

COVETOUSNESS TROUBLES ISRAEL

Introduction: The most unsettling event in Israel's conquest of Canaan was its defeat at Ai. Up to that time, Israel's progress under Joshua's leadership had been successful. Israel crossed the Jordan at flood-time and gloriously triumphed over Jericho, demonstrating the LORD's powerful presence with Israel. Then the LORD suddenly withdrew His favor and Israel suffered defeat at Ai under Joshua's command. Joshua was shocked and asked, "Why?" God's answer to that question is valuable to present-day Christians because it reveals His ways of righteousness.

Lesson Aim: God sees everything we do, the bad and good, so we need to be careful how we live.

Memory Verse: "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Prov 15:3).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer:**I. Defeat at Ai: Cost of Sin — 7:1-9**

1. Why was the LORD angry with Israel? 7:1
2. What was wrong with the spies' report to Joshua? 7:2-3
3. What happened to Israel at Ai? 7:4-5
4. What was Joshua's initial response to Israel's defeat at Ai? 7:6
5. What did Joshua do when Israel was defeated at Ai? 7:7-9

II. Death of Achan: Cleansing for Sin — 7:10-26

6. Where does the LORD put the blame? 7:11
7. How was Israel affected by the sin of one man? 7:12-13; cf 2 Cor 6:14-7:1
8. How did the LORD tell Joshua to find the man that brought sin into the camp of Israel? 7:14
9. What was the process of Achan's sin? "I _____ . . . I _____ . . . and _____" 7:21
10. How was Achan punished? 7:25-26

III. Destruction of Ai: Conquest by Faith — 8:1-29

11. What tactic did the LORD tell Joshua to use in destroying Ai? 8:2
12. What signal did the LORD tell Joshua to use to start the ambush of Ai? 8:18-19
13. How many people were destroyed in Ai? 8:25
14. What did Joshua do to Ai? 8:28

IV. Dedication at Mt. Ebal: Covenant Renewal with God — 8:30-35

15. What offerings were sacrificed at Mt Ebal? 8:30-31
16. What did Joshua write on the stones? 8:32
17. What did Joshua read before all the people of Israel? 8:33-35