

## **Ai**

Joshua 7 – 8

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Ai was a small city with few people, so Joshua sent only 3,000 men to take the city. But they were defeated. Joshua was distraught, "Lord, you said no one would be able to defeat us."

The Lord replied, "Israel disobeyed my command, taking plunder from Jericho that was intended as an offering to me."

Joshua learned that a soldier named Achan was responsible and said to him, "Tell me what you've done."

Achan replied, "I have sinned against the Lord. I took a beautiful Babylonian robe, some silver coins, and a bar of gold and buried them under my tent."

The Israelites stoned Achan and his family and burned their bodies along with all of their possessions.

Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Take the entire army and attack Ai. Destroy it as you did Jericho, but this time you may keep whatever plunder you find."

Joshua led the bulk of his army in a frontal attack while a large contingent lay in ambush. During the battle Joshua and his men turned and ran away. The men of Ai chased after them. Then the Israelites in hiding jumped up, poured into the city, captured it, and set it on fire. Joshua turned back and the men of Ai were surrounded. The Israelites killed every one of them.

The people of Israel kept all the valuables they found in Ai. Then they destroyed the city. When it was over, the Israelites offered sacrifices to the Lord, and Joshua read the entire Law of Moses to the people.