

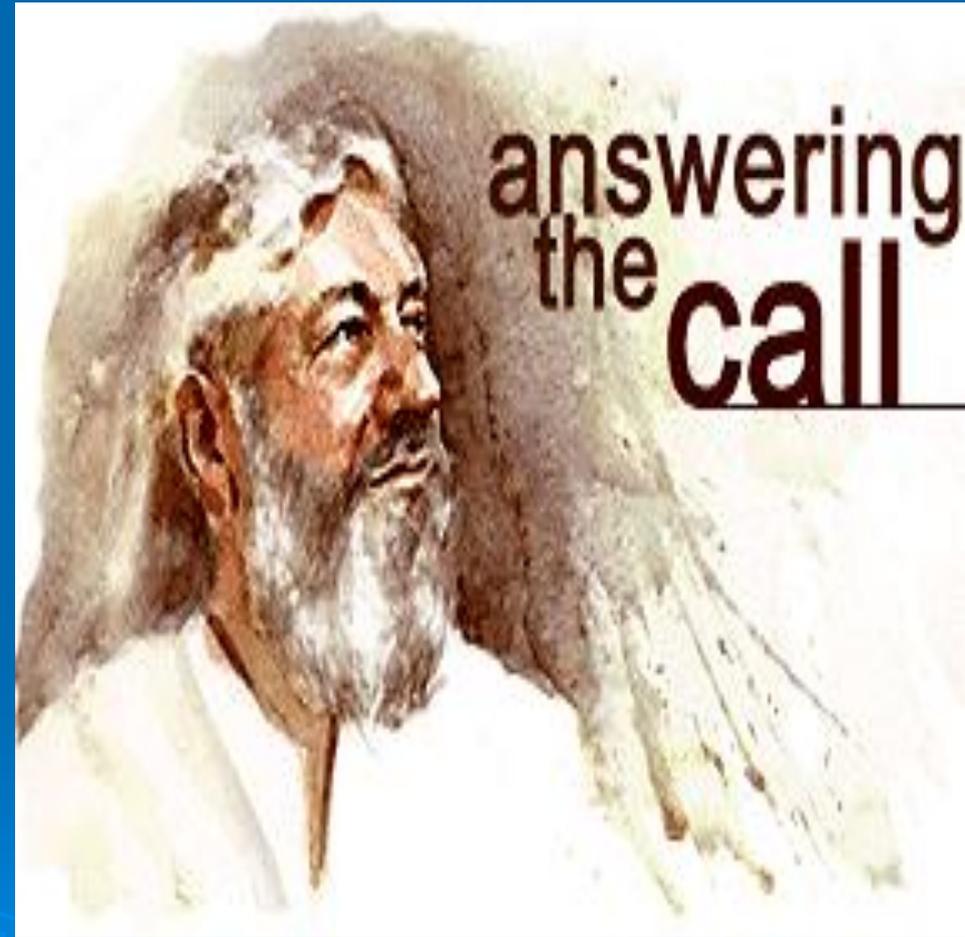
JOSHUA CHAPTER 8: A RETURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

- Trent C. Butler
- The ENTIRE Bible is alive and well
- Seed of Abraham Torah Class hopes to return to the pure and simple ways of the ancient Church
- Manmade doctrines divide the Body, and put great burdens on Believers



DEFINING THE IDENTITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- Learning how to deal with DEFEAT as well as victory
- Had to learn hard lessons for themselves
- People of God often have difficulty relating to God and to God's flock
- Being God's covenant people means more than simply enjoying the promises of God
- It means LIVING the covenant lifestyle!!

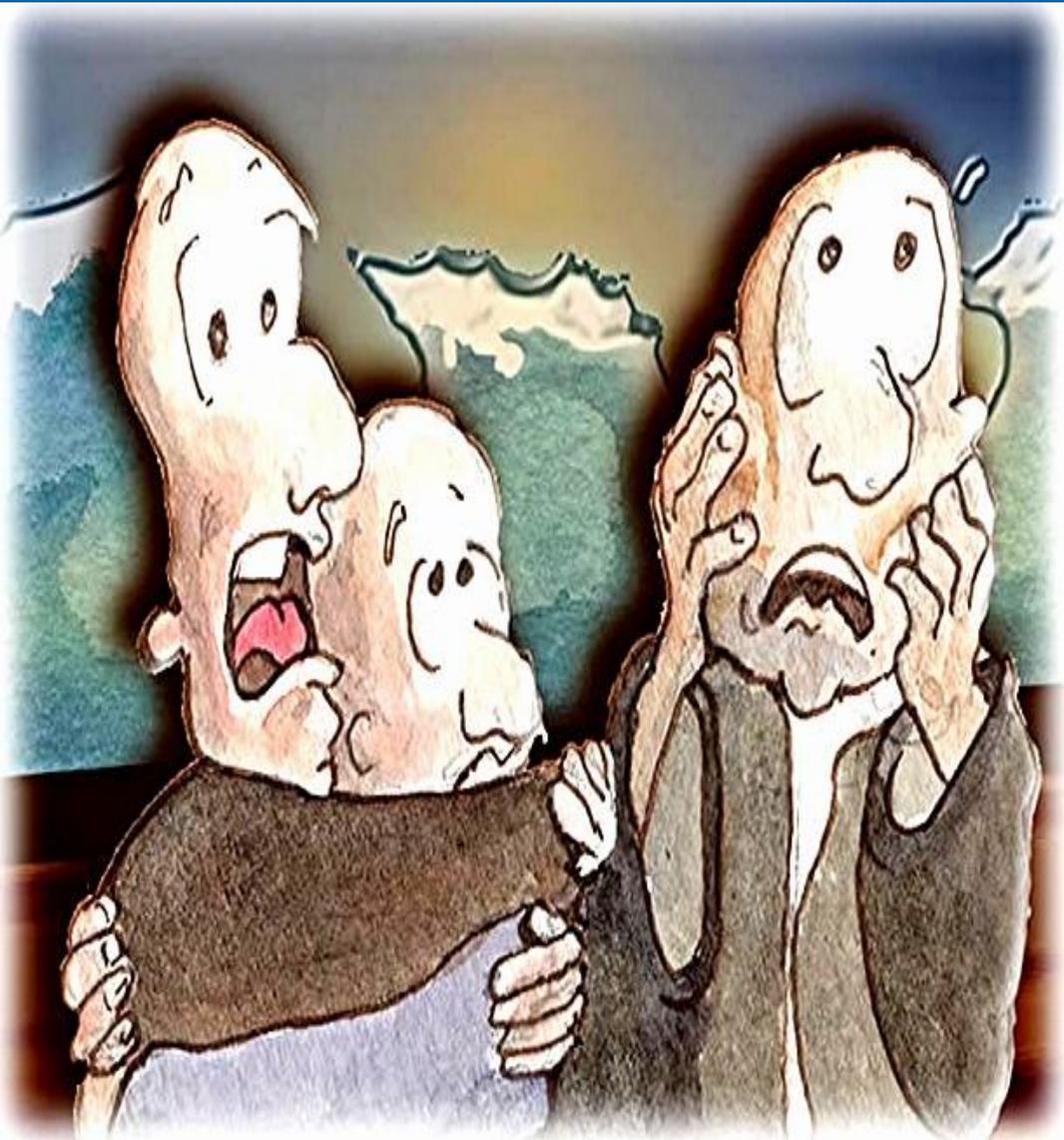


ONLY GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE CAN EXPECT HIS PRESENCE



- God is demanding as well as promising
- Israel had to learn how to react to a punishing as well as merciful God
- God's anger is NOT His last word in our lives!!
- God will wait for His people to seek Him
- Confession, repentance, and agreement with God = renewal and redemption

DO NOT FEAR!

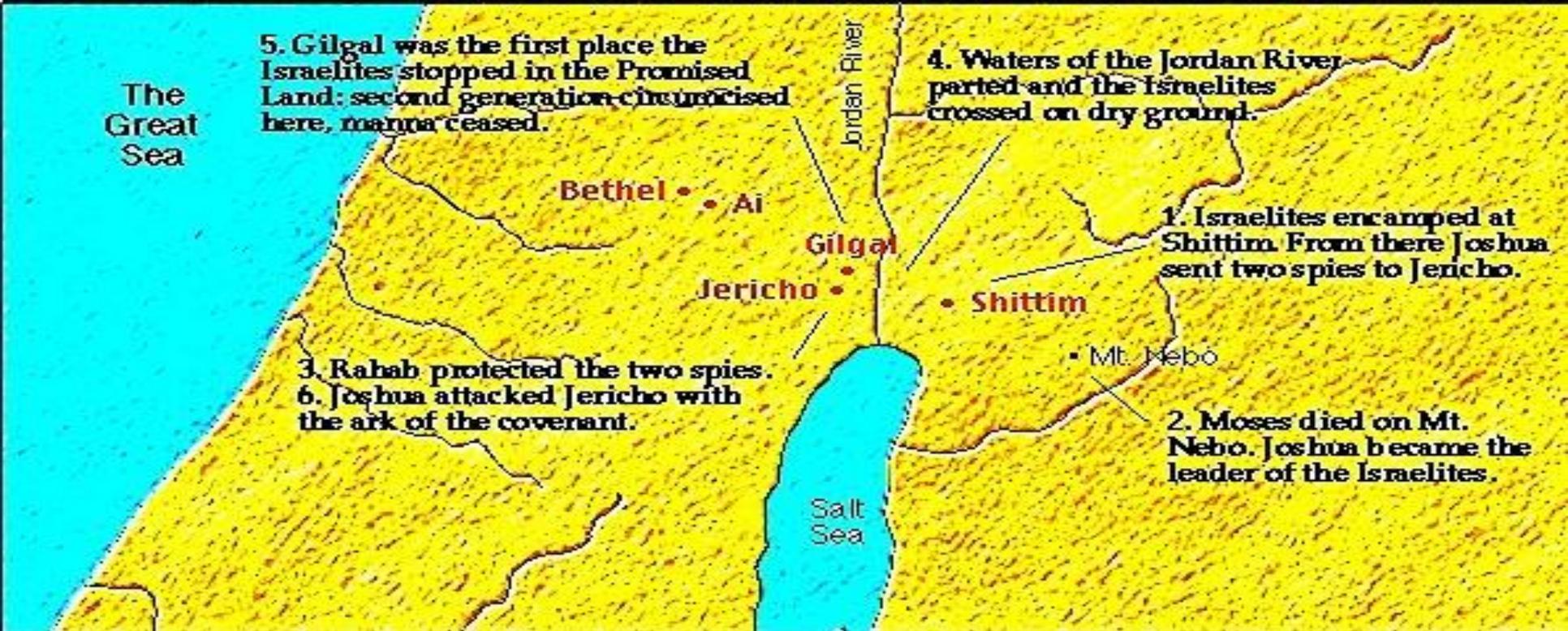


- Fear is both learned and instinctive
- Small children have not yet learned of the evil of men or other dangers
- Young untested soldiers are more nervous than fearful, for they have not seen death
- The generation that entered Canaan knew only victory
- Israel thought they were invincible

DEFEAT AND THEN FEAR

- Achan stole God's holy property
- Israel self-confident, arrogant
- These sins led to defeat at Ai
- Lord OKs Israel's soldiers to have some of the spoils from Ai
- Jericho was the "firstfruits" of Canaan
- Ai was the 2nd city taken
- Same pattern as for planting and harvesting new orchards in Canaan





- Israel is camped at Gilgal, about 12 miles from Ai
- 30,000 soldiers selected to attack Ai
- Troops divided into two groups, with smaller group attacking from ambush
- Larger group attacks the city gates, and then turns and runs
- Canaanites leave Ai and give chase, vacating the city
- Smaller group then comes out of hiding and takes the city and burns it

AI, BEIT-EL, AND BEITIN



Ai

Beitin



- Much disagreement over precise location
- Ai and Beit-el next to each other
- Ai means “ruin”
- Beit-el might be modern Beitin
- Ai and Beit-el might have been two names for the same place

THE BATTLE FOR Ai

- 25,000 troops are the larger group
- 5,000 are hiding in ambush
- Ai and Beit-el likely were two cities in close alliance
- Saying ALL people left the city is referring ONLY to the fighting men



THE DIVINE WARRIOR



- Yehoveh was directing the battle at Ai
- Hard for Christians to envision the Father as the Divine Warrior
- Evangelical approach is to declare that God's fundamental nature changed
- **OT God** = blood thirsty, severe punishing
- **NT God** = meek, mild, loving, peaceful
- NO! God never has and never will CHANGE His character



- Messiah went out like a LAMB, but He's returning as a LION!
- Yeshua returns in the same pattern as the O.T. Divine Warrior
- Ruthless in eradicating evil, killing God's enemies
- Yeshua is the PERFECT picture of Our Father:
Kind AND severe. Merciful AND avenging.
Divine sacrificial lamb AND Divine Warrior lion.

JOSHUA'S SPEAR

- Joshua raises spear as authority and signal for attack upon Ai
- Moses' staff was symbol of God's authority
- Joshua's spear was symbol of God's authority
- Moses, shepherd, uses shepherd's staff
- Joshua, warrior, uses spear
- Christ's 1st coming, ruled as a shepherd king
- Christ's 2nd coming rules as a warrior king





Ai DESTROYED

- Joshua raises spear and the battle is set into motion
- King of Ai is captured
- All residents of Ai killed
- City burned
- Livestock and Ai's possessions given to Israeli troops
- “Hung on a pole” means to impale

FINAL VERSES NOT IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

A NATURAL AMPHITHEATER

This Valley formed a Natural Amphitheater.

A speaker's voice could be heard on both hillsides.

Likewise, the shouts of a crowd on Gerizim could be heard on Ebal, and vice versa.

Mt. Gerizim

Mt. Ebal

Shechem



- Israel was based at Gilgal
- Mt. Ebal north of Shechem
- Mt. Gerizim south of Shechem
- Joshua followed instructions of Moses to build altar on Mt. Ebal

ALTAR STONES TO BE UNTOUCHED BY IRON TOOL

- The purpose of an altar is to PRESERVE life
- Death of animal atones for sins of a human
- Iron symbolic of destruction (war, weapons)
- Inappropriate to use symbol of destruction to build a symbol of life
- Stone slabs erected on Ebal with Word of God inscribed on them



TORAH IS FOR EVERYONE WHO IDENTIFIES WITH ISRAEL



- Joshua the archetypal Israelite monarch
- He followed Torah and ruled from Torah
- Torah for men, women, children, foreigners living among Israel
- Joshua 8 taught the real meaning of the command to obey God.
- It means to LIVE the divine lifestyle
- To find your way back to God:
Self-examination, confession, repentance, the Word, obedience
Then God will renew and redeem

