

“Reattacked Ai”

Joshua 8:1-35

3/17/13

This morning/afternoon, we'd like to see the title of “Reattacked Ai” in the book of Joshua 8:1-35.

Q1. In verse 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,*” why did God allow Israelites to take the booty from Ai unlike from Jerico?

Q2. In verse 31, “*as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses: “an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron tool.” And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings,*” why did God ask the natural stones, not human made stones, for an altar?

Q3. In verses 34-35, “*And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law.*”³⁵ *There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them,*” what basics of this divine education can you see?

(Background)

Booty of Jericho forbidden to take (6:21) “And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.”

Israelites had defeat in the 1st attack of Ai due to Achan’s sin (7:24-25) “Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor.²⁵ And Joshua said, “Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day.” So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.”

Ai’s fall (1-29) + Meditation of God’s Word (30-35)

Now the LORD said to Joshua: “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.”

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. ⁴ And he commanded them, saying: “Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city,

1=Now (repent sin; focus on the Lord); go up to Ai (reattack Ai in God’s way, not own way)

2=Q1= as you did to Jericho...(EXCEPT)... Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty * Deuteronomy 20:16-18 (idolatory influence)

3-25 (Ai was 11 miles away from Jericho; Bethel was west of Ai; North area Mount Gerisim &

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. According to the commandment of the LORD you shall do. See, I have commanded you.”

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 lodged that night among the people.

¹⁰ Then Joshua rose up early in the morning and mustered [numbered]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.

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

Mount Ebal; @ south behind Ai, in ambush, 30,000 soldiers + Between Bethel & Ai, 5,000 solidered in ambush; the left Israelites with Joshua in North of Ai allured/draw Ai people out of Ai & Bethel people out of Bethel)

18= Stretch out the spear that is in your hand toward Ai, (signal to occupy the empty city of Ai & Bethel)

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*.

³⁰ Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal,³¹ as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses: “an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron tool.” And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.

23= the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him to Joshua

25= twelve thousand—all of the people of Ai (killed)

27= livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as booty for themselves, according to the word of the LORD

28,29= to this day (when Joshua wrote this book close to his death)

31=Q2 no man has wielded an iron *tool* (might worship others than God) * Exodus 20:25; burnt offerings (consecrate); peace offering (fellowship with God)

³² And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. ³³ Then all Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, the stranger as well as he who was born among them. Half of them *were* in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel.

³⁴ And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. ³⁵ There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.

32= wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses (~10 Commandments *Exodus 20 1:17)

33= the stranger (the Gentile; regardless of race/ nationality); they [priests] should bless the people of Israel

34=Q3 afterward, he [Joshua] read all of the words of the law(5 Books) blessings (Keep GW) + cursings (disobey GW)... all that is written in the Book of the Law * Deut 4:2; 6:7

35= not a word... not read ... all the assembly of Israel, women (gender), the little one(age), strangers (race/nationality) e.g. on-line the Bible study

2=Q1= as you did to Jericho...(EXCEPT)... Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty * Deuteronomy 20:16-18 (idolatory influence)

(Deuteronomy 20:16-18) "But of the cities of these peoples which the LORD your God gives you *as* an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive, ¹⁷ but you shall utterly destroy them: the Hittite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, just as the LORD your God has commanded you, ¹⁸ lest they teach you to do according to all their abominations which they have done for their gods, and you sin against the LORD your God."

31=Q2 no man has wielded an iron *tool* (might worship others than God) * Exodus 20:25

(Exodus 20:25) "And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it. " (risk of idolatory)

34=Q3 afterward, he [Joshua] read all of the words of the law(~ Deuteronomy) blessings (Keep GW) + cursings (disobey GW)... all that is written in the Book of the Law * Deut 4:2; 6:7

(Deuteronomy 4:2) You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

(Deuteronomy 6:7) You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.;

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