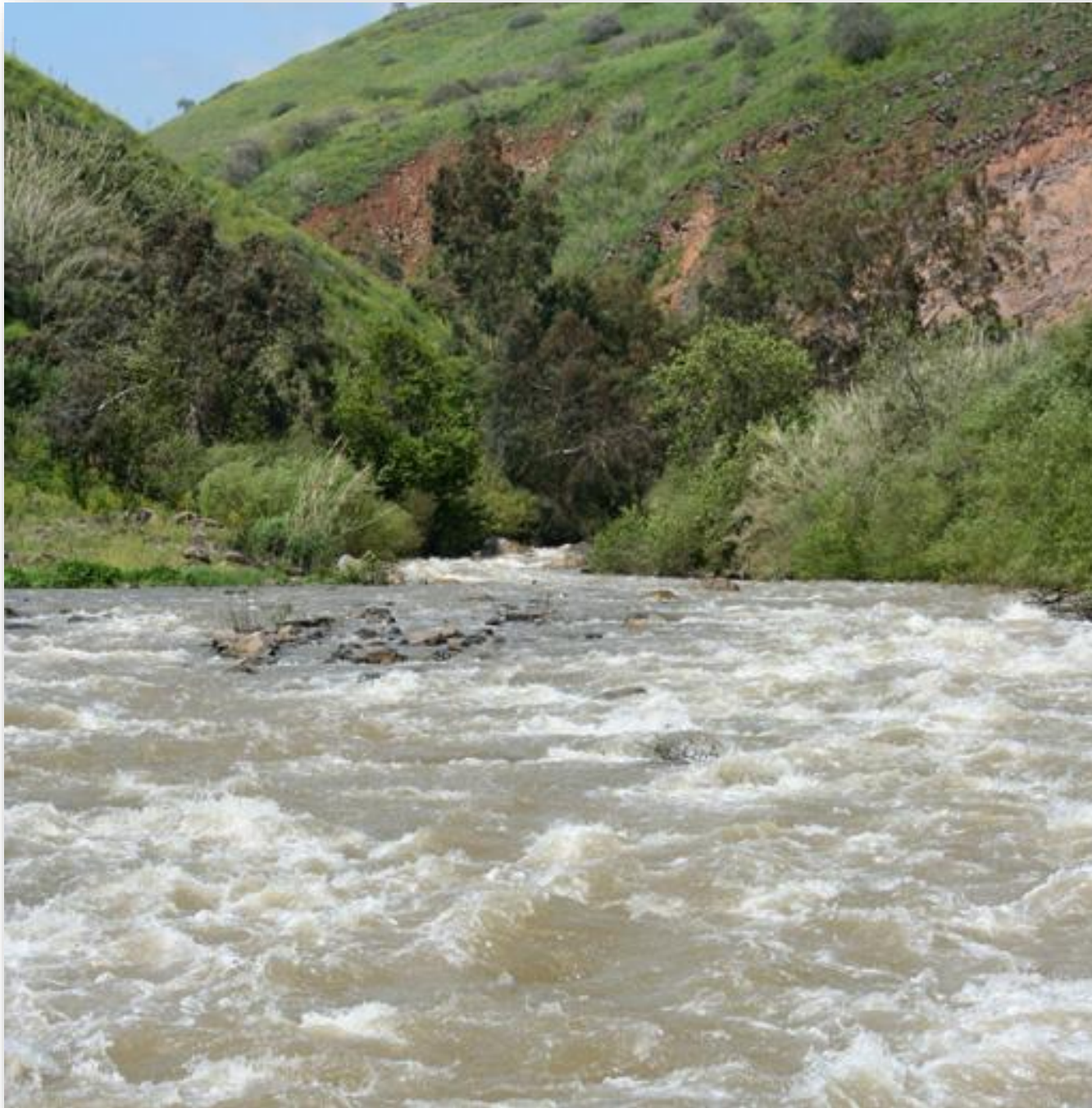
2,120 years



1. Abraham, Sarah and Terah - leave Ur for Canaan
2. Two sons – Isaac and Ishmael. Isaac had Jacob & Esau. Jacob (Israel) had 12 sons
3. One son Joseph sold into Egypt (*Gen ends*)
4. 400 yrs passed, Moses leads Israelites out (*Exo*)
5. Moses rec'd Law @ Mt Sinai. (*Exo/Lev*)
6. 12 spies sent to Canaan. Unbelief causes 40 yrs of wilderness wanderings (*Num*)
7. 2nd Covenant (*Deut*) before crossing Jordan
8. Joshua invades, conquers & divides up Canaan which becomes Israel.



Joshua's Campaigns in Canaan



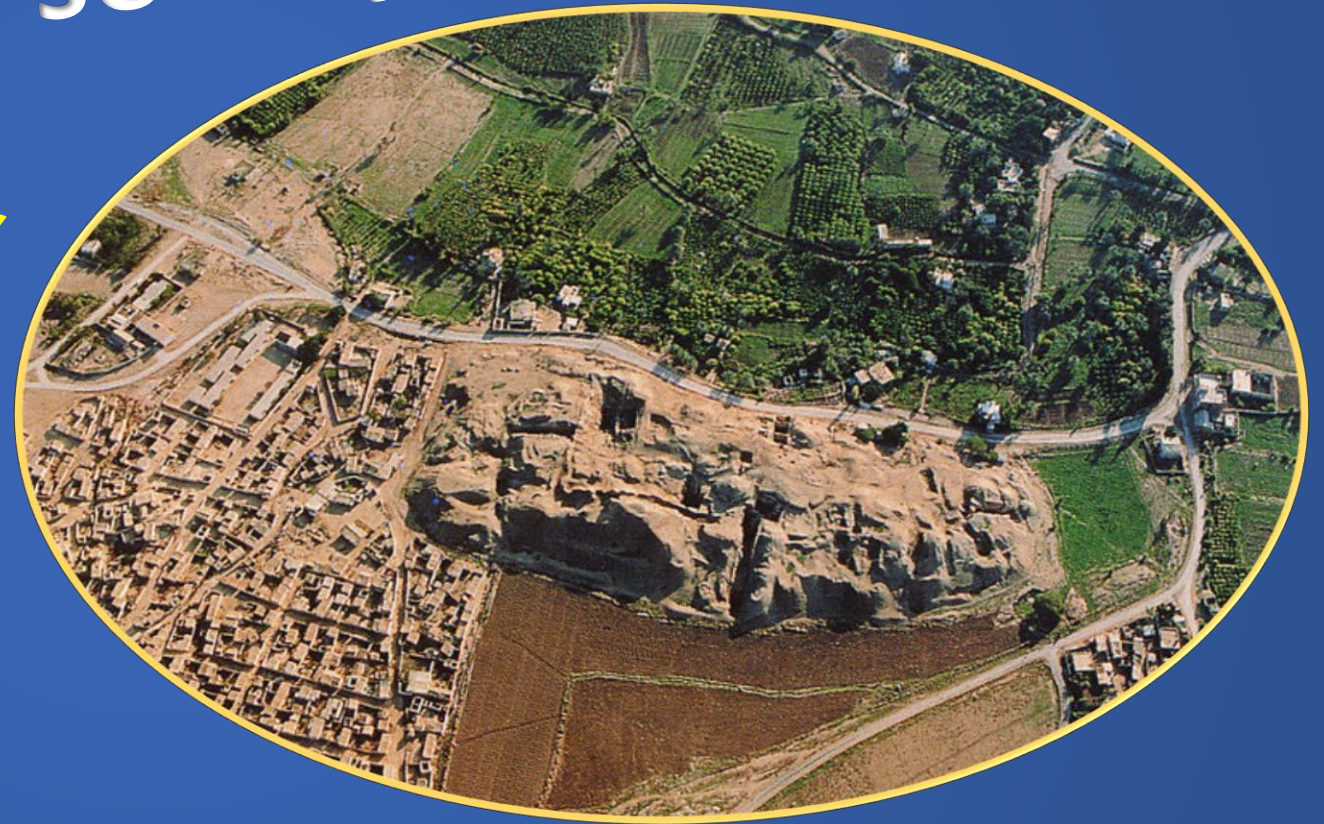
The River Jordan in Spring

Who was Joshua?

- with Moses right before he went up on the mountain to receive the Law (Ex. 24:13).
- stick around the tent of meeting, where God would often appear to Moses (Ex. 33:11).
- one of the first spies to see the Promised Land (Num. 13). This must have given him a special advantage when leading the men into battle in Israel, because he had already seen this land with his own eyes.
- The “spirit of wisdom” filled Joshua after Moses laid hands on him (Deut. 34:9).

Why was Jericho so important?

- ***First city to conquer***
- ***Gateway, strategic***
- ***Important , large***
- ***Walled city***
- ***Affluent***
- ***Sin city***



**The site of Ancient Jericho
at Tell es-Sultan**

Wall of Jericho



Second wall *(14 m above ground level)*
(2 metres thick, 8 metres high)

First wall
(2 metres thick, 8 metres high)

Retaining wall
(4-5 metres high)

6 PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE VICTORY

- **Obedience brings victory. Our Jericho victories are won only when our faithful obedience to God is complete**
- **a vast difference between God's way and the way of man . Never question God's purpose or instructions.**
- **power of God is supernatural, beyond our comprehension**
- **an uncompromising relationship between the grace of God and our faith and obedience to Him.**
- **God keeps His promises**
- **faith without works is dead**

the walls came down because of . . .

- I. Faith In Spite of Long Odds.**
- II. Faith That Followed a Very Strange Plan**
- III. Faith That God Would Somehow Give Them Victory**
- IV. Faith That Expressed Itself in Persevering Obedience**
- V. Faith That Acted in Spite of Any Doubts**

DOUBT

ADDICTION

ENVY

PRIDE

FEAR

DOUBT

ANGER

DISAPPOINTMENT

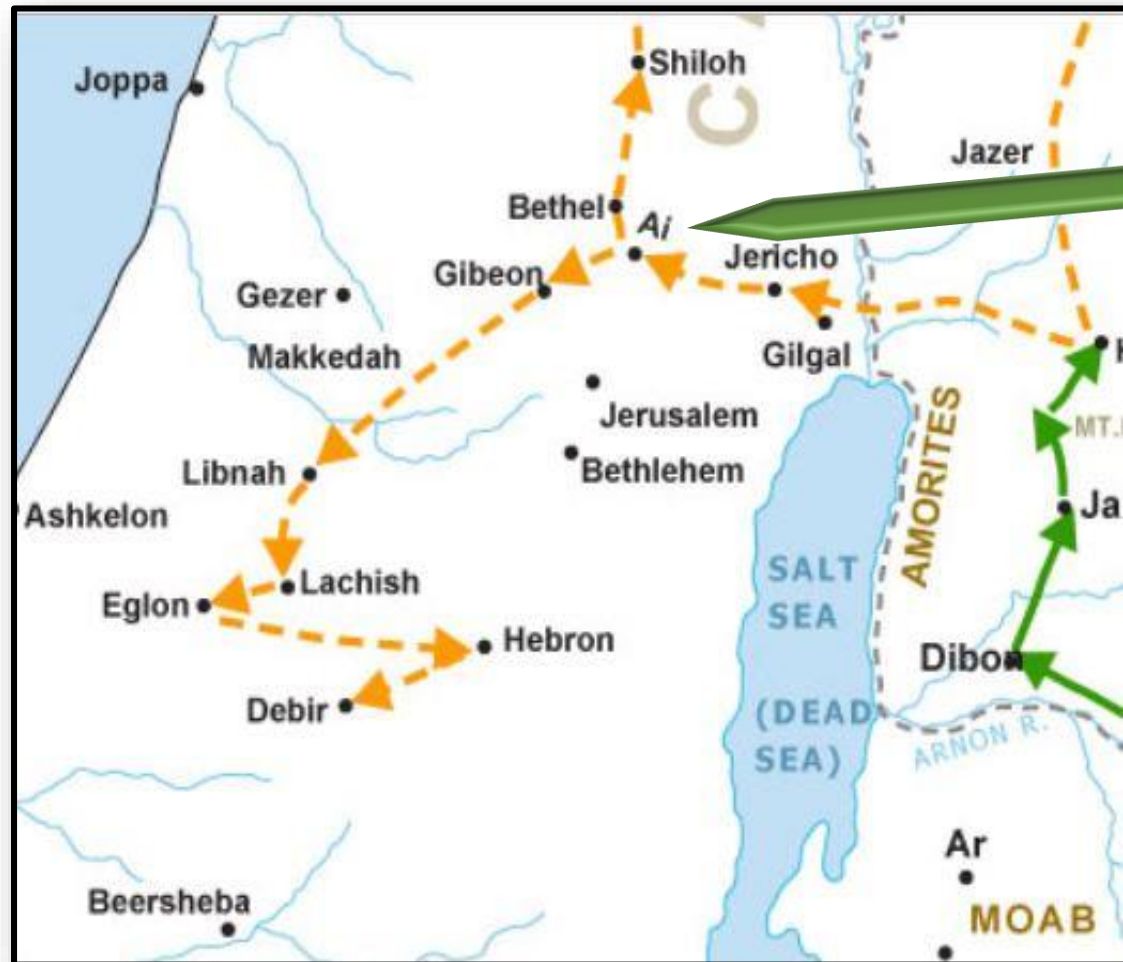
UNFORGIVENESS

GREED

HURT

LUST

Because of its strategic location, Ai was the next objective in the path of conquest. As with Jericho, its defeat was vital to the conquest of the entire land.



City of Ai

**But what happened ?
Israel lost to a smaller
army and about 36 men
were killed!**

the thrill of Victory

@ Jericho

followed by

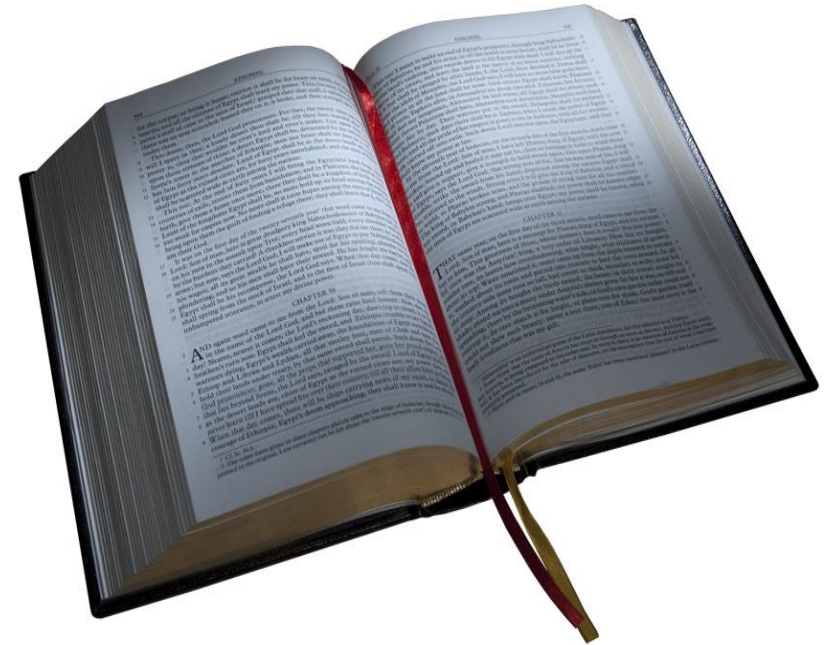
the agony of Defeat

@ Ai

Joshua 7

² Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, “Go up and spy out the region.” So the men went up and spied out Ai.

³ When they returned to Joshua, they said, “Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there.” ⁴ So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, ⁵ who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water.



Joshua 7

⁶ Then Joshua **tore his clothes and fell facedown** to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. ⁷ And Joshua said, “Alas, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! ⁸ Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? ⁹ The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. **What then will you do for your own great name?”**

Joshua 7

¹⁰ The LORD said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?”¹¹ Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. ¹² That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. **I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.**

Joshua 7



¹³ “Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: **There are devoted things** among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.

¹⁴ ““In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe the LORD choose shall come forward clan by clan; the clan the LORD chooses shall come forward family by family; and the family the LORD chooses shall come forward man by man.

¹⁵ Whoever is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the LORD and has done an outrageous thing in Israel!”

Joshua 7

¹⁶ Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was chosen. ¹⁷ The clans of Judah came forward, and the Zerahites were chosen. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was chosen.

¹⁸ Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen.

¹⁹ Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me.”

(1) Achan's behavior also illustrates how one or a few believers out of fellowship, when pursuing their own selfish desires and agendas, can negatively impact an entire group


(2) We also are reminded how nothing escapes the omniscience of God

You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. Psa 139:1

(3) (3) The words, "therefore the anger of the Lord burned against the sons of Israel," dramatically call our attention to the holiness of God.

What led to the defeat at Ai ?

- (a) They remained ignorant of the sin of Achan.**
- (b) They underestimated the strength of the enemy.**
- (c) They over-estimated the strength of their own army.**
- (d) They presumed on the Lord—they took Him for granted. Presumptuous faith >> sin of presumption**



God can..
God will..
God must..
God is...

Battle of Ai the rematch

ASSURANCE

And the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai.

See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land. And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king.

Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves. Lay an ambush against the city, behind it.”

- What happened AFTER the Re-Match?

Joshua Renews the Covenant
At that time Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal,



OBEDIENCE

VICTORY

BLESSINGS

REPENTANCE

JUDGEMENT

DEFEAT

DISOBEDIENCE



Sears Tower

now known as Willis Tower





How to be Battle Ready ?

Ephesians 6 The Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

¹² For our **struggle is** not against flesh and blood, but **against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

How to be Battle Ready ?

Ephesians 6 The Armor of God

¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the **belt** of truth buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate** of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your **feet fitted** with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the **shield** of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the **helmet** of salvation and the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the **word of God**.

How to be Battle Ready ?

Joshua 1

⁶ Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

⁷ “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

How to be Battle Ready ?

- ⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on **your lips**; **meditate** on it day and night, so that you may be careful **to do** everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.
- ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for **the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.**”

***We may have crossed
the Jordan.....***

ARE WE BATTLE READY ?