

**BOOK OF JOSHUA**  
**SNATCHING VICTORY FROM DEFEAT**  
**JOSHUA 8:1-35**

**Introduction**

This chapter begins with **ISRAEL** facing **AI**, the same small city where they had previously suffered a humiliating **DEFEAT**.

We saw there were a number of reasons for their **DEFEAT**, but the primary reason was that there was **SIN** in their midst that had not been dealt with! But after that **SIN** had finally been dealt with, it was time for **ISRAEL** to go and face these people in **BATTLE** once again.

That is the way it works in the **CHRISTIAN** life. When we **SIN**, we must deal with the **SIN** on **GOD'S** terms. Then and only then we can have **VICTORY** over our **ENEMIES** of the **WORLD**, the **FLESH**, and the **DEVIL**!

*Hebrews 12:1* tells us to *"...lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."* **SIN** blocks us from having **VICTORY** in our **CHRISTIAN WALK**, but as we **CONFESS**, **REPENT**, and find **GOD'S FORGIVENESS**, **HE** will **BLESS** us, and then and only then are we able to **RUN THE RACE** with **CONFIDENCE** again.

**I. WE SEE GOD'S PROMISE OF VICTORY! (Vs 1-2)**

**A. We See A Word About Winning! (Vs 1)**

When the **LORD** spoke to **JOSHUA**, after the death of **ACHAN**, **HE** told him to go to **AI**. However, the **LORD** also told him that things would be different this time around. The **LORD** assured **JOSHUA** and **ISRAEL** of **VICTORY**!

The **LORD** called them to return to the place of their greatest **DEFEAT**! The **LORD** knew that they needed to **OVERCOME** the **DEFEAT** at **AI** before they could move on in the **CONQUEST** of the rest of **CANAAN**!

The same is true for us in our **DEFEATS**! The **LORD** wants to give us **VICTORY** where we previously **FAILED** before we move forward in other areas of our **WALK**!

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*e.g. I have never been much of a fan of video games. But when our son was home, he was. I did play a few of them with him. My problem is that most of them were designed with specific levels. i.e. In order to advance to the next level, you had to be victorious at level where you were!*

There is a good parallel in that with regard to our **CHRISTIAN LIFE**! If we don't gain **VICTORY** where we are in our **WALK** with **GOD**, it will hinder us from moving forward in our **WALK** with **HIM**!

The **LORD** never intends for us to live a life characterized by continual **DEFEAT**! Rather, **HIS** desire is that we experience **THE VICTORY OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE**!

Often we are **DEFEATED** for the same reason that **ISRAEL** was **DEFEATED...UNCONFESSED SIN**!

*1 John 1:9—“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

*1 Corinthians 15:57—“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*We See A Word About Winning...*

**B. We See A Word About Waiting! (Vs 2)**

The **LORD** told them that they would do to **AI** what they did to **JERICHO**! Except for the fact that in **AI**, they were allowed to take all the spoils for themselves!

Think about this...If **ACHAN** would have waited just a few more days, then he could have had part in some spoils! Instead, he ran ahead of **GOD** and grabbed for himself that which was **FORBIDDEN** by **GOD** and belonged to **GOD** and as a result, **ACHAN** and his family paid the ultimate price. There is a lesson in this for us as well:

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If we could just learn to **WAIT ON GOD** and let **HIM** lead and bring into our lives the things that need to be there, we would be far better off!

Unfortunately, our **FLESH** doesn't want to **WAIT!** Regardless of the area, we are far better off to **WAIT ON THE LORD** to bring those things into our life that **HE** knows are best for us.

*Psalm 37:34—"Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it."*

*Psalm 130:5—"I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope."*

*WE SEE GOD'S PROMISE OF VICTORY.*

**II. WE SEE GOD'S PERFECT PLAN FOR VICTORY!**

**A. GOD Always Has A PLAN! (Notice Vs. 3-17)**  
**GOD** told them exactly how they were to win this **BATTLE** against **AI**.

The **LORD** told them to lay an ambush for **AI** and they would take the city and all its inhabitants.

**ISRAEL** had already seen what happens when you do things the **LORD'S WAY!** (*JERICHO*) When you **FIGHT** your **BATTLES** by following the **LORD'S PLAN**, you can't **FAIL!**

They had also learned the hard way what happens when you leave the **LORD** out of the equation. (*AI #1*) They learned that **FAILURE** awaits those who don't seek the **LORD'S** guidance!

Do you think the **LORD** has a plan for our **VICTORIES?**  
**HE** does!

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The **LORD** has detailed **PLANS** for our **VICTORIES!** And listen, **NO OTHER PLAN WILL WORK!**

**GOD** has given us **ALL** we need to **PREPARE** us **SPIRITUALLY** for the **BATTLES** we face!  
*(The Whole Armor Of God – Ephesians 6:10ff)*

**HE** has instructed us concerning the importance of ...

**1) The WORD of GOD!**

*1 Peter 2:2—"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"*

*2 Timothy 2: 15—"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

**2) PRAYER!**

*Luke 18:1—"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"*

*1 Thessalonians 5:17—"Pray without ceasing."*

*James 4:2—"Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not."*

**3) The LOCAL CHURCH!**

*Acts 2:42—"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*

*Hebrews 10:25—"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*

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*Ephesians 4:11-16*

Now we need to understand that none of these things will give **VICTORY** in and of themselves, but we need each one to strengthen us and to help us grow in the **LORD!**

When we begin to **NEGLECT** even one of these essential areas, then we are bound to **SUFFER SPIRITUALLY!**

When we **FEED THE FLESH** and **IGNORE OUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS** by **FORSAKING THE WORD**, then we are headed for **TROUBLE** in our **SPIRITUAL LIVES!**

When we try to **GO OUR WAY ALONE WITHOUT PRAYER** we are being **FOOLISH!**

When we **FORSAKE THE CHURCH** we are not **BUILT UP PROPERLY** and neither are we a **HELP** to **OTHERS!**

*GOD Always Has A PLAN...stick with HIS PLAN!*

- B. Following GOD'S PLANS Will Always Bring GOD'S POWER. (Vs. 18-23)**  
**ISRAEL FOUGHT** the **BATTLE**, but **GOD** gave the **VICTORY!**

The first time **ISRAEL** went to **AI**, they went in their **OWN POWER** and they suffered a terrible, humiliating **DEFEAT!**

This time they went to **BATTLE WALKING** in the **POWER AND DIRECTION OF GOD** and they were **VICTORIOUS!**

Again, there is a lesson here for each of us:

1. The **BATTLE** will not be won by our personal abilities!
2. The **BATTLE** will not be won because we are more **POWERFUL** than the **TEMPTATIONS** we face!

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Because we are not!

3. There is just one way for us to **PREVAIL** in our **BATTLES**, and that is for us to **LEARN** to **APPROPRIATE** the **POWER OF GOD** in our lives through **OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD!**

*Ephesians 6: 10—"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."*

*Philippians 4: 13—"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*

*1 Corinthians 10: 13—"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."*

*GOD Always Has A PLAN...Following GOD'S PLANS Will Always Bring GOD'S POWER...*

- C. GOD'S VICTORIES ARE COMPLETE VICTORIES! (Vs. 24-29)**  
**ISRAEL TRUSTED** in the **LORD** and **absolutely PREVAILED** over their **ENEMY! GOD** did what **HE** said **HE** would do!

We are serving the very same **GOD** that gave **ISRAEL** the **VICTORY!** We can count on **HIM** to **KEEP HIS WORD!**

*Romans 4:21—"And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. "*

*Psalms 119:89—"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."*

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*WE SEE GOD'S PROMISE OF VICTORY...*  
*WE SEE GOD'S PERFECT PLAN FOR VICTORY...*

**III. WE SEE WORSHIP FLOWS OUT OF VICTORY!**

**A. JOSHUA Led The People In OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD! (Vs. 30-35)**

An **ALTAR** was built. (*Cf. Deuteronomy 27:4-8*)

A **SACRIFICE** was made.

The **COMMANDED OBSERVANCE** was **HELD!**

*Deuteronomy 11:29—"And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal. "*

According to *Deuteronomy 27:11-26*, half of the nation was to stand on **MOUNT EBAL** and the other half on **MOUNT GERIZIM**. The **LEVITES** were to stand in the valley between these mountains and were to read the cursings and the blessings. As they read the cursings, the crowd on **MOUNT EBAL** was to shout "*Amen.*" When they read the blessings, the crowd on **MOUNT GERIZIM** was to shout "*Amen.*"

This exercise was to remind them of what **GOD** would **BLESS** and of what **HE** would not bless. They were reaffirming their commitment to live by the **WORD OF GOD** every day!

**B. BLESSING Or CURSING Is Determined By OBEDIENCE Or DISOBEDIENCE!**

If we want to achieve **VICTORY** day by day, then we must learn to **LIVE** by the **WORD OF GOD!**

If **GOD** said do it, then do it! If **GOD** said don't do it, then don't do it! If there is **DOUBT**, then leave it out!

*Matthew 4:4—"But he [Jesus] answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."*

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**Conclusion**

**VICTORY** can be ours when we **CHOOSE TO OBEY GOD'S WORD!**

So, **BLESSING** or **CURSING**? The **CHOICE** is ours.

Is our life characterized by **VICTORY** or **DEFEAT**?

If its characterized by **DEFEAT**, then it is time for **SELF-EXAMINATION**, **CONFESSION OF SIN**, and **REPENTANCE!**

If its characterized by **VICTORY**, then it is time for **WORSHIP!**

Whatever our need this evening, the **LORD** has **GRACE** to help us with that need if we will only come to **HIM!**

**HE'S** given us **HIS PROMISES...HIS PLAN IS PERFECT—LET'S FOLLOW HIM!**