

# A DEEPER DIVE

April 19, 2026  
Joshua 8:10 - 28

**Prayer Focus**– Each day this week as you meet with your savior, lift up in prayer the places in the world where there is war, destruction, and little hope. Also pray for the missionaries that you know of and support. Pray for our nation and our leaders, and also your local church and community. Pray daily for our Pastors and Elders. Finally, follow the instruction in Philippians 4:4-7 make your prayer personal. Remember 1 Peter 5:7.

**Monday: Reading**– Joshua 8:10-13

**Consider this**– The trap is set

It is interesting that even when the war is already won, the Lord still has his people fight the battle. The Lord tells Joshua, “I have delivered...” just like what he told Joshua before the battle of Jericho. Joshua knew what the end of the assault on Ai would be, but he still had to assault Ai and fight the battle. There is no body count (that I can find) about how many, if any, men in Joshua’s army died in the battle. That brings up a question. If the Lord has already given the battle to Joshua, what would be the purpose of someone dying in the battle? Likewise, we, as followers of Christ, know that the battle is won. But we are still here, suffering, persevering, struggling with sin.

**Tuesday: Reading**– Joshua 8:14-17

**Consider this**– The trap is sprung

Joshua is leading the army in the frontal feint. He also leads the retreat. The soldiers of Ai do not show any kind of caution or restraint. They just charge out of the city thinking that what happened before will happen again. The text doesn’t indicate whether their foolishness was completely theirs, or if the Lord influenced them in some way. Be that as it may, “not a man remained.” They didn’t even leave a few guards or cops to patrol the streets. Sometimes when we get really busy with life, we allow our devotions and scripture reading to lag behind. We can be opening ourselves up to an ambush by the enemy. Think about the times you have been most susceptible to enemy attacks—do these times coincide ever with a letting down of your guard, so to speak?

**Wednesday: Reading**– Joshua 8:18-23; Exodus 17:10-13

**Consider this**– Battle strategy revealed

The signal from Joshua is to hold up his javelin and the soldiers waiting in ambush would attack the city. No where in the text does it tell us how the soldiers were able to see Joshua’s javelin. Was he on a hill? Were there scouts in trees? Who knows? Maybe it was an act of obedience on Joshua’s part and the Lord caused the army to attack. Read what Moses did in Exodus when Joshua was leading the army. What lesson can be learned from these passages?

**Thursday: Reading**– Joshua 8:24-27

**Consider this**– Complete victory

12K people died in Ai that day. All of the people in Ai—men and women were “put to the sword.” The Lord’s command in verse 2 was followed by all the people, unlike in Jericho. To what degree do you think the public execution of Achan influenced the people now? We have all heard and read about prominent preachers or leaders who have sinned, and their sin, being revealed, leads to their downfall. When you read these kinds of stories, are you chastened to look at your own life or behavior?

**Friday: Reading**– Joshua 8:28-29

**Consider this**– Utter destruction

The city and the king—what happened? In chapter 7:26 there is a large heap of rocks put on the site where Achan and all he had were executed. Now, in chapter 8, verse 29, there is a large heap of rocks put on the place where the King of Ai's body was. The ESV study notes say, "if the 'great heap of stones' over Achan was a monument to Israel's breaking faith, the present 'great heap of stones' over the king of Ai is a monument to Israel's second chance and restoration." Do you see a connection between these two events?

Wiersbe says that, "Ai was made such a desolation that archaeologists cannot be certain of its location even today." Some people looking for reasons to disregard the Bible mind find this problematic. Do you? If someone said that since there is no evidence that Ai was real, or where it is located, and that shows that the Bible is a bunch of made-up stories, what would your response be?

**Saturday: Reading**– Joshua 8:10-28; John 15: 1-17.

**Consider this**– Obedience to the Lord's word is crucial.

The ESV study notes, in commenting on this section, say that, "The passage goes into great detail for a small battle, probably to emphasize that success comes only from following the Lord's instruction." There is no doubt that people can accomplish many great worldly things, and amass huge amounts of worldly treasure without believing in Christ or following God. Read the passage from John mentioned above. Prayerfully contemplate what you think Jesus is saying in the passage. When inspecting your own life, do you see the fruit of obedience, and abiding in Christ?

From the Henri Nouwen Society–

You have to trust the place that is solid, the place where you can say yes to God's love even when you do not feel it. Right now you feel nothing except emptiness and the lack of strength to choose. But keep saying, "God loves me, and God's love is enough." You have to choose the solid place over and over again and return to it after every failure.

**Sunday**- Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at [stvc13@gmail.com](mailto:stvc13@gmail.com).