

# A DEEPER DIVE

April 26, 2026  
Joshua 8:30-34

**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 8:30-31

**Consider this**– Mount Ebal. Check out this link. [https://www.chabad.org/parshah/article\\_cdo/aid/4101198/jewish/7-Facts-Everyone-Should-Know-About-Mount-Gerizim-and-Mount-Ebal.htm](https://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/4101198/jewish/7-Facts-Everyone-Should-Know-About-Mount-Gerizim-and-Mount-Ebal.htm)

**Tuesday: Reading**– Joshua 8:30-31; Deuteronomy 11; 27

**Consider this**– Moses Redux

Joshua repeats at this site what the Lord instructed Moses to do. Spend some time reviewing what the Lord told Moses in Deuteronomy. What is so important about the two peaks (Ebal and Gerizim) in these passages? The NKJV notes say that these two peaks are “in central Canaan flanking an east-west pass through the north-central hill country. Almost the entire Promised Land is visible from the top of Mount Ebal.”

**Wednesday: Reading**– Joshua 8:32-33

**Consider this**– The law

Joshua wrote the law of Moses on the rocks. In his commentary, Dale Davis notes that, “In verse 29 we were standing at the gate of Ai watching its king receive the last rites. Now we have been whisked away to find ourselves in the shadow of Mount Ebal near Shechem...we are more than 20 miles north of Ai.” Does this rough, or “sudden” transition in the text bother you? Notice that verse 30 starts with the word “Then” (NIV). No intro, nothing about how they got there, they are just there. Davis notes that some commentators question whether these verses (30-35) should be included here. How do you answer these kinds of criticisms? It’s important to understand the structure of the entire section. Davis tells us to go back to chapter 5:2-12. He says that, “chapters 5-8 appear to be a carefully constructed block of material and the reading of the covenant law appropriately closes off a large section introduced by the participation in the covenant signs [in chapter 5].”

**Thursday: Reading**– Joshua 8:32-33

**Consider this**– The law

Why does this section (chapter 5-8) begin with a renewing of the covenant, and end with a reading of the law? Davis says it is “to underscore the fact that covenant obedience has priority over military victory.” In this section we need to see that without obedience there is no victory. What happens when even one person violates the command of the Lord? We aren’t leading armies or nations, but what happens in our lives when we make shortcuts, or rationalize our sin?

**Friday: Reading**– Joshua 8:33-35; Genesis 12; 28; 33; 2 Peter 3

**Consider this**– The law is read; location, location, location.

Read these verses in the NKJV and count how many times the word all is used. What is the emphasis of the author here? How

does the story and failure of Achan and the first battle at Ai inform your opinion of why the author focuses on having the word all throughout these verses?

This area that Joshua is in is very prominent in Genesis. Read the chapters from Genesis mentioned above to see the importance of this area in Israel's history. Davis says that it is important to note this because it is a "way of recognizing the faithfulness of God. It is his [the author's] way of saying that time does not invalidate

Yahweh's promise." When Pastor Ron took us through the book of 2 Peter, we read what Peter said in chapter 3. Why is it important to remember that God is not limited to time, and how can that make us impatient?

**Saturday: Reading**– Joshua 8:

**Consider this**– Praise Yahweh

Davis focuses his commentary on the praise and celebration of Yahweh through this section. He reminds us that the author wants us to avoid focusing on the battles and focus on praise and worship of the Lord. We should remember that. Davis brings this to our time when he says, "Our public worship need not be jazzy, but neither should it be joyless, tedious, and routinely predictable. Not if we worship the God of the Bible. Perhaps our preaching should not be racy and sensational, but neither should it be dull, lifeless, and unexciting. If we really have a fascinating God, then that fascination and wonder will spill over in the way we speak to him and of him."

**From the Henri Nouwen Society**–

Lord Jesus,

Help me in this moment to set aside all that has preoccupied me today.

Take away the many fears that rage around me. Take away the many feelings of insecurity and low self-esteem, and let me be shaped by you, the Lamb of God.

**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).