

Victory After Judgment

Joshua 8:1

In Chapter 7 sin was found in the camp, and that sin brought defeat. After cleansing themselves from the trespass against God's command (6:17-18), came the restoration of their power, and position with God and finally the defeat of Ai. Notice the progression:

I. GOD'S REVELATION OF SIN

- 1) The revelation of sin by God (7:10-11)
- 2) The command to sanctification (7:15)
 - A) To be done in the morning (13&14)
 - B) To be done orderly, by tribe (14)
 - C) To be punished capitally (15)

II. JOSHUA'S RESPECT FOR GOD'S COMMAND

- 1) The coming of the tribes (16)
- 2) The confession of Achan (20)
- 3) The capture of the evidence (22)
- 4) The completion of the punishment (23-26)

III. GOD'S RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

- 1) The presence of the Lord (8:1a)
 - 2) The peace of the Lord (1b)
 - 3) The plan of the Lord (1c)
 - 4) The power of the Lord (1d -2a)
 - 5) The provision of the Lord (2b)
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THE CONFLICT WITH AI:

Intro: After cleansing came the power to conquer again. Enfeebled by evil and sin in the camp, Israel was shamefully defeated at Ai. But when the evil was removed and the cleansing was complete Israel marched against their nemesis again. With the power and instruction of God they defeated the enemy.

To march with God's power in our churches, in our lives, and in everything we do, first is by sanctification. After sanctification then, and only then, we can go forward in the power of God.

Purity brings power

Will we deal with sin the same as Joshua?

A. THE COMMUNICATION ABOUT THE WAR

1) A word of inspiration

i) Fear 7:7-9 (fear not)

Fear is the result of sin
Righteousness removes fear

ii) Fainting (neither be dismayed)

Dismay keeps us from taking positive action
God's word helps us to overcome fear and dismay

iii) Future (I have given unto thy hand the King of Ai...)

Obedience always brings bright futures

2) A word of Instruction

i) The army (take all of the people of war with thee v1)

This command gives us at least three important and practical lessons.

- a) Employment in service
- b) Effort in the work
- c) Estimating our enemy

ii) The ambush (thou shalt do to Ai ...2a)

iii) The awards (only the spoil thereof, and the cattle thereof shall ye take for a prey unto yourselves ...2b)

If Achan had only waited he could have had the spoils he coveted. So many are like Achan, not willing to wait on God's time, and God's choice. They plow ahead with their fleshly desires, lusty dreams, and covetous plans, wholly disregarding God.