



# Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny  
January/February, 2019

## God's Judgment

In **Joshua 8:1-13**, God encourages Joshua and the people of Israel. They had experienced a devastating defeat because of their sin. Yet, their sin had been confronted, confessed, and dealt with. God promised to give them victory because they had come clean and had been restored to Him. The rest of **Joshua 8** gives us the details of the battle and victory at Ai.

In **Joshua 8:14-19**, we can see the *ambush of Ai*. In obedience to God, Joshua set up an ambush against this city. Joshua and his forces drew near to the city. When the king of Ai saw this, he hurried out to fight against Israel. The previous victory had given the king and his people confidence to go out against Israel. However, he did not know that an ambush had been set against the city (**8:14**).

When the king of Ai and his forces came out against Israel, they pretended to be defeated. They retreated just like they did before and the forces of Ai began to chase them. The remaining forces in Ai come out of the city to chase them, drawing them away from the city. The city was left open. When this happened, Joshua gave the signal. He

stood and held a javelin in his hand toward the city. The forces that were in hiding stormed into Ai, captured it, and set the city on fire.

In **Joshua 8:15-23**, we see the *counterattack against Ai*. As the forces of Ai pursued Israel, they looked back and saw the city on fire. That must have been a terrifying sight! Suddenly the king of Ai and his forces knew that they had been ambushed. When Joshua saw the city on fire, he commanded his forces to turn and attack the pursuing forces.

The king of Ai and his forces are now pinched from both sides. Joshua and his forces are coming at them. The troops that had captured the city are now approaching from behind them. Joshua and his forces capture the king of Ai and destroy all his forces (**8:22-23**).

In **Joshua 8:24-29**, we see the *destruction of Ai*. When you read these verses, you need to keep **Deuteronomy 7:16** in mind, "And you shall consume all the peoples that the Lord your God will give over to you. Your eye shall not pity them, neither shall you serve their gods, that would

be a snare to you.” God was judging the people of Canaan for their sin. God had given the Canaanites generations to repent and call on Him (**Genesis 15:16**). This battle was the judgment of God on Ai for its sin and rebellion. That’s why there was complete destruction.

The entire city was destroyed (**8:24-26**). Joshua carried out the fullness of divine vengeance toward this city. Notice how many times the word “all” is used **8:24-26**. He then burned the city to the ground (**8:28**). The city of Ai was a sacrifice that testified to the holiness of God. Then he hanged the king of Ai (**8:29**). This was a sign that Canaan was under a curse, “And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance” (**Deuteronomy 21:22-23**).

In obedience to **Deuteronomy 21:22-23**, Joshua took down the body of the king of Ai. Over the king’s corpse, Joshua raised a stone monument. It was a permanent reminder that the holy God will advance His purpose and judge His enemies.

For many people, this is a tough section of Scripture to read. It’s hard to understand the violence and destruction that takes place in this chapter. Moreover, what complicates matters is that all of this was done in obedience to God’s command. What does this text teach us? How does this text

apply to our lives today? I would ask you to consider the following truths:

- **The judgment of God is inevitable and inescapable.**

As I said earlier, God had been patient with Canaan for generations. **Genesis 15:16** speaks about the iniquity of the Amorites becoming full. God did not send Israel into Canaan until the mercy and longsuffering of God had been exhausted. Once that mercy and longsuffering had been exhausted, God’s judgment was inevitable. At the same time, it was inescapable. I believe that’s why you see the emphasis on “all” in **8:24-26**. No one escaped God’s judgment.

This has powerful application to today. God is full of mercy; He is excessively longsuffering. However, that mercy will run out. That longsuffering will end one day. When this happens, judgment will be inevitable. It will happen; nothing will stop it. It will be inescapable. Everyone who has sinned, hardened one’s heart and rebelled against God will face His judgment. **Joshua 8** is a preview of God’s final judgment.

- **The enemies of God’s kingdom have to be judged.**

This text also previews what will happen to all of God’s enemies. It is a necessity. The opposition to God has to be vanquished and removed. If there is no vanquishing of His enemies, there is no guarantee that His eternal kingdom of love, peace, and joy will not be infringed on and violated. As gruesome as the details of this chapter are, it reveals that God has to deal

this way with His enemies. He must totally defeat, judge, and conquer all His enemies. God and His kingdom will triumph. For this to be a reality, all of His enemies must be overcome and judged. Judgment and defeat awaits all the enemies of God.

- **God’s wrath against sin is a perfect facet of His righteousness.**

God is the righteous God. He is right in all that He plans, says, and does. He is always right in all that He does. His Word is right, no matter the time or age. There is no wrong in God at all.

Because of this, God has wrath toward sin. He releases His wrath against what is sinful or unrighteous. God’s wrath is a legitimate expression of His righteousness. Because He is righteous, He cannot tolerate what is sinful or unrighteous. His wrath burns and He must judge or cease being God.

This is something that we must keep in mind when reading **Joshua 8**. I realize that it’s tough reading. However, it reveals the righteousness of God. It shows us that He is a God of wrath. He has to judge; He cannot deny His own righteous nature. Wrath is the perfect and legitimate expression of His righteousness. His righteous character demands the punishment of all rebellion against Him – of all sin against Him.

- **God’s judgment can be avoided.**

You may be wondering about this application. I realize I said that God’s judgment is inevitable and inescapable. That

is true unless you turn to Jesus Christ. This chapter does offer hope. It comes at the end. Joshua hung the king of Ai on a tree. It was a sign that the land was cursed and under the judgment of God.

The good news is that Jesus Christ was hung on a tree. He bore the curse of sin and the judgment and punishment for sin, “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree’” (**Galatians 3:13**). On the Cross, Jesus bore the sin of sinners. He was cursed because of our sin. He experienced the wrath and judgment of God.

Now, any person who will turn from their sin and trust Jesus can be forgiven and accepted by God. The judgment of God can be avoided when by faith we rest in Christ and His suffering the punishment and judgment on our behalf. This is the good news of the Jesus Christ! He has suffered and paid the debt of sin. Those who trust in Him will be saved from the wrath and eternal judgment of God. Because He was hung on a cross and experienced God’s wrath, we can be forgiven and delivered from the rightful wrath of God.

## World Prayer Plan

### March

- 1-Colombia-The Lost
- 2-Comoros Islands
- 3-Congo
- 4-Cook Islands
- 5-Costa Rica
- 6-Cote d’Ivoire

7-Cuba-The Church  
 8-Cuba-The Lost  
 9-Cuba-Collapse of Communism  
 10-Cyprus  
 11-Czech Republic  
 12-Slovakia  
 13-Denmark  
 14-Djibouti  
 15-Dominica  
 16-Dominican Republic  
 17-Ecuador  
 18-Egypt-The Church  
 19-Egypt-The Lost  
 20-Egypt-Persecuted Believers  
 21-El Salvador  
 22-Equatorial Guinea  
 23-Eritrea  
 24-Estonia  
 25-Ethiopia-The Church  
 26-Ethiopia-The Lost  
 27-Ethiopia-Persecuted Believers  
 28-Faeroe Islands  
 29-Falkland Islands  
 30-Croatia-The Church  
 31-Croatia-The Lost

## April

1-Fiji  
 2-France-The Church  
 3-France-The Lost  
 4-France-Hardness To The Gospel  
 5-France-Missionaries  
 6-French Guiana  
 7-French Polynesia  
 8-Gabon  
 9-Gambia  
 10-Gaza Strip  
 11-Georgia

12-Germany-The Church  
 13-Germany-The Lost  
 14-Germany-Spiritual Warfare  
 15-Ghana  
 16-Gibraltar  
 17-Greece  
 18-Greenland  
 19-Grenada  
 20-Guadeloupe  
 21-Guam  
 22-Guatemala  
 23-Guinea  
 24-Guinea-Bissau  
 25-Guyana  
 26-Haiti  
 27-Holy See (Vatican)  
 28-Honduras  
 29-Hong Kong  
 30-Hungary-The Church

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