

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

“Be Strong and Courageous!”

-Joshua in the Old Testament

-Jesus in the New Testament

Date: 4-19-15 Lesson: 10

A.TEXT – Chapter 8



(1) And **the Lord** said to Joshua, "Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, **I** have given into your hand the king of Ai, and 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 livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves. Lay an ambush against the city, behind it."

(3) So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai. And Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them out by night. (4) And he commanded them, "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind it. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you remain ready. (5) And **I** and all the people who are with me will approach the city. And when they come out against us just as before, we shall flee before them. (6) And they will come out after us, until we have drawn them away from the city. For they will say, 'They are fleeing from us, just as before.' So we will flee before them. (7) Then you shall rise up from the ambush and seize the city, for **the Lord your God** will give it into your hand. (8) And as soon as you have taken the city, you shall set the city on fire. You shall do according to **the word of the Lord**. See, **I** have commanded you."

(9) So Joshua sent them out. And they went to the place of ambush and lay between Bethel and Ai, to the west of Ai, but Joshua spent that night among the people. (10) Joshua arose 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 fighting men who were with him went up and drew near before the city and encamped on the north side of Ai, with a ravine between them and Ai. (12) He took about 5,000 men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city. (13) So they stationed the forces, the main encampment that was north of the city and its rear guard west of the city. But Joshua spent that night in the valley.

(14) And as soon as the king of Ai saw this, he and all his people, the men of the city, hurried and went out early to the appointed place toward the Arabah to meet Israel in battle. But he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city. (15) And Joshua and all Israel pretended to be beaten before them and fled in the direction of the wilderness. (16) So all the people who were in the city were called together to pursue them, and as they pursued Joshua they were drawn away from the city. (17) Not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. They left the city open and pursued Israel.

(18) Then **the Lord** said to Joshua, "Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for **I** will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city. (19) And the men in the ambush rose quickly out of their place, and as soon as he had stretched out his hand, they ran and entered the city and captured it. And they hurried to set the city on fire. (20) So when the men of Ai looked back, behold, the smoke of the city went up to **heaven**, and they had no power to flee this way or that, for the people who fled to the wilderness turned back against the pursuers.

(21) And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had captured the city, and that the smoke of the city went up, then they turned back and struck down the men of Ai. (22) And the others came out from the city against them, so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side. And Israel struck them down, until there was left none that survived or escaped. (23) But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him near to Joshua. (24) When Israel had finished killing all the inhabitants of Ai in the open wilderness where they pursued them, and all of them to the very last had fallen by the edge of the sword, all Israel returned to Ai and struck it down with the edge of the sword. (25) And all who fell that day, both men and women, were 12,000, all the people of Ai.

(26) But Joshua did not draw back his hand with which he stretched out the javelin until he had devoted all the inhabitants of Ai to destruction. (27) Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as their plunder, according to the **word of the Lord** that he commanded Joshua. (28) So Joshua burned Ai and made it forever a heap of ruins, as it is to this day. (29) And he hanged the king of Ai on a tree until evening. And at sunset Joshua commanded, and they took his body down from the tree and threw it at the entrance of the gate of the city and raised over it a great heap of stones, which stands there to this day.

(30) At that time Joshua built **an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal**, (31) just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in **the Book of the Law of Moses**, "an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool." And they offered on it **burnt offerings to the Lord and sacrificed peace offerings**. (32) And there, in the presence of the people of Israel, **he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses**, which he had written. (33) And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of **the ark** before the Levitical priests who carried **the ark of the covenant of the Lord**, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel. (34) And afterward he read **all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law**. (35) There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.

B. STUDY NOTES

1. A 3rd pile of rocks marking the place of God's empowering them to defeat their enemies.
2. They renew the covenant as Moses had ordered (**Dt 11:26-30; 27:1-8**). Their identity is the one people of God chosen from among all nations, from which God would bring the Messiah.
3. Assembling between Mt. Ebal (Shechem at its foot where Abraham built an altar (**Gen 12:6,7**)) and Mt. Gerazim (would become Samaria (**John 4:19-24**))
4. Burnt offerings – and fellowship offerings (**Lev 1:1-17; 3:1-17; 7:11-18**)
5. Joshua copies onto stone the Law of Moses, now a 4th stone monument (**Dt 27:2-4**)
6. The blessings and the curses from God's Word – Gospel and Law (**Dt. 27-28**)
7. Being hung upon a tree was a curse, and this is what Jesus experienced (**Jn 19:28-37**)
8. This the beginning of many battles by which they would subjugate the land so that it would become the Promised Land given to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the 12 Tribes and the nation of Israel – then Judah – the land and the people where Jesus Christ would appear to then save all nations (**Gal 3:6-16**)

C. LIFE APPLICATION

1. The Book of the Law of Moses of course includes the 10 Commandments, one of the Six Chief Parts in the Small Catechism: The Close of the Commandments

What does God say about all of these commandments?

He says, "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments" (Exodus 20:5-6).

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Why it essential to teach young and old the Moral Law – which remains unchanged forever?

2. The Gospel is what Christ has done as our Substitute in our place – the 2nd Article of the Apostles Creed: "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true."

Why it essential to teach young and old the Good News– which remains unchanged forever?