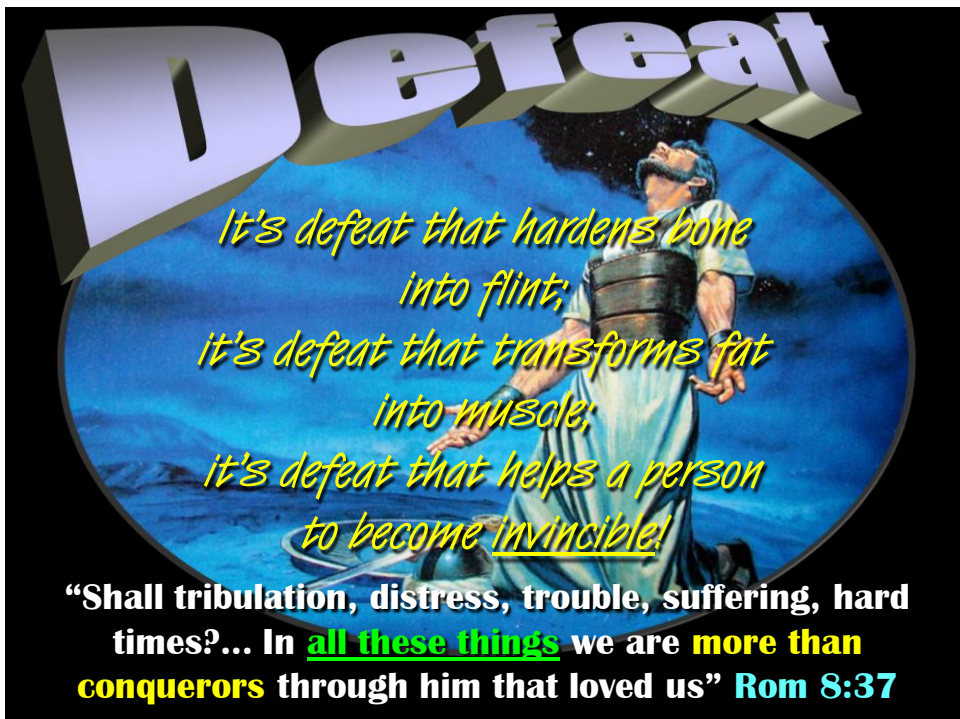
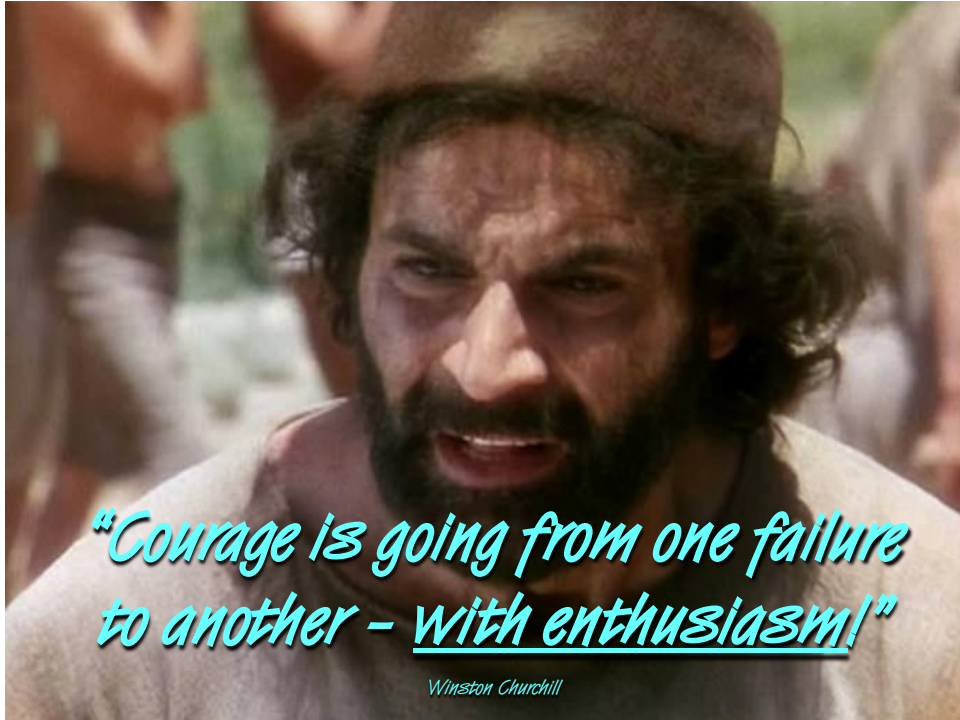




Chapters 7,8
GET BACK UP!

Defeat and recovery
The battle of Ai
What one soldier can undo...



DEFEATED? - Get Back Up!

Chapter 7 - A Divine Defeat

Israel's Apathy v1-5

Joshua's Anguish v6-10

God's Answer v10-15

Joshua's Accusation v16-22

Joshua's Admonition v23-27

Successful warfare is a communal activity not an individual task

*"Wisdom is better than weapons of war:
but one sinner destroys much good" Ecc 9:18*

Israel has sinned...

Jos 7:1 But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing; and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.

Jos 7:11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

Jos 7:12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

Jos 7:16 So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken:

Israel has sinned...

“Whether **one member** suffer, **all the members** suffer with it; or **one member** be honoured, **all the members** rejoice with it” **1 Cor 12.26**

The body functions in harmony

1 Cor 12:12 For as the body is **one**, and hath many members, and all the members of that **one** body, being many, are **one** body: so also is Christ.

13 For by **one** Spirit are we all baptized into **one** body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into **one** Spirit.

14 For the body is not **one** member, but many.

v26 ALL the members suffer...

Rejoice **with** them that do rejoice, and weep **with them** that weep.
Be of the **same mind one toward another**. (Rom 12:15-16)

Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, **the care of all the ecclesias**. Who is weak, and **I am not weak?** who is offended, **and I burn not?** (2Cor 11:28-29)

Remember them that are in bonds, **as bound with them**; and them which suffer adversity, as **being yourselves also in the body**. (Heb 13:3)

One Body

Achan's connections!

1Chron 2:4 "the sons of Judah/Tamar,
Pharez and Zerah... Zabdi

7 And the sons of **Carah**, **Achar**, the troubler
transgressor in the thing accursed.

8 And the sons of **Ethan**; Azariah.

9 The sons also of **Hezron**, that were born unto him; Jerahmeel,
and Ram, and Chelubai.

10 And Ram begat Amminadab; and Amminadab begat Nahshon,
prince of the children of Judah;

11 And Nahshon begat Salma, and Salma begat Boaz,

12 And Boaz begat Obed, and Obed begat Jesse..."

Married Rahab! (Mat 1:5)
**The person in the previous
chapter - Josh 6!**

RAHAB - Canaanite

Gave up the things of Canaan

Saved from destruction

Saved others (her family)

Married into tribe of Judah

Related to Pharez

Given a possession in the land

ACHAN - Israelite

Lusted after and stole the things of Canaan

Given over to destruction

Destroyed his family and others

Removed from the tribe of Judah

Related to Zerah "hand drew back *scarlet thread*" Gen 38:29

Never achieved a possession in Canaan

A noticeable exception...

Jos 6:2 And the LORD said unto Joshua, *See, I have given into thine hand Jericho,* and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

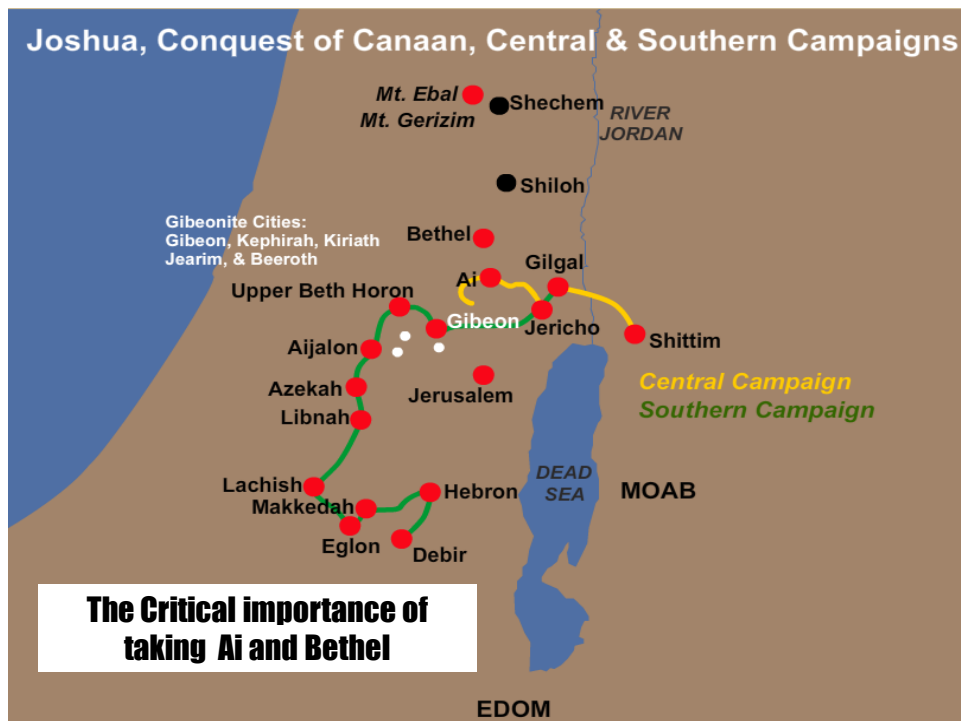
Jos 6:16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for *Yahweh hath given you the city.*

Jos 7:14 In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which *Yahweh taketh* shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which *Yahweh shall take* shall come by households; and the household which *Yahweh shall take* shall come man by man.

Jos 8:1 And Yahweh said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: *take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:*

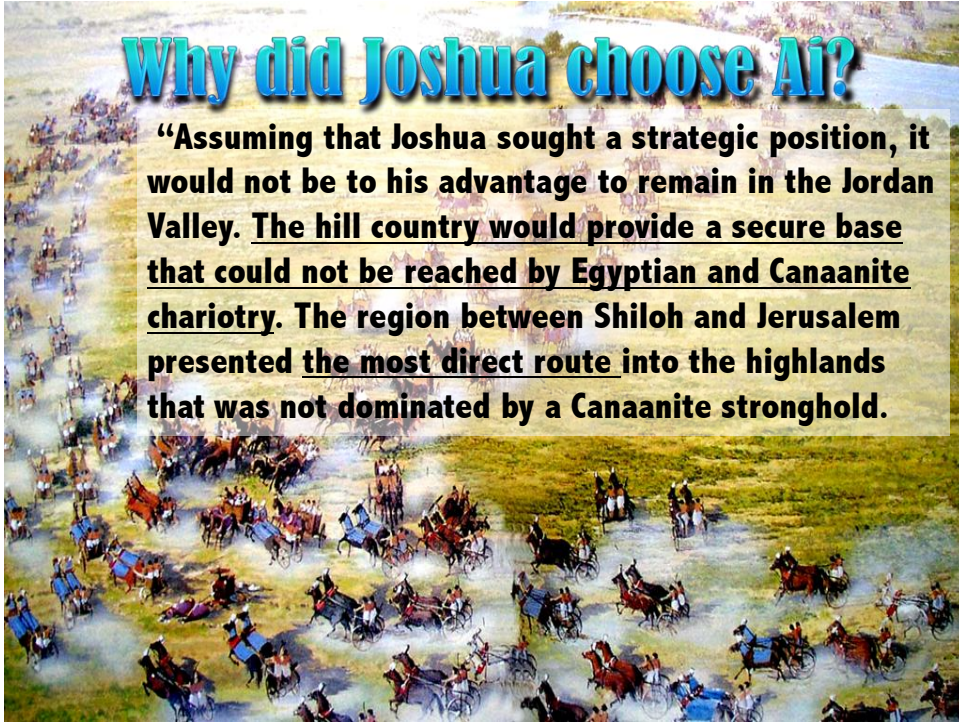
Jos 8:7 *Then ye shall rise up from the ambush, and seize upon the city: for Yahweh your God will deliver it* into your hand.

Jos 8:18 And Yahweh said unto Joshua, Stretch out the spear that is in thy hand toward Ai; for *I will give it into thine hand.* And Joshua stretched out the spear that he had in his hand toward the city.



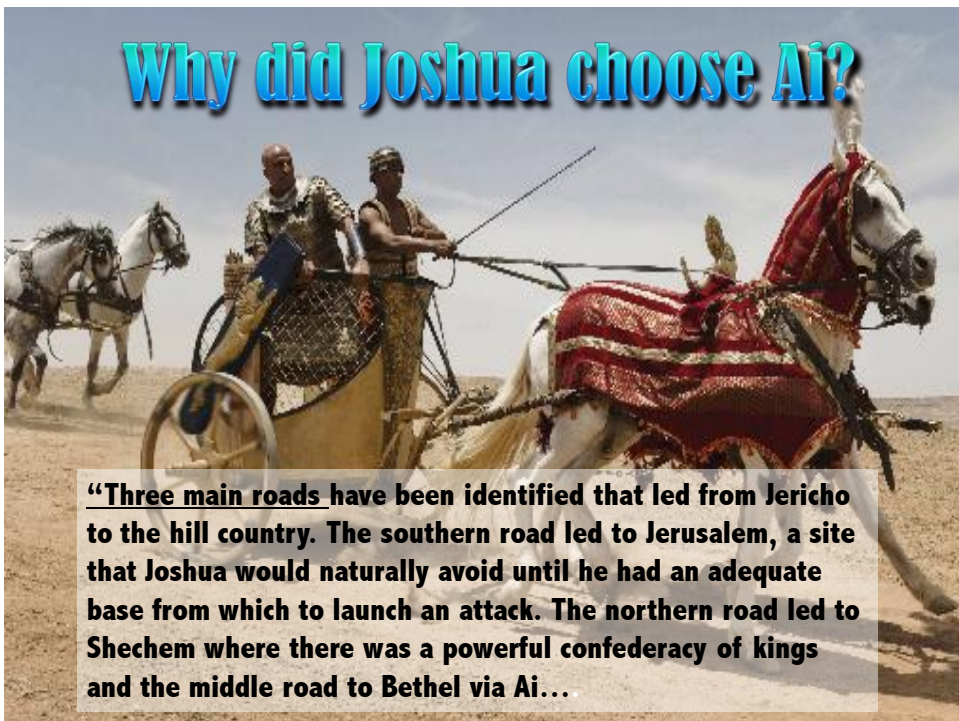
Why did Joshua choose Ai?

“Assuming that Joshua sought a strategic position, it would not be to his advantage to remain in the Jordan Valley. The hill country would provide a secure base that could not be reached by Egyptian and Canaanite chariotry. The region between Shiloh and Jerusalem presented the most direct route into the highlands that was not dominated by a Canaanite stronghold.”

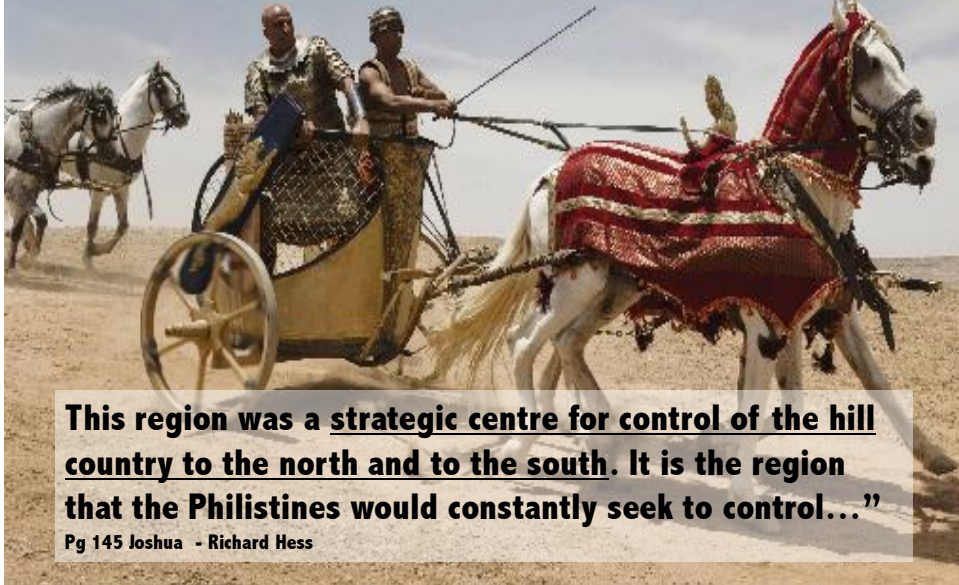


Why did Joshua choose Ai?

“Three main roads have been identified that led from Jericho to the hill country. The southern road led to Jerusalem, a site that Joshua would naturally avoid until he had an adequate base from which to launch an attack. The northern road led to Shechem where there was a powerful confederacy of kings and the middle road to Bethel via Ai...”



Why did Joshua choose Ai?



This region was a strategic centre for control of the hill country to the north and to the south. It is the region that the Philistines would constantly seek to control..."

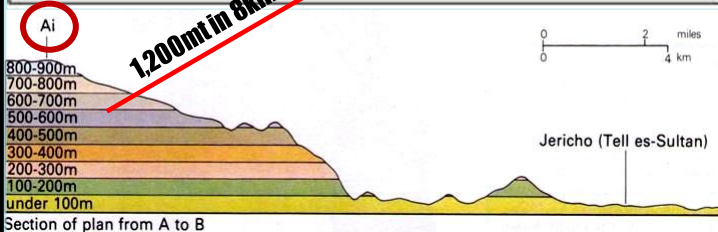
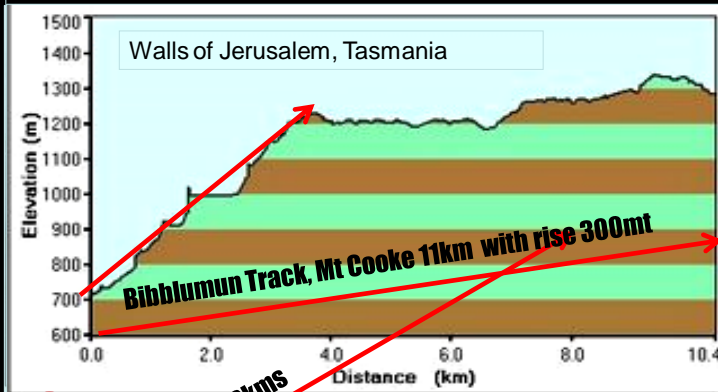
Pg 145 Joshua - Richard Hess

7:2 And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east side of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai.

3 And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few.

4 So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai.

AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CLIMB



Not just strategic - SPIRITUAL

Gen 13:1 Abram went up out of Egypt he, his wife and all that he had...

3 And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai;

4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of Yahweh.

14,15 And Yahweh said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

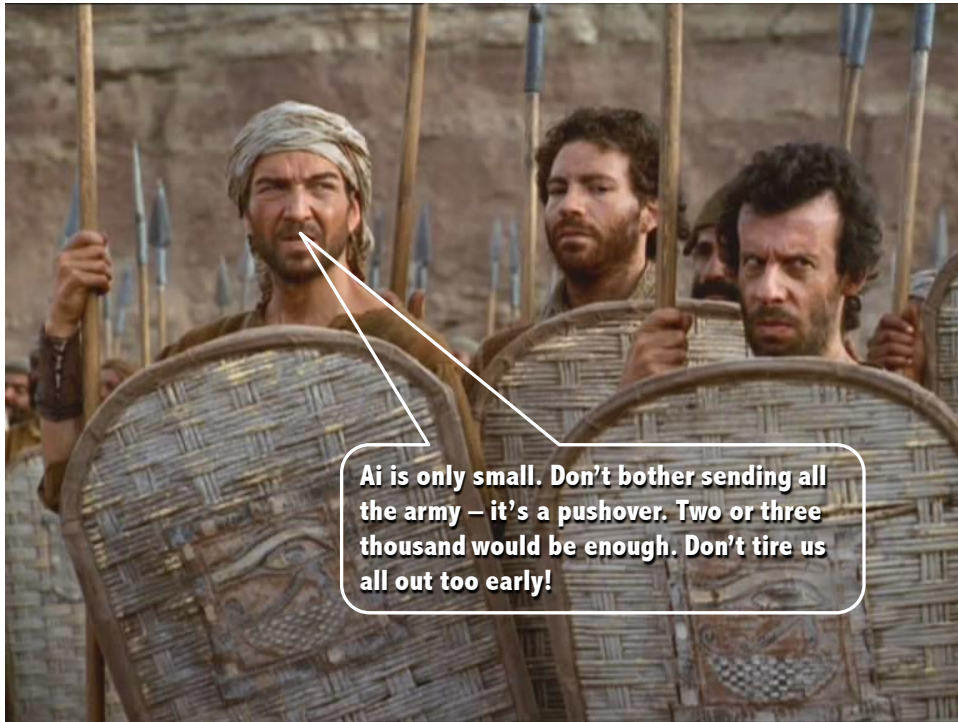
Not just strategic - SPIRITUAL

Gen 12:4 So Abram departed, as Yahweh had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Shechem, unto the oak of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

7 And Yahweh appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto Yahweh, who appeared unto him.

8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Ai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto Yahweh, and called upon the name of Yahweh.



“Let not all go up...”

A half-hearted battle – Sure signs of defeat!

Human Reticence - “Let not ALL go up” cp 8:3,4,5,11,13 – the importance of communal effort by every individual is the only method for real success


Human Evaluation - “Only 2-3,000” Deut 32:30 “One shall chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight...” – God is with us, why stress out too much!

Human Apathy - “Not all labour” - They had been exhausted from the continuous march around Jericho for a week (But why worn out? - the city fell down due to God’s activity)

Human Indifference - “they are but few” - The enemy will be easily defeated - it was not worth the extra effort! cp 8:25

Human Independence - No direction was sought from Yahweh cp 8:1
“And Yahweh said unto Joshua...”

“and they fled before the men of Ai...”



"The quickest way to get back on your feet after a defeat is to get down on your knees"

Sin is serious to God

Sin is serious because it is repulsive to God.

Hab 1:13 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on iniquity

Sin is serious to God because it desensitizes us spiritually.

1 John 1:8, If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Sin is serious to God because it separates us from God.

*Proverbs 15:29 – Yah is far from wicked, But He hears prayer of righteous.
Psalm 66:18 - If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.*

Sin is serious because it hinders our walk with the Lord.

Isaiah 59:1-2 Your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."

Sin is serious; stay away from it.

The Behaviour Test

**SINS THAT WILL
KEEP YOU OUT
OF THE
KINGDOM**

Double Emphasis

1Cor 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous **shall not inherit the kingdom of God?** Be not deceived: ~~neither~~ fornicators, ~~nor~~ idolaters, ~~nor~~ adulterers, ~~nor~~ effeminate, ~~nor~~ abusers of themselves with mankind,

v10 ~~Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners,~~ **shall inherit the kingdom of God.**

6 Opportunities to repent

There were numerous opportunities for Achan to seek mercy...

v5 36 Families lost their husband/father - **UNAFFECTED**

v6 Joshua mourned all day long – **SHRUGGED OFF**

v13 Public warning judgement was impending - **INDIFFERENT**

v14 Had all night to act - **DELAYED**

v16 Had opportunity to step forward - **DENIAL**

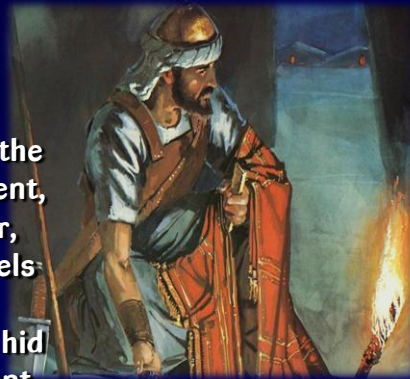
v19 Joshua had to compel him to confess - **DISCONNECTED**



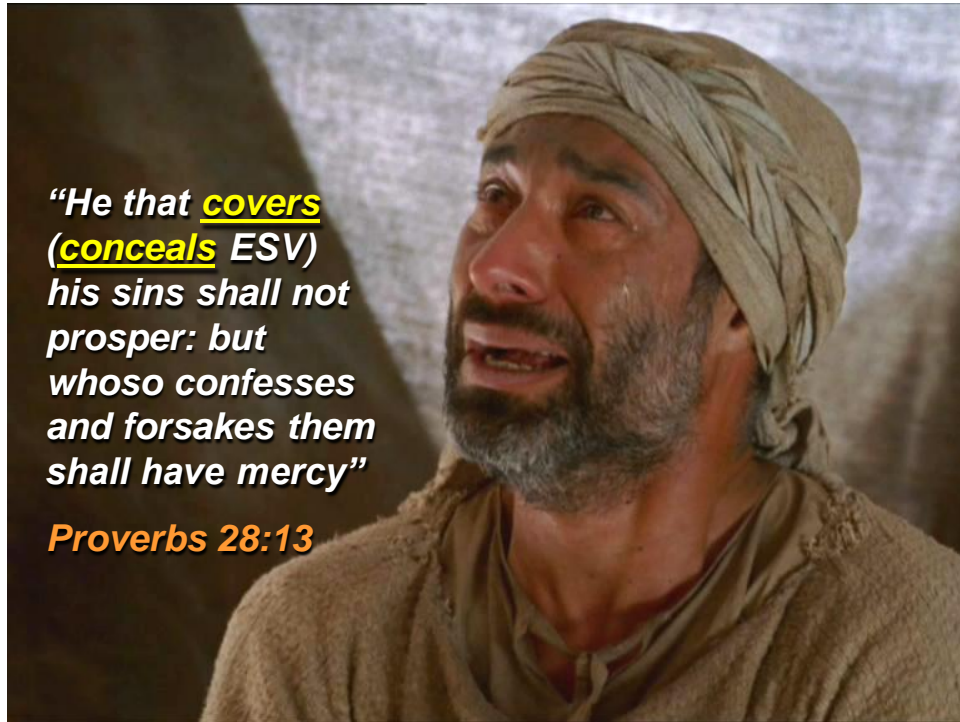
*For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. **Ecc 12:14***

I have sinned

Joshua 7:21 When **I saw** among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then **I coveted** them, and **took them**; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

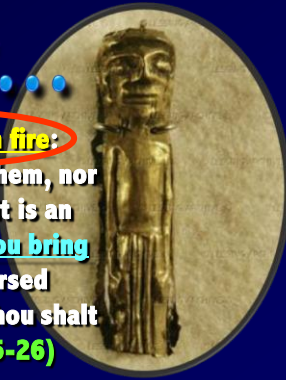


Gen 3:6 And when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to **be desired** to make one wise, **she took** of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.



Not just a gold bar...

The **graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire:** thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God. **Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house,** lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing. (Deut 7:25-26)



If thy brother, son, daughter, wife, or thy friend, entice thee secretly, saying, **Let us go and serve other gods,** which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; Namely, of **the gods of the people** which are round about you, nigh unto thee... Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, ~~neither shalt thou spare,~~ neither shalt thou conceal him... **And thou shalt stone him with stones,** that he die... And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you. (Deut 13:6-11)

What's in your tent?

Deut 7:25,26 Burn their idols. Do not desire the silver or gold that is on them, and do not take it for yourselves. If you do, that will be fatal, because Yahweh hates **idolatry.** **Do not bring any of these idols into your homes,** or the same curse will be on you that is on them. (GNB)

Lk 12:2 There is **nothing covered,** that shall not be revealed; **neither hid,** that shall not be known.

1Cor 4:5 The will Lord come, who both **will bring to light the hidden things of darkness,** and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts

Heb 4:13: "There is nothing hidden from God's sight, but all things **are open and laid bare to the eyes** of Him with whom we have to do."

“and ALL Israel...”

7:24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah
 8:1 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee
 3 So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai:
 4 And he commanded them, saying, Behold, ye shall lie in wait against the city, even behind the city: go not very far from the city, but be ye all ready:
 5 And I, and all the people that are with me, will approach unto the city
 11 And all the people, even the people of war that were with him...
 13 And when they had set the people, even all the host that was on the north of the city...
 15 And Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness.
 21 And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city...
 24 ...until they were consumed, that all the Israelites returned unto Ai, and smote it with the edge of the sword.
 30 And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark...

Absolute obedience to God

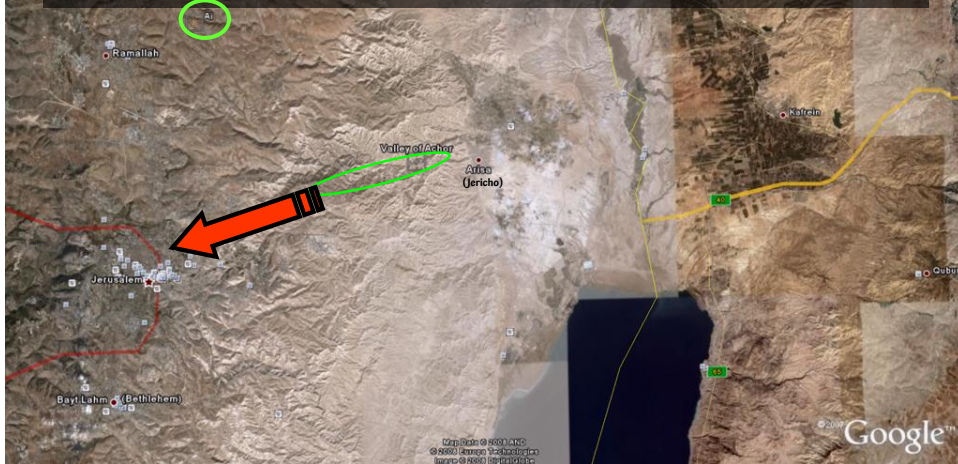
Jos 7:24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor.

Jos 22:20 Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? and that man perished NOT ALONE in his iniquity.

IN THE FUTURE A VALLEY OF HOPE

Isa 65:10 And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me.

Hos 2:15 And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.



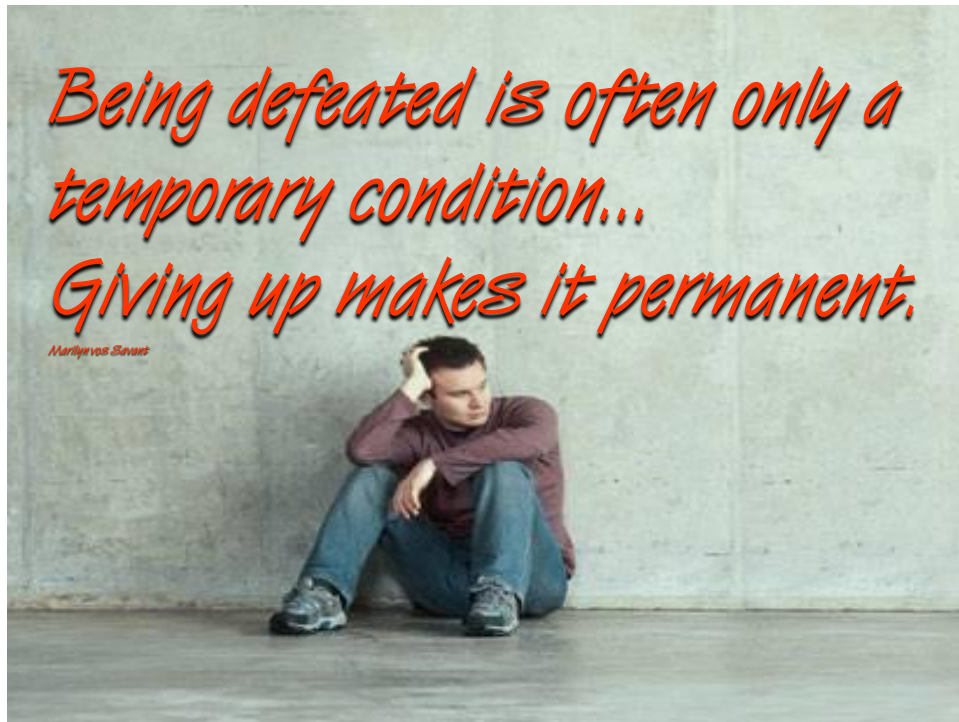
DEFEAT - Get Back Up!

Successful warfare is a communal activity not an individual task

"Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroys much good" Ecc 9:18

Chpt 8 - A remarkable RECOVERY

- v1-2** A new beginning - The Promise
- v3-8** A new strategy - The Plan
- v9-13** A new victory - The Procedure
- v14-29** A new spirit - The Performance
- v30-35** A new covenant - The Participation



DEFEAT - Get Back Up!

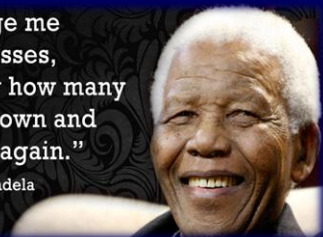
Ps 37:23,24 "The steps of a good man are ordered by Yahweh and he delighteth in his way. **Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down:** for Yahweh upholdeth him with his hand."

Prov 24:16 "For a just man falleth seven times, **and riseth up again:** but the wicked shall fall into mischief."

"Even if good people fall seven times, **they will get back up.** But when trouble strikes the wicked, that's the end of them." (CEV)

"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."

Nelson Mandela

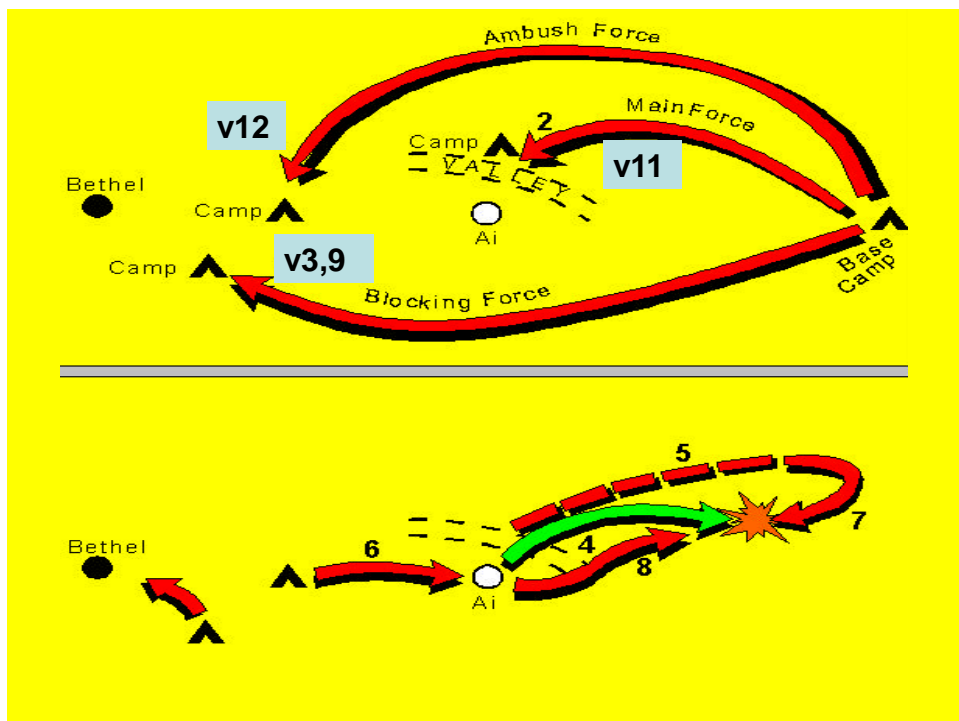


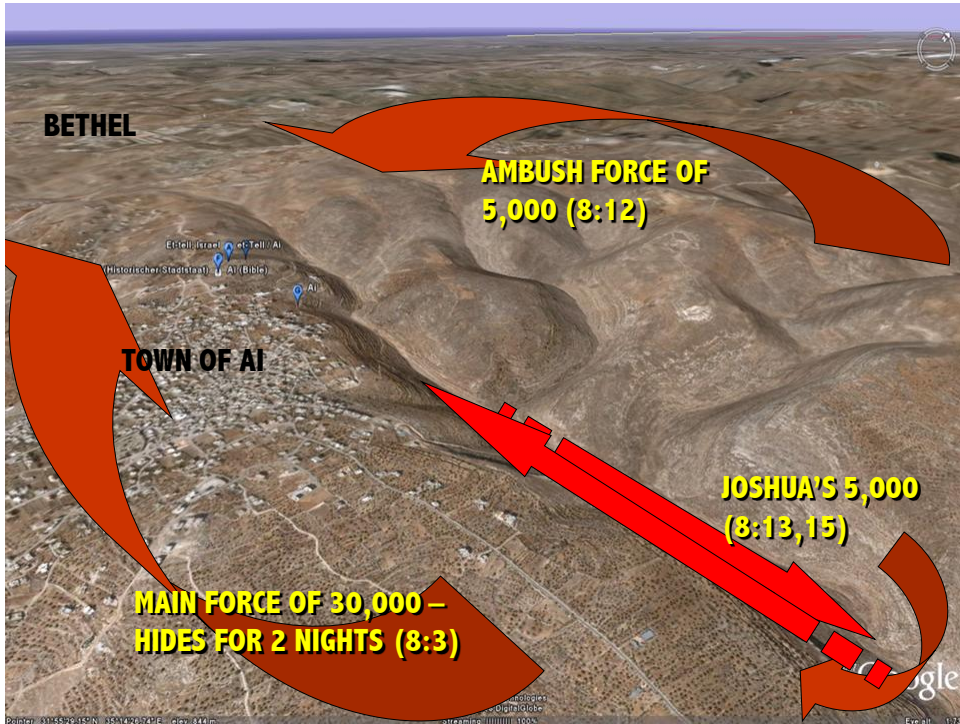
He was not just a military man but gave spiritual encouragement to his people



Deut 31:6,7 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for Yahweh thy God, he it is that doth **go with thee**; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

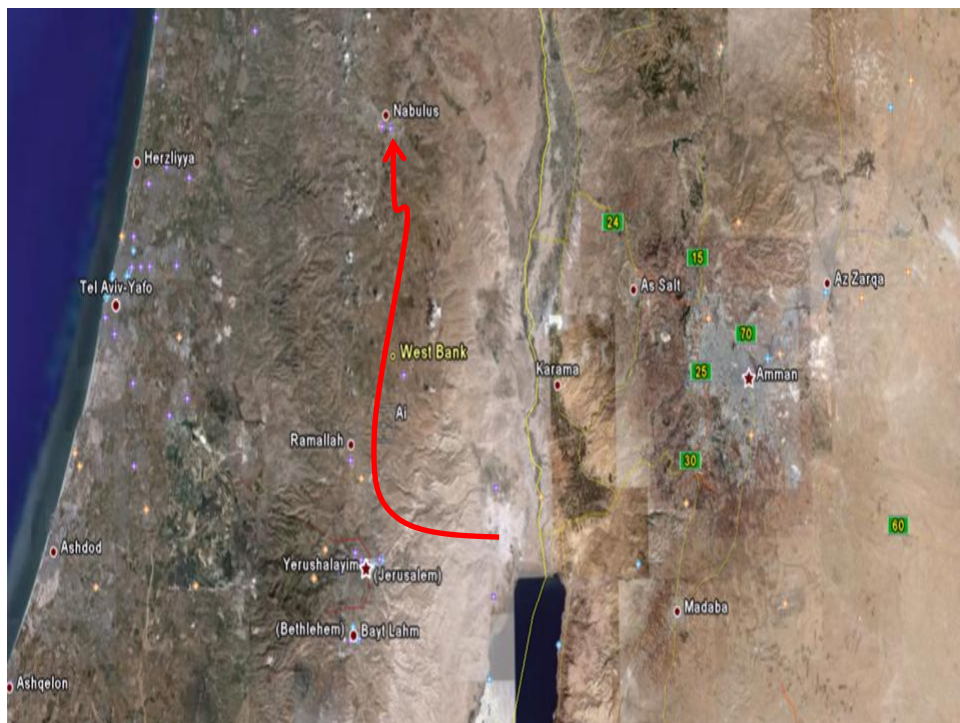
And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go **with this people** unto the land which Yahweh hath sworn unto their fathers to give **them**; and thou shalt cause **them** to inherit it.





Joshua's leadership - going beyond defeat

- Jos 8:3** So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai: and Joshua chose out thirty thousand mighty men of valour
- 9** Joshua therefore sent them forth... but Joshua lodged that night
- 10** And Joshua rose up early in the morning, and numbered the people,
- 13** ...Joshua went that night into the midst of the valley.
- 15** And Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them
- 16** ... and they pursued after Joshua, and were drawn away from the city.
- 18** And the LORD said unto Joshua, Stretch out the spear that is in thy hand toward Ai; for I will give it into thine hand. And Joshua stretched out the spear
- 21** And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city
- 26** For Joshua drew not his hand back, wherewith he stretched out the spear
- 28** And Joshua burnt Ai, and made it an heap for ever,
- 29** ...Joshua commanded that they should take his carcase down from the tree
- 30** Then Joshua built an altar unto the LORD God of Israel in mount Ebal,



There is no strength if there is no struggle

**Being defeated
should only be a
temporary condition.**

**Giving up
makes it permanent.**