## JOSHUA 8 vs 1



The book of Joshua, written around 1453bc, describes the conquest of Israel over the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; now entering the land occupied by 7 different pagan cultures. Leading the people, was Joshua, whose name means: The Lord is salvation.

Victory at AI,

- <sup>1</sup> And the LORD said to Joshua, Do not fear, or be dismayed: take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given to your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land:
- 2 And you will do to Ai and her king as you did to Jericho and its king: only its spoil, and its cattle, you will not take for a prey to yourselves.



Set an ambush for the city behind it.

- 3 So Joshua arose with all the people of war, to go up against Ai: and Joshua chose 30,000 men, valiant warriors, and sent them out by night.
- 4 And he instructed them, saying, See, you will ambush the city from behind it: 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 happen, when they come out against us, as at the first, that we will flee before them,
- 6 (and they will come out after us) till we have drawn them away from the city; for they will say, They are fleeing before us, as at the first: so we will flee before them.
- 7 And you sill rise from your ambush and take possession of the city; for the LORD your God will deliver it to your hand.
- 8 Then it will be, when you have seized the city, that you will set the city on fire: according to the word of the LORD. See, I have instructed you.
- 9 So Joshua sent them away: and they went the place of the ambush, and remained between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of Ai: but Joshua stayed the night among the people.
- 10 Now Joshua rose up early in the morning, and rallied the people, and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai.

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- 11 Then all the people of war who were with him, went up, and drew near, and arrived in front of the city, and camped on the north side of Ai: now there was a valley between them and Ai.
- 12 And he took about 5,000 men, and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city.
- 13 So when they had stationed the people, all the army was on the north of the city, and its rearguard waited on the west of the city, and Joshua spent the night in the midst of the valley.
- 14 And it happened, when the king of Ai saw it, that the men of the city hurried and rose up early, and went out against Israel to battle, he and all his people, at a time appointed, before the desert plain. But he did not know there was a ready ambush against him behind the city.
- 15 And Joshua and all Israel pretended to be beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness.
- 16 And all the people who were in Ai were called together to pursue after them: and they pursued after Joshua, and were drawn away from the city.
- 17 So there was not a man left in Ai or Bethel, who hand not gone out after Israel: and they left the city unguarded, and pursued after 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 he had in his hand toward the city.
- 19 And those in the ambush arose quickly from their place, and when he had stretched out his hand, they ran entered to the city, and seized it, and hurried and set the city on fire.
- 20 When the men of Ai turned back, behold, they saw the smoke of the city ascend up to heaven, and they had no place to flee this way or that way: for the people who fled to the wilderness turned back upon the pursuers.
- 21 When Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city, and that the smoke of the city ascended, then they turned back, and slew the men of Ai.
- 22 And the others came out from the city to encounter them; so they were trapped in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side: and they slew them, so that no one survived or escaped.
- 23 But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him to Joshua.

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- 24 And it happened, when Israel had finished slaying all the inhabitants of Ai in the wilderness where they chased them, and all of them had fallen on the edge of the sword, until they were destroyed, that all the Israelites returned to Ai, and struck it with the edge of the sword.
- 25 And so it was, that all who fell that day, both of men and women, were 12,000, all the people of Ai.
- 26 For Joshua did not withdraw his hand with which he stretched out the javelin, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai.
- 27 Israel only took the cattle and the spoil of that city as plunder for themselves, according to the word of the LORD which he instructed Joshua.
- 28 And Joshua burnt Ai, and made it a heap forever, a desolation until this day.
- 29 And he hanged the king of Ai on a tree until the evening: and as soon at sunset, Joshua instructed they should take his carcass down from the tree, and throw it in the entrance of the city, and raise over it a great heap of stones, that stands to this day.



- 30 Then Joshua built an altar to the LORD the God of Israel on Mount Ebal,
- 31 As Moses the servant of the LORD instructed 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 lift up any iron: and they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.
- 32 And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel.
- 33 And all Israel, with their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on both sides of the ark before the priests the Levites, who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, the outsider, as well as the native born among them.

Half of them stood by Mount Gerizim, and half of them by Mount Ebal; as Moses the servant of the LORD had previously instructed, that they should bless the people of Israel.

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