

JOSHUA STUDY

CHAPTER 8:1-29

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-330 APRIL 25, 1999

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Revival, in the Sight of God

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

Joshua 1:6

“Be strong and of good courage”

INTRODUCTION: The Reviewing of Our Previous Message

You Would Think That
After Becoming Christian Everything would just get Easier;

Before we were Christians,
we just floated down stream with all the dead fish

The Things of the Flesh, The World...

Paul Said;

Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual {forces} of wickedness in the heavenly {places.} 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil {one.} 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

The battle of Ai

Was of course an actual battle. But out of the battle, God intended to teach Israel a spiritual lesson. The lesson was that, with the Lord, anything is possible!

The fact was, Ai was no match for Israel
just as the things of the flesh are no match for the things of the spirit

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

But That Demands of us a Real Awareness
of God
In my Living of this Life...

1 John 1:6-7

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

To Life Like This – Is To Live in Revival

And Revival, in the Sight of God

Is to be living in a Continuous attitude of communication

...Not Sin-less-ness, but Communion

Again, First John

1John 1:8-10

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

The Theme of Chapter 8 Is Fellowship Restored

Which is Revival, in the Sight of God

**The Church in the World, The Christian in the Church
Needs a Revival like never before...**

A Revival of Holy Living, Doing the Right Thing
Dedicated Living

Are You Living a Dedicated Life
(the answer is yes, but to whom or what?)

Revival, in the Sight of God

1.)	Is Repentance from Dead Works	vv. 1-8
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2.)	Is a Renewed Focus on Ministry	vv. 9-17
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3.)	Is a Reawaking to the Vision	vv. 18-29
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Revival, in the Sight of God

1.) Is Repentance from Dead Works

vv. 1-8

a.) Repentance Brings Renewed Communication

Verse 1a

Now the LORD said to Joshua:

In The Battle Briefing of Ai, God was Silent in Chapter 7
Because Israel had Sinned & God wasn't consulted

Verse 2

"Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. 2 "And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves. Lay an ambush for the city behind it."

Verse 3

3 So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai; and Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men of valor and sent them away by night.

From verse 4 onward Joshua begins to prophecy
"the battle plan and the victory"

Verse 4-8a

4 And he commanded them, saying: "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind the city. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you be ready. 5 "Then I and all the people who are with me will approach the city; and it will come about, when they come out against us as at the first, that we shall flee before them. 6 "For they will come out after us till we have drawn them from the city, for they will say, 'They are fleeing before us as at the first.' Therefore we will flee before them. 7 "Then you shall rise from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will deliver it into your hand. 8 "And it will be, when you have taken the city, that you shall set the city on fire.

The Work(s) of the Holy Spirit

Verse 8b

8b. According to the commandment of the LORD you shall do.

See, I have commanded you.

See, I have commanded you.

He could say this Because the Lord had commanded him

Zechariah 4:6

6Then he answered and said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.

An Invincible Partnership

The Equation;

If God said It + Then I am to believe it = That settles it
An Invincible Partnership

God Commanded Me – I am Commanding You
So let's go and do it

One Man Hearing From One God
Makes the Majority

Revival, in the Sight of God

1.) Is Repentance from Dead Works

vv. 1-8

Revival, in the Sight of God

2.) Is a Renewed Focus on Ministry

vv. 9-17

9 Joshua therefore sent them out; and they went to lie in ambush, and stayed between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of Ai; but Joshua camped that night among the people. 10 Then Joshua rose up early in the morning and mustered the people, and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai. 11 And all the people of war who were with him went up and drew near; and they came before the city and camped on the north side of Ai. Now a valley lay between them and Ai. 12 So he took about five thousand men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city. 13 And when they had set the people, all the army that was on the north of the city, and its rear guard on the west of the city, Joshua went that night into the midst of the valley. 14 Now it happened, when the king of Ai saw it, that the men of the city hurried and rose early and went out against Israel to battle, he and all his people, at an appointed place before the plain. But he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city. 15 And Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness. 16 So all the people who were in Ai were called together to pursue them. And they pursued Joshua and were drawn away from the city. 17 There was not a man left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. So they left the city open and pursued Israel.

Joshua (Jesus) was among them

Verse 10

Then Joshua rose up early in the morning and **mustered** the people (**numbered them, counted them, with encouragement**)

He Encouraged them in the Lord

Joshua had made mistakes, they knew that
But He, Aware of Ai, Directed Them Toward the Lord

Joshua returns to original battle plan tactics of God

He Slept on it
He woke up early
He mustered the people
He and the Elders

Verse 11

They camped again, like before
“returning to your first love”

Revival, in the Sight of God

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3.) Is a Reawaking to the Vision

vv. 18-29

3.) Is a Reawaking to the Vision

vv. 18-29

18 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Stretch out the spear that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the spear that was in his hand toward the city. 19 So those in ambush arose quickly out of their place; they ran as soon as he had stretched out his hand, and they entered the city and took it, and hurried to set the city on fire. 20 And when the men of Ai looked behind them, they saw, and behold, the smoke of the city ascended to heaven. So they had no power to flee this way or that way, and the people who had fled to the wilderness turned back on the pursuers. 21 Now when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city and that the smoke of the city ascended, they turned back and struck down the men of Ai. 22 Then the others came out of the city against them; so they were caught in the midst of Israel, some on this side and some on that side. And they struck them down, so that they let none of them remain or escape. 23 But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him to Joshua. 24 And it came to pass when Israel had made an end of slaying all the inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness where they pursued them, and when they all had fallen by the edge of the sword until they were consumed, that all the Israelites returned to Ai and struck it with the edge of the sword. 25 So it was that all who fell that day, both men and women, were twelve thousand-- all the people of Ai. 26 For Joshua did not draw back his hand, with which he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai. 27 Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as booty for themselves, according to the word of the LORD which He had commanded Joshua. 28 So Joshua burned Ai and made it a heap forever, a desolation to this day. 29 And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until evening. And as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his corpse down from the tree, cast it at the entrance of the gate of the city, and raise over it a great heap of stones that remains to this day.