THE REASON FOR ISRAEL’S DEFEAT AT AI

AND THE REASON FOR HIS CHILDREN’S DEFEAT TODAY

**“Serious times** **require serious** **measures**.”

**Another powerful** **message from Yahuwah**!

**Joshua 7:1-8:30**

 “But the children of Yisra’ĕl committed a trespass regarding that which is under the ban, [*condemned by the Word of Yahuwah, requiring judgment*] for Aḵan son of Karmi, son of Zaḇdi, son of Zeraḥ, of the tribe of Yehuḏah, took of that which is under the ban. And the displeasure of יהוה burned against the children of Yisra’ĕl. [2](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-2.htm) Now Yehoshua sent men from Yeriḥo to Ai, which is beside Bĕyth Awen, on the east side of Bĕyth Ěl, and spoke to them, saying, “Go up and spy out the land.” And the men went up and spied out Ai. [3](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-3.htm) And they returned to Yehoshua and said to him, `Let not all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai. Do not make all the people toil up there, for **the people of Ai** **are few.’** [4](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-4.htm) **And about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai**. [5](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-5.htm) And the men of Ai smote about thirty-six men, for they pursued them from before the gate as far as Sheḇarim, and smote them on the descent. So the hearts of the people melted and became like water. [6](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-6.htm) And Yehoshua tore his garments, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of יהוה until evening, both he and the elders of Yisra’ĕl, and they put dust on their heads. [7](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-7.htm) And Yehoshua said, `Oh Master יהוה, why have You brought this people over the Yardĕn at all, to give us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay beyond the Yardĕn! [8](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-8.htm) O יהוה, what do I say when Yisra’ĕl turns its back before its enemies, [9](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-9.htm) and the Kena‛anites and all the inhabitants of the land hear, and shall surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. What then do You do for Your great Name?’ [10](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-10.htm) And יהוה said to Yehoshua, `Rise up! Why are you lying on your face? [11](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-11.htm) Yisra’ĕl has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of that which is under the ban, and have both stolen and deceived, and also put it among their own goods. [12](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-12.htm) **And the sons of Yisra’ĕl shall not be able** **to stand before their enemies. They are going to turn their backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed.** **I am not with you any more, unless you destroy that which is under the ban from** **your midst**. [13](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-13.htm) Rise up, set the people apart, and you shall say, “Set yourselves apart for tomorrow,” because thus said יהוה Elohim of Yisra’ĕl, `That which is under the ban is in your midst, O Yisra’ĕl. You are not able to stand before your enemies until you put away that which is under the ban out of your midst. [14](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-14.htm) And you shall be brought near in the morning, according to your tribes. And it shall be, the tribe which יהוה takes comes according to clans. And the clan which יהוה takes comes by households. And the household which יהוה takes comes by men. [15](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-15.htm) And it shall be that he who is taken with that which is under the ban is burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of יהוה, and because he has committed wickedness in Yisra’ĕl.” ’ [16](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-16.htm) So Yehoshua arose early in the morning and brought Yisra’ĕl by their tribes, and the tribe of Yehuḏah was taken, [17](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-17.htm) and he brought the clan of Yehuḏah, and he took the clan of the Zarḥites. And he brought the clan of the Zarḥites by men, and Zaḇdi was taken. [18](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-18.htm) And he brought his household by men, and Aḵan son of Karmi, son of Zaḇdi, son of Zeraḥ, of the tribe of Yehuḏah, was taken. [19](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-19.htm) Then Yehoshua said to Aḵan, `My son, now give esteem to יהוה Elohim of Yisra’ĕl, and make confession to Him. And please declare to me what you have done, do not hide it from me.’ [20](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-20.htm) So Aḵan answered Yehoshua and said, `Truly, I have sinned against יהוה Elohim of Yisra’ĕl, and this is what I did: [21](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-21.htm) When I saw among the spoil a lovely garment from Shin‛ar, and two hundred sheqels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty sheqels, I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the ground in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.’ [22](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-22.htm) And Yehoshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent. And see, it was hidden in his tent, with the silver under it. [23](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-23.htm) And they took them from the midst of the tent, brought them to Yehoshua and to all the children of Yisra’ĕl, and laid them out before יהוה. [24](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-24.htm) Then Yehoshua, and all Yisra’ĕl with him, took Aḵan son of Zeraḥ, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his donkeys, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Aḵor. [25](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-25.htm) And Yehoshua said, `Why have you troubled us? יהוה does trouble you today!’ Then all Yisra’ĕl stoned him with stones. And they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

[26](https://biblehub.com/joshua/7-26.htm)And they raised over him a great heap of stones, which remains to this day. Then יהוה turned from the fierceness of His displeasure. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Aḵor to this day…”

**Joshua 8:1-30**: **AFTER REPENTANCE**, **BEING FORGIVEN,** **AND CLEANSED**

 “And יהוה said to Yehoshua, `Do not be afraid, nor be discouraged. Take all the soldiers with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the sovereign of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land.[2](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-2.htm) So you shall do to Ai and its sovereign as you did to Yeriḥo and its sovereign. Only its spoil and its livestock you take as plunder for yourselves. Set for yourselves an ambush for the city, behind it.’ [3](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-3.htm) And Yehoshua and all the soldiers rose up to go up to Ai. And Yehoshua chose thirty thousand mighty brave men and sent them away by night,

[4](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-4.htm) and commanded them, saying, `See, you are going to lie in ambush against the city, behind the city. Do not go very far from the city, but **all of you shall be prepared**,’ [5](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-5.htm) while I and all the people who are with me approach the city. And it shall be, when they come out against us, as formerly, that we shall flee before them, [6](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-6.htm) and they shall come out after us till we have drawn them from the city, as though saying, ‘They are fleeing before us as formerly.’ And we shall flee before them, [7](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-7.htm) then you shall rise from the ambush and seize the city. **And יהוה your Elohim shall give it into your hand**. [8](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-8.htm) And it shall be, when you capture the city, that you burn the city with fire. Do according to the word of יהוה. See, I have commanded you.’ [9](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-9.htm) And Yehoshua sent them out. And they went to lie in ambush, and stayed between Bĕyth Ěl and Ai, on the west side of Ai. But Yehoshua stayed that night in the midst of the people. [10](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-10.htm) And Yehoshua rose up early in the morning and inspected the people, and went up, he and the elders of Yisra’ĕl, before the people to Ai. [11](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-11.htm) And all the soldiers who were with him went up and drew near, and came before the city and camped on the north side of Ai, with the valley between them and Ai. [12](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-12.htm) And he took about five thousand men and set them in ambush between Bĕyth Ěl and Ai, on the west side of the city. [13](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-13.htm) So they stationed the people, all the army that was on the north of the city, and its rear guard on the west of the city, and Yehoshua went that night into the midst of the valley.

[14](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-14.htm) And it came to be, when the sovereign of Ai saw it, that the men of the city hastened and rose up early and went out against Yisra’ĕl to battle, he and all his people, at an appointed place before the desert plain. But he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city. [15](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-15.htm) And Yehoshua and all Yisra’ĕl let themselves be beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness. [16](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-16.htm) And all the people who were in Ai were called together to pursue them. And they pursued Yehoshua and were drawn away from the city. [17](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-17.htm) So there was not a man left in Ai or Bĕyth Ěl who did not go out after Yisra’ĕl, and they left the city open and pursued Yisra’ĕl. [18](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-18.htm) And יהוה said to Yehoshua, `Stretch out the spear that is in your hand toward Ai, for I give it into your hand.’ And Yehoshua stretched out the spear that he had in his hand toward the city,[19](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-19.htm) and the ambush rose up quickly from their place, and they ran at the stretching out of his hand, and entered the city and took it, and hastened to burn the city with fire. [20](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-20.htm) And the men of Ai looked behind them and saw the smoke of the city rising to the heavens. And there was no power in them to flee this way or that way, for the people who had fled to the wilderness turned back on the pursuers. [21](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-21.htm) For when Yehoshua and all Yisra’ĕl saw that the ambush had captured the city and that the smoke of the city went up, they turned back and smote the men of Ai. [22](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-22.htm) The others also came out of the city against them, so they were in the midst of Yisra’ĕl, some on this side and some on that side. And they smote them until none were left, and none had escaped. [23](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-23.htm) But the sovereign of Ai they caught alive, and brought him to Yehoshua. [24](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-24.htm) And it came to be, when Yisra’ĕl ended slaying all the inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness where they pursued them, and when they all had fallen by the edge of the sword until they were consumed, that all the Yisra’ĕlites returned to Ai and smote it with the edge of the sword. [25](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-25.htm) And it came to be that all who fell that day, both men and women, were twelve thousand – all men of Ai. [26](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-26.htm) **And Yehoshua did not draw back his hand, with which he stretched out the spear, until he had put all the inhabitants of Ai under the ban.** [27](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-27.htm) Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Yisra’ĕl took as booty for themselves, according to the word of יהוה which He had commanded Yehoshua. [28](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-28.htm) And Yehoshua burned Ai and made it a heap forever, a ruin to this day. [29](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-29.htm) And he hanged the sovereign of Ai on a tree until evening. And at sunset Yehoshua commanded that they should take his corpse down from the tree, and throw it at the entrance of the gate of the city, and raise over it a great heap of stones, to this day. [30](https://biblehub.com/joshua/8-30.htm) And Yehoshua built an altar to יהוה Elohim of Yisra’ĕl in Mount Ěyḇal,…”

**THIS IS A POWERFUL TESTIMONY OF ADHERING TO THE PLUMB LINE OF YAHUWAH AND HIS REPONSE TO THEIR OBEDIENCE TO HIM!**

**AMOS 7:7-8**: 7 “This is what He showed me, and see, יהוה stood on a wall made with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in His hand, 8 and יהוה said to me, `Amos, what do you see?’ And I said, `A plumb-line.’ And יהוה said, `See, I am setting a plumb-line in the midst of My people Yisra’ĕl, no longer do I pardon them.’ ”

 Today, He is setting a plumb line in the midst of His people. Those that are straight with His plumb line will have His help, those crooked will not.

**WHAT A LESSON FOR US TODAY**!

 Today so-called believers in the lollypop Greco-Roman culture of western affluent nations make hundreds of excuses as to why they don’t totally follow the commands of Yahuwah--why they believe what they believe that is contrary to His Word. They follow few commands of the Master Yahushua also. Yet, Yahushua Messiah is the One who spoke the Torah from Mount Sinai, the very Word of Abba Yahuwah, for all mankind. (**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**)

 On that day that would become Sha’vu’ot/Pentecost, Yahushua set down the rules of heaven, rules of Yahuwah, for right standing in the Kingdom of Light. The Ten Commandment given to Moses on clay tablets are His outline of requirements for what He must have in His Bride.

 **Revelation 12:17** and **14:12-13** are just a few reminders that we must not stop with just believe in Jesus/Yeshua/Yahushua for salvation – the Lamb of Yahuwah – His death for us and His resurrection - but go on to obey Him as His ambassadors on earth, and go on to obey His instructions – the instructions of His Father – written in the Tenach.

 **John 3:35-36** the words of Yochanan/John the baptizer: 35 “The Father loves the Son, and has given all into His hand. 36 He who **believes** in the Son possesses everlasting life, but he who does not **obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of Elohim remains on him.”

 This is correctly translated in *The Scriptures*. There are two different words used, one for “belief,” and another for “obey.” Both are required for the Spirit to be able to work with us our salvation.

 Obedience brings blessing – not obedience according to man’s opinions of religious correctness, but obedience to the Word of Yahuwah and Yahushua.

 However, please know that obedience must be carried out with the nature, ways, and thinking of Yahuwah and Yahushua – directed by the Spirit of Yahuwah from within our re-born spirit, filled with His Spirit. He is merciful, patient, loving, and kind. Let us be so to the unsaved, and to those Christians not yet fully walking with the Master because of former wrong teaching. “Prayer changes things!”

 Our obedience is based on love and fear of displeasing a heavenly Father who is so good, and displeasing the One He loves most – His Son. He is not calling us to religiosity! Yahuwah and Son are Persons to know and love. Throw out pride that accompanies religious spirits. Act because you know the Master and He knows you!

 We lay down our life to submit to the Spirit of Yahuwah to serve Him because we respect Him, and fear losing His Presence within us. (**Psalm 111:10**)

 Now more than ever, we must not presume upon Him! He is Elohim, we are not! We must bow the knee to His will! We must not do as we think by our own reasoning is right and expect Him to bless us! Akin thought that one little grabbing of what pleased his eyes was OK – surely God wouldn’t judge him for that! This type of reasoning is among those that do not know Yahuwah the Most High!

 We must not go beyond the Word of Yahuwah in our thoughts or actions! We must never make excuses for our going our own way! We must not judge others but keep our own lives clean (**Romans 2:1-2**)

 Though Akan repented, he still had to be judged as an example to all others to obey Yahuwah. “Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap!”

 Let the Spirit do as He wills. Put no judgment on anyone. He alone is Judge, while we cooperate with Him as He wills.
 “Casting down reasoning and every high thing that exalts itself against Yahuwah” is wisdom! (**II Corinthians 10:3-6**)

 Going into battle without His protective armor is sure death. But, with that protective armor, we must be walking in His nature, ways, and thinking also!

 Today, we are in the greatest battle the world has ever known against the forces of darkness.

 THE INHABITANTS OF JERICHO, OF AI, AND OF ALL THE CITIES THEY DESTROYED **WERE NOT HUMANS**! THEY WERE HYBRIDS--PART HUMAN PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY, BUT ALSO PART NEPHILIM - OF THE FALLEN ANGELS. THE ORDERS TO JOSHUA TO KILL MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND ANIMALS IN **JOSHUA 11-12** WAS TO GET RID OF THE CONTAMINATED SPIRITLESS HYBRID BEINGS. IF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL/JACOB HAD INTERMARRIED WITH THEM, THEY WOULD HAVE POLLUED THE GENE POOL OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB!

 Today our world is being flooded with fallen angels, their offspring, mutants, and hybrids of their intermixing, as they did before the Flood. No, today, we have no command to kill them! They are serving the purposes of Yahuwah for a while longer, as He separates the wheat from the tares.

 The earth is filled with these spiritless beings who look human, but are not. It is our spirit, within our midst of us (breastbone to stomach area), that makes us human--able to have eternal life. It is the spirit man, that if born-again, has the ability to dwell in the heavenly Kingdom of Yahuwah by faith, and live there forever after passing from this world.

 Do you see how Joshua handled things according to the justice of Yahuwah for the benefit of Yahuwah’s people? Yahuwah is Shaddai, Elyon, and we are not. We submit to Him. We don’t try to conform Him to man’s religious opinions! That is very, very dangerous! We must allow the Spirit of Yahuwah to transform us into His nature, ways, and thinking so that we are a united soul and spirit (a spirit-man within our body)--faithful obedient servants of the Most High without questioning.

 Read **Joshua 7 and 8**, and let the Spirit speak to you. Repent of being crooked to His plumb line as the Spirit convicts you of sin. Then allow Him to rule your life!

In His love, Yedidah

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