

**Prayer Focus**

Joshua 6*–*8 describe two key battles in the history of Israel’s conquest in the Promised Land, In this narrative. through Israel’s obedience or disobedience, in both victory and defeat, Yahweh remained sovereign and His will was being accomplished. Before you begin your study each day, take time to thank God for His plan and provision that is at work in your own life, and ask Him to increase your understanding of Him and deepen your love for Him as you study Joshua.

**Day One**

*Read Joshua 6 —* ***The Fall of******Jericho***

1. According to Joshua 6:1 and 5:1, what was the condition of Jericho and its inhabitants?

2. From Joshua 6:1–21, briefly describe Joshua’s strategy to defeat Jericho. How would that plan glorify God?

3. Re-read Joshua 2:8–11 and consider what effect the Israelites walking around Jericho, described in Joshua 6, would have had on each of the following groups.

 a. The people of Jericho

 b. The people of Israel

 c. The surrounding nations

4. Using a Bible commentary or other resource, explain the phrase “under the ban” (*NASB*) or “devoted to destruction” (*LSB*) from Joshua 6:17–18.

5. How do Deuteronomy 7:1–5 and 25–26, and 20:17–18 deepen your understanding of why God commanded that Jericho be destroyed?

6. According to Joshua 6:17–25, who was spared from destruction? How did this accomplish the purposes of both the Abrahamic (Genesis 12:1–3) and Mosaic Covenants (Exodus 19:5–6, 20:1–17, and 24:3–8)? See also Matthew 1:1–16.

**Day Two**

*Read Joshua 7 —* ***The Sin of******Achan***

1. Following the stunning defeat of Jericho, briefly describe Israel’s next battle, found in Joshua 7:1–5.

 

 a. According to these verses, why was Israel defeated? What can you learn and apply from this account?

2. In verses 6–9, what was Joshua’s concern after Israel was defeated at Ai, and how did Yahweh respond in verses 10–15?

 a. What phrase in verse 12 would have brought particular sadness to Joshua?

 b. Continuing through the end of Joshua 7, identify two or three principles from this account that might be applicable to believers’ behavior today.

3. How would you compare the responses of Rahab in Joshua 2 and 6 with Achan in Joshua 7?

4. What connection do you see between Achan’s confession in Joshua 7:21 with James 1:13–15?

**Day Three**

*Read Joshua 8:1–29 —* ***The Fall of******Ai***

1. In Joshua 8:1, with what truth did Yahweh encourage Joshua following Israel’s defeat at Ai?

 a. Remember how God encouraged Moses in Deuteronomy 1:21, and again how Moses encouraged Joshua 40 years later during the transition of leadership in Deuteronomy 31:8. How can that unchanging truth about God’s character encourage you today?

2. From Joshua 8:1*–*8, briefly summarize God’s direction to Joshua about defeating Ai.

 a. Why do you think God gave different instructions for the conquering of Jericho and Ai?

3. What phrase in Joshua 8:9 is repeated in verse 13? Why is that important?

 

 a. As the narrative of the actual battle continues in verses 14*–*29, what do you note about Joshua’s leadership that you’d like to incorporate in your own life? Prayerfully ask God to help you grow in that area and seek someone to hold you accountable.

**Day Four**

*Read Joshua 8:30–35 —* ***The Renewal of the******Covenant***

1. In Joshua 8:30, what did Joshua do at Mount Ebal to remind Israel of God’s faithfulness? How would this have encouraged the people?

2. In your own words, give three or four highlights from the account in Joshua 8:30–35.

3. How do the instructions in the verses below deepen your understanding of the account in Joshua 8:30–35?

 a. Deuteronomy 11:26–32

 b. Deuteronomy 27:1–9

 c. Deuteronomy 31:12–13

4. As Joshua affirmed, Israel’s success would be determined by their obedience to the Law. How committed are *you* to study and obey God’s revelation in Scripture? What practical steps will you take this week to prioritize this commitment?

**Day Five**

*Read Joshua 6–8 —* ***Review***

1. Re–read Joshua 6–8. From each of these three chapters, identify a specific attribute of God that stands out to you, and why. Cite specific verses.

 a. Joshua 6

 b. Joshua 7

 c. Joshua 8

 

2. From each of these three chapters, identify specific ways that Joshua’s leadership inspired confidence in the people of Israel (e.g., Joshua’s personal relationship with the Lord).

 a. Joshua 6

 b. Joshua 7

 c. Joshua 8

3. From these chapters, what was God teaching Israel?

4. From these chapters, what has God taught *you* through your study this week?

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