



Sermon Notes – February 9, 2020

[#10] *Fighting for God with God against Sin & Death*

Joshua 8:1–35

Children's Sermon: We are like Fragile Clay Jars

Who made you? What did he make you for?

We see God's Glory as we hear about Jesus! (2 Corinthians 4:6)

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NLT)

⁷ We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like *fragile clay jars* containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, *not* from ourselves.

Does this excite You?

Entering the Land (1:1–5:12)
Taking the Land (5:13–12:24)

Notes:

- A. Covenant Renewal (5:2–8:35)
 - 1. Signs of the Covenant (5:2–12)
 - a. Circumcision (2–9)
 - b. Passover (10–12)
 - 2. The Battle Belongs to the LORD (5:13-8:29)
 - a. Commander of the LORD's Army (5:13–6:2)
 - b. Yahweh Destroys Jericho (6:3–27)
 - c. Covenant Disobedience (7:1–26)
 - d. **Yahweh Destroys Ai with Israel (8:1–29)**

This is God's war and he is in complete control of the outcome.

- 3. Covenant Affirmations (8:30–35)

Israel's key to victory is keeping their covenant with Yahweh.



Yahweh Destroys Ai with Israel (8:1–29)

- I. **Yahweh Gives Ai to Israel**

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.”**

II. Joshua Leads Israel in Obedience

A. Obediently Setting the Ambush

³ So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai. ... ⁴ And he commanded them, “Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind it. ... 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...

¹⁰ Joshua arose early in the morning and mustered the people...

B. Yahweh's Destruction of Ai

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. ...

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 (cf.10:26). And at sunset Joshua commanded, and they took his body down from the tree (Cf. Deut. 21:22–23) 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. (Achan)

III. The Words of the Covenant (8:30–35)

³⁰ At that time Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal (Deut. 27:2–6), 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 (Ex. 20:24–25), “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 (Deut. 11:29; 27:11–13), 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.

Main Point for Israel:

Israel's key to victory is keeping their covenant with Yahweh.



Fighting for God with God against Sin & Death

- I. Jesus, the Living Word, is the Key to Our Victory over Sin & Death
 - A. Jesus is Covenant Keeping Israel
 - B. Jesus is Hung on a Tree for Us (Galatians 3:13)
 - C. Jesus is a Better Joshua Leading Us into the Battle against Sin & Death (Sanctification)
- II. Jesus is a Better Joshua Leading Us into the Battle for Faith
 - A. Understanding Our Enemies: The World, Flesh & Devil



Matthew 5:44–45

⁴⁴ But I say to you, **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. ...

1 John 2:15–16

¹⁵ **Do not love the world** or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—*the desires of the flesh* and *the desires of the eyes* and *pride of life*—is not from the Father but is from the world.

Philippians 3:17–19 (Cf. Heb. 10:12–17 laws on their hearts)

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as *enemies of the cross of Christ*. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with *minds set on earthly things*.

B. Understanding Who Wins this Battle

Philippians 3:20–21 (Cf. 2 Cor. 4:7 treasure in clay Jars)

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it **we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,** ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Deuteronomy 20:1–4 (Just like Israel of Old)

“When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, ***you shall not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God is with you***, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. ... ³ ...let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them, ⁴ ***for the LORD your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.***’

In your struggle against sin, never forget your duty—but neither forget the power of the Spirit. The killing of the flesh is your duty, but his work. *If by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.* (Romans 8:13). ...

You will win. You will fight, and you will see your flesh crumble. It is God’s pleasure not only to rescue you from hell, but to glorify you with Christ by making you like him. You will see through your flesh’s most deadly deception. You will turn your eyes away from its most appealing idols. And you will grow in self-discipline and courage. ... In every victory lift your hands to heaven and give thanks—rejoice with a grateful heart in your Deliverer. He is faithful.¹ (underline mine)

Jesus Christ, the living Word of God is our key to victory

Philippians 1:18–21 (Paul’s Example)

¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that ***through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,*** ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always **Christ will be honored in my body**, whether by life or by death. ²¹ ***For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.***

¹ **Lundgaard, Kris.** The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin . P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.