

From the book of

יִשׁוּעַ

The Sin of Achan and the Battle of Ai

The Book of Joshua:

This is what happened so far in the story:

1. Preparation for war (chapters 1-5)
2. The Battle of Jericho (ch 6)

Joshua had warned his soldiers not to keep any valuables from Jericho for themselves.



Joshua 6:18-19

- ¹⁸ And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.
- ¹⁹ But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

But much to God's displeasure,
one man disobeyed:

Joshua 7:1

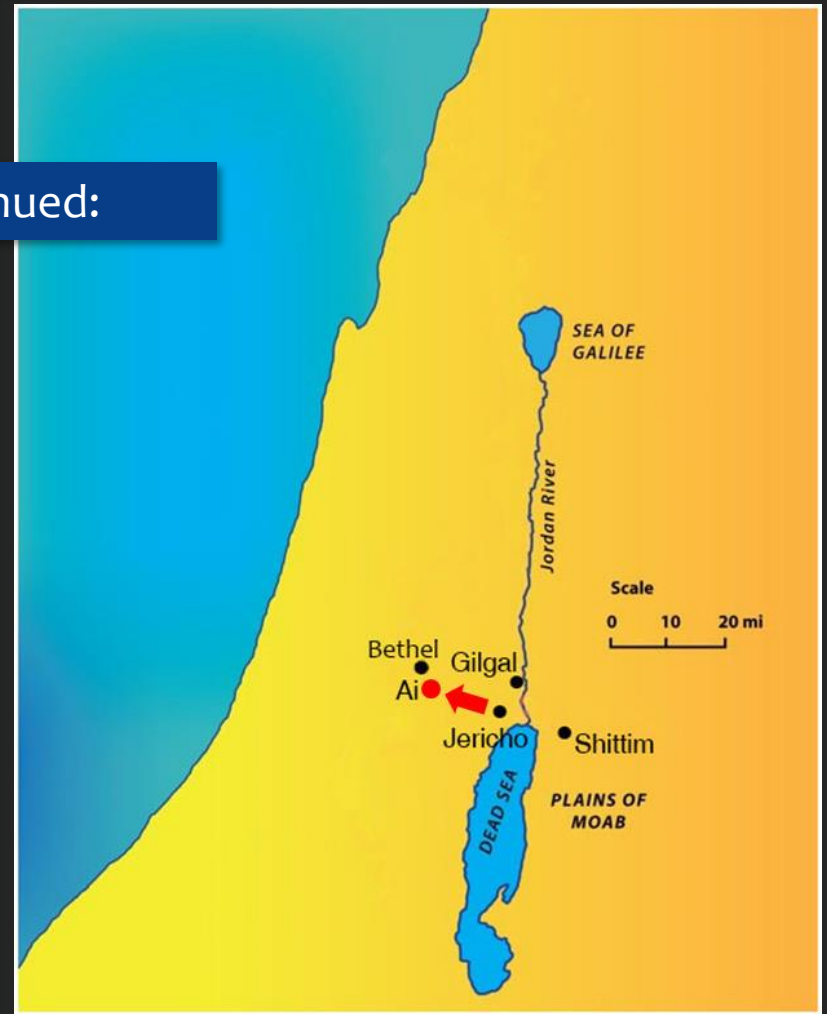
¹ But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.



Meanwhile, the battle for the Promised Land continued:

Joshua 7:2a

² And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east side of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country.



God's hand in the war of Jericho surely left the army brimming with confidence:

Joshua 6:20

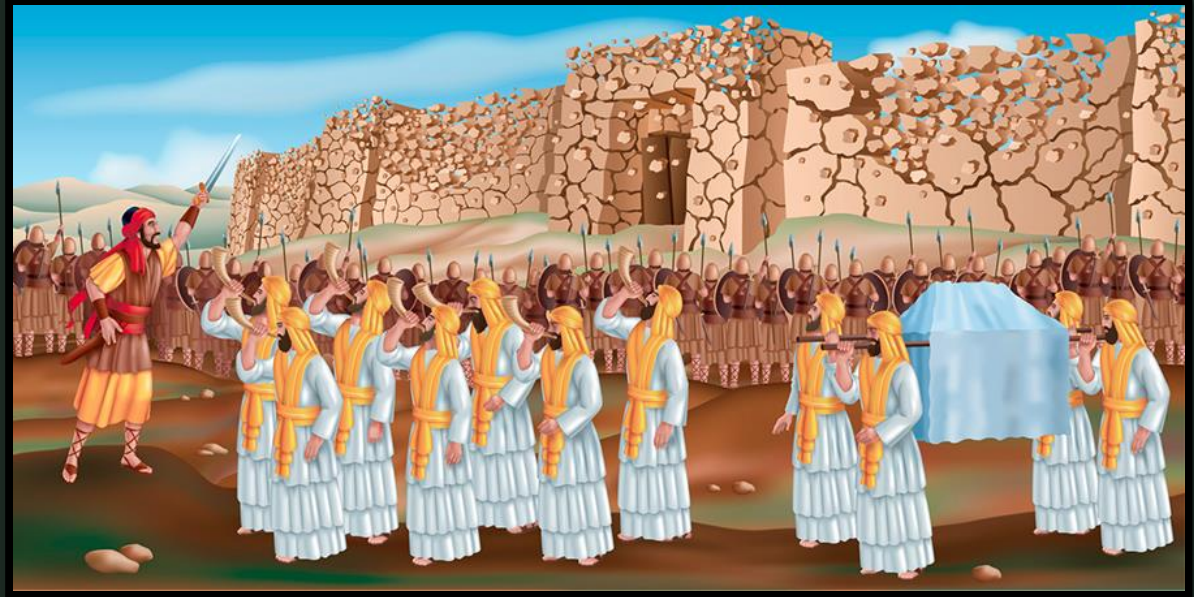
²⁰ So the people shouted when *the priests* blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.



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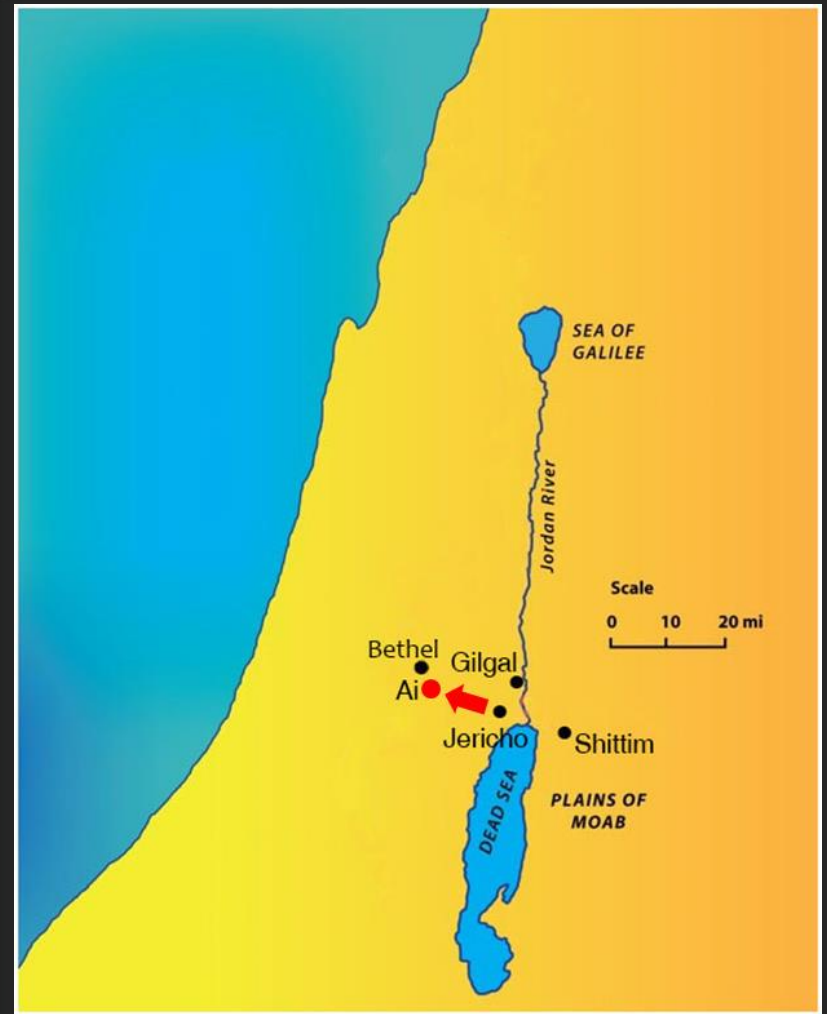
The spies predicted an easy win.

Joshua 7:2b-3

² And the men went up and viewed Ai.

³ And they returned to Joshua,
and said unto him,

Let not all the people go up;
but let about two or three thousand
men go up and smite Ai;
and make not all the people to labour
thither;
for they *are but* few.



Instead, Israel suffered a humiliating defeat.

Joshua 7:4-5

- 4 So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai.
- 5 And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them *from before the gate even unto Shebarim*, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.



Joshua sought the Lord to know why God had allowed this to happen.

Joshua 7:6-9

- ⁶ And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.
- ⁷ And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan!
- ⁸ O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies!
- ⁹ For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of *it*, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?



Joshua 7:10-12

- ¹⁰ And the LORD said unto Joshua,
Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?
- ¹¹ Israel hath sinned,
and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them:
for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen,
and dissembled also, and they have put *it* even among their own stuff.
- ¹² Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies,
but turned *their* backs before their enemies, because they were accursed:
neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.



Joshua 7:10-12

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but turned *their* backs before their enemies, because they were accursed:
neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.



Joshua 7:13

¹³ Up, sanctify the people, and say,
Sanctify yourselves against to morrow:
for thus saith the LORD God of Israel,
There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel:
thou canst not stand before thine enemies,
until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.



Joshua 7:14-15

- ¹⁴ In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, *that* the tribe which the LORD taketh shall come according to the families *thereof*; and the family which the LORD shall take shall come by households; and the household which the LORD shall take shall come man by man.
- ¹⁵ And it shall be, *that* he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath:
because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD,
and because he hath wrought folly in Israel.



Joshua 7:14-15

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WROUGHT FOLLY: committed an act of wickedness.



Joshua 7:16-18

- ¹⁶ So Joshua rose up early in the morning,
and brought Israel by their tribes;
and the tribe of Judah was taken:
- ¹⁷ And he brought the family of Judah;
and he took the family of the Zarahites:
and he brought the family of the Zarahites
man by man; and Zabdi was taken:
- ¹⁸ And he brought his household man by man;
and Achan, the son of Carmi,
the son of Zabdi,
the son of Zerah,
of the tribe of Judah, was taken.



Joshua 7:16-18

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the son of Zerah,
of the tribe of Judah, was taken.

Of the 12 tribes, only Judah.
Of Judah, the family of the Zerah.
Of Zerah, the family of Zabdi.
Of Zabdi, the family of Carmi.
Of Carmi, his son Achan.



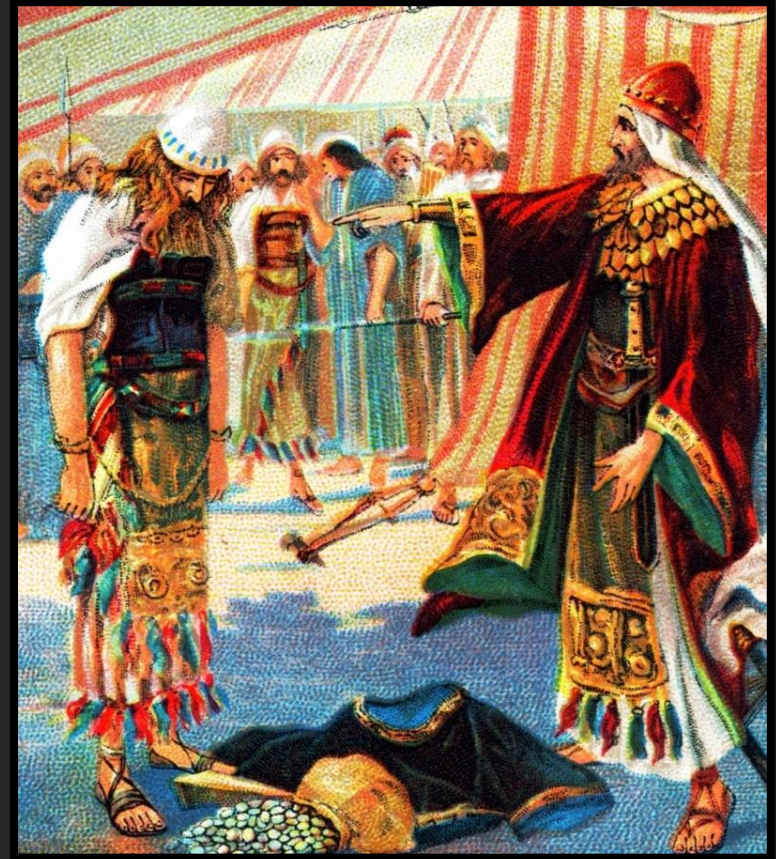
Joshua 7:19-21

- ¹⁹ And Joshua said unto Achan,
My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD
God of Israel, and make confession unto him;
and tell me now what thou hast done;
hide it not from me.
- ²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua, and said,
Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of
Israel, and thus and thus have I done:
- ²¹ When I saw among the spoils a goodly
Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels
of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels
weight, then I coveted them, and took them;
and, behold, they *are* hid in the earth in the
midst of my tent, and the silver under it.



Joshua 7:22-23

- ²² So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, *it was* hid in his tent, and the silver under it.
- ²³ And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.



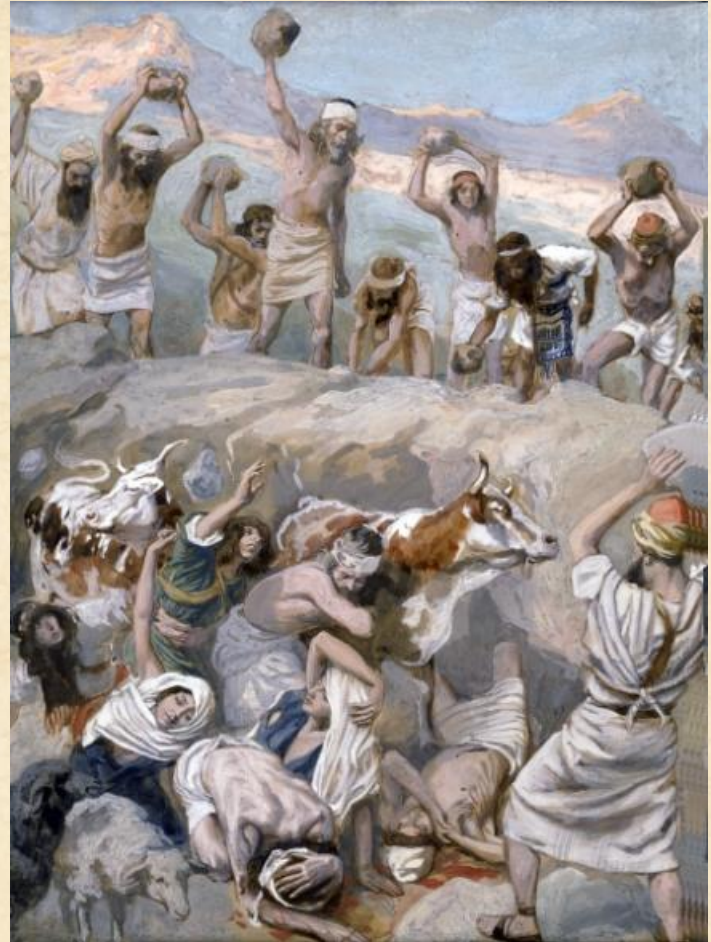
Joshua 7:24-26a

- ²⁴ And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor.
- ²⁵ And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.
- ²⁶ And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day.



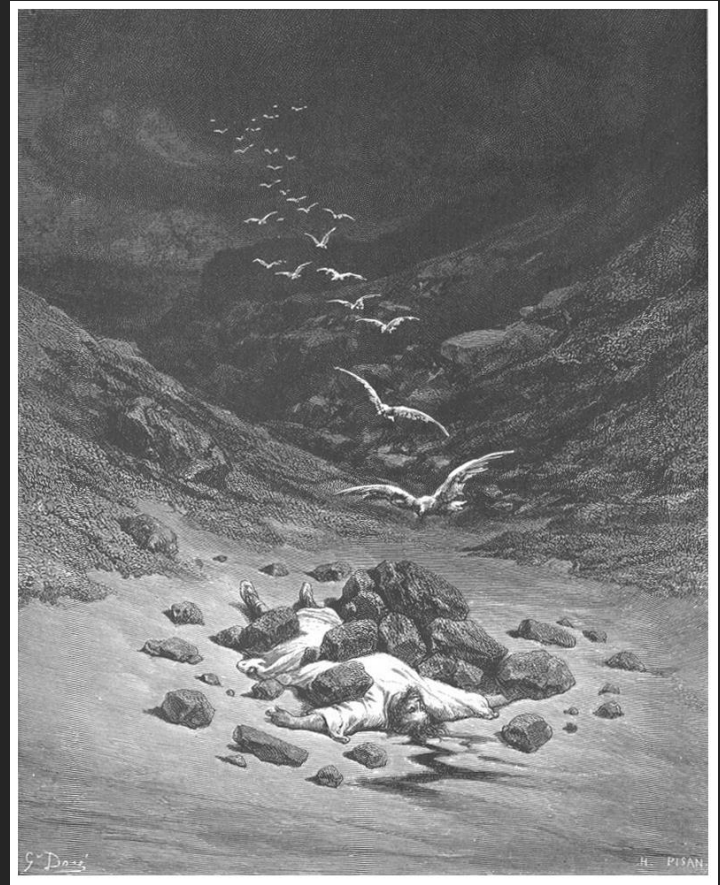
Joshua 7:24-26a

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Joshua 7:26b

²⁶ ... So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.



The Book of Joshua:

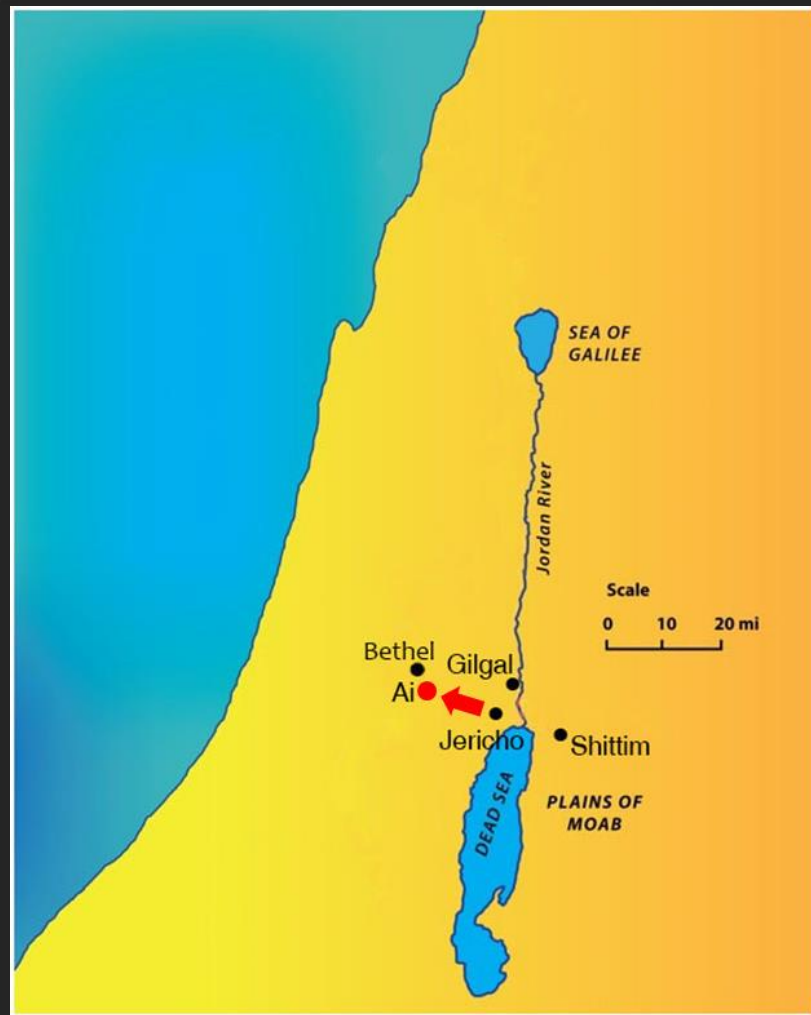
1. Preparation for war (chapters 1-5)
2. The Battle of Jericho (ch 6)
3. The Sin of Achan (ch 7)
4. The Battle of Ai (ch 8)

As for Ai, it still remained unconquered.

Joshua 8:1-2

- 1 And the LORD said unto Joshua,
Fear not, neither be thou dismayed:
take all the people of war with thee,
and arise, go up to Ai:
see, I have given into thy hand the king of
Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:
- 2 And thou shalt do to Ai and her king as thou
didst unto Jericho and her king:
only the spoil thereof, and the cattle
thereof, shall ye take for a prey unto
yourselves:

lay thee an ambush for the city behind it.



Through the guidance given to him by God, Joshua prepared his men to attack Ai.

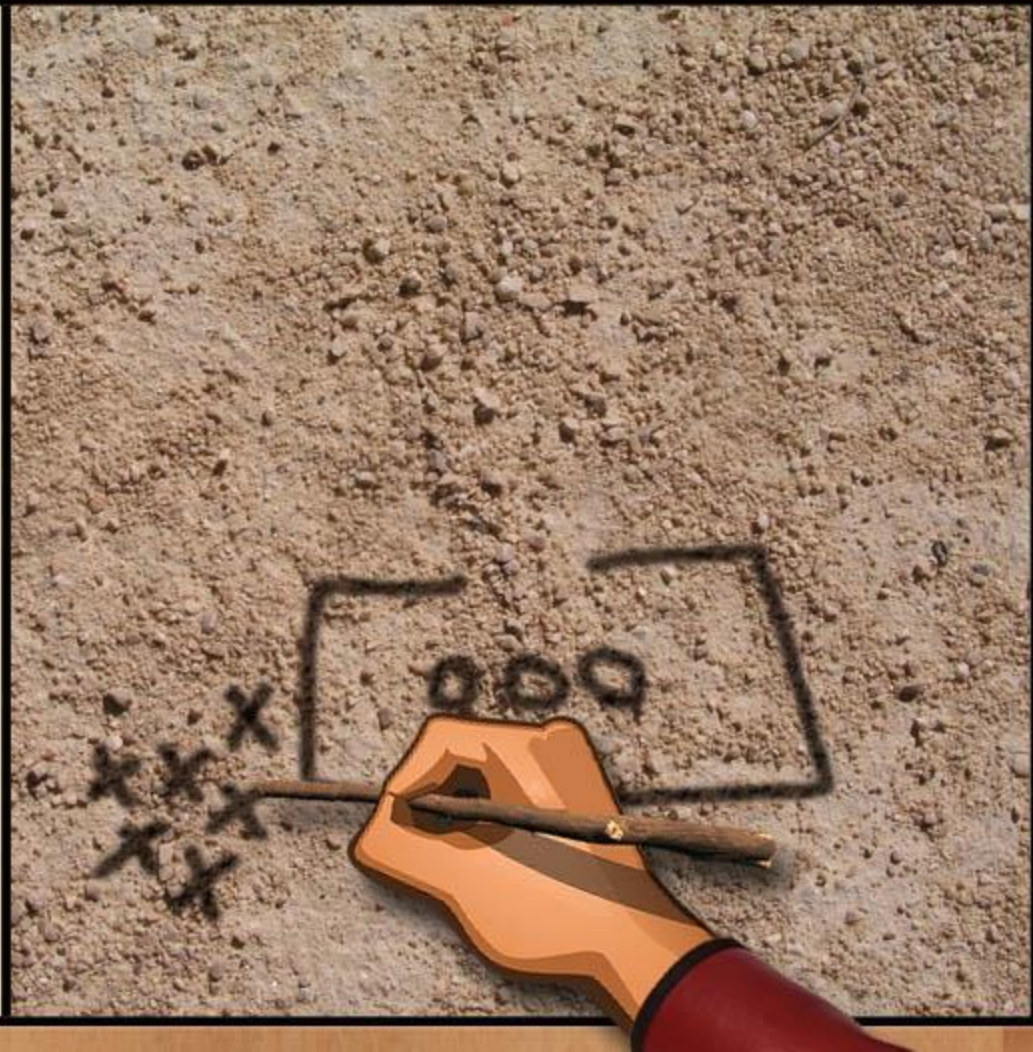
Joshua 8:3

³ So Joshua arose,
and all the people of
war,
to go up against Ai:
and Joshua chose out
thirty thousand mighty
men of valour,
and sent them away by
night.



Joshua 8:4

4 And he commanded them,
saying,
Behold, ye shall lie in wait
against the city,
even behind the city:
go not very far from the city,
but be ye all ready:



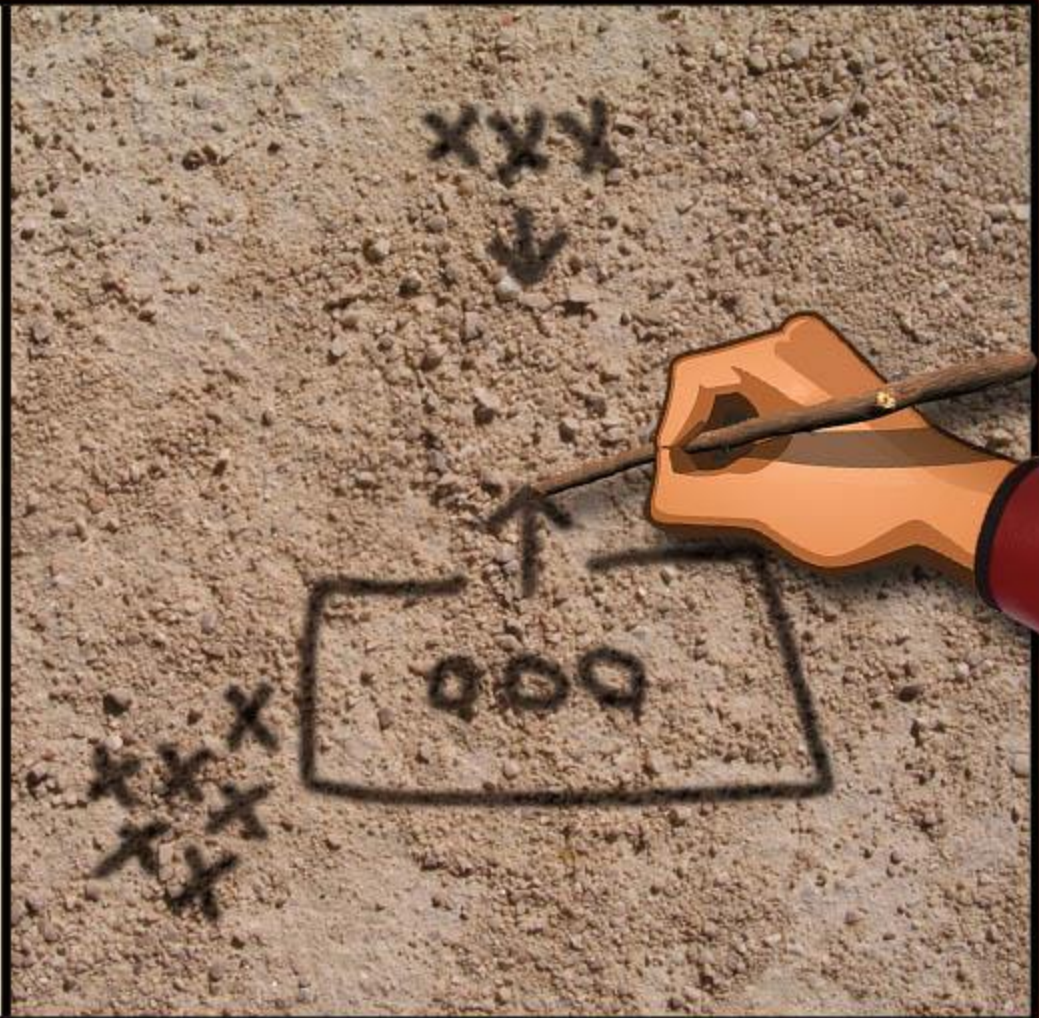
Joshua 8:5a

⁵ And I,
and all the people that *are*
with me,
will approach unto the city:



Joshua 8:5a

⁵ And I,
and all the people that *are*
with me,
will approach unto the city:
and it shall come to pass,
when they come out against us,
as at the first,



Joshua 8:5b-6

⁵ ... that we will flee before them,

⁶ (For they will come out after us)

till we have drawn them from
the city;

for they will say,
They flee before us,
as at the first:

therefore we will flee before
them.



Joshua 8:7

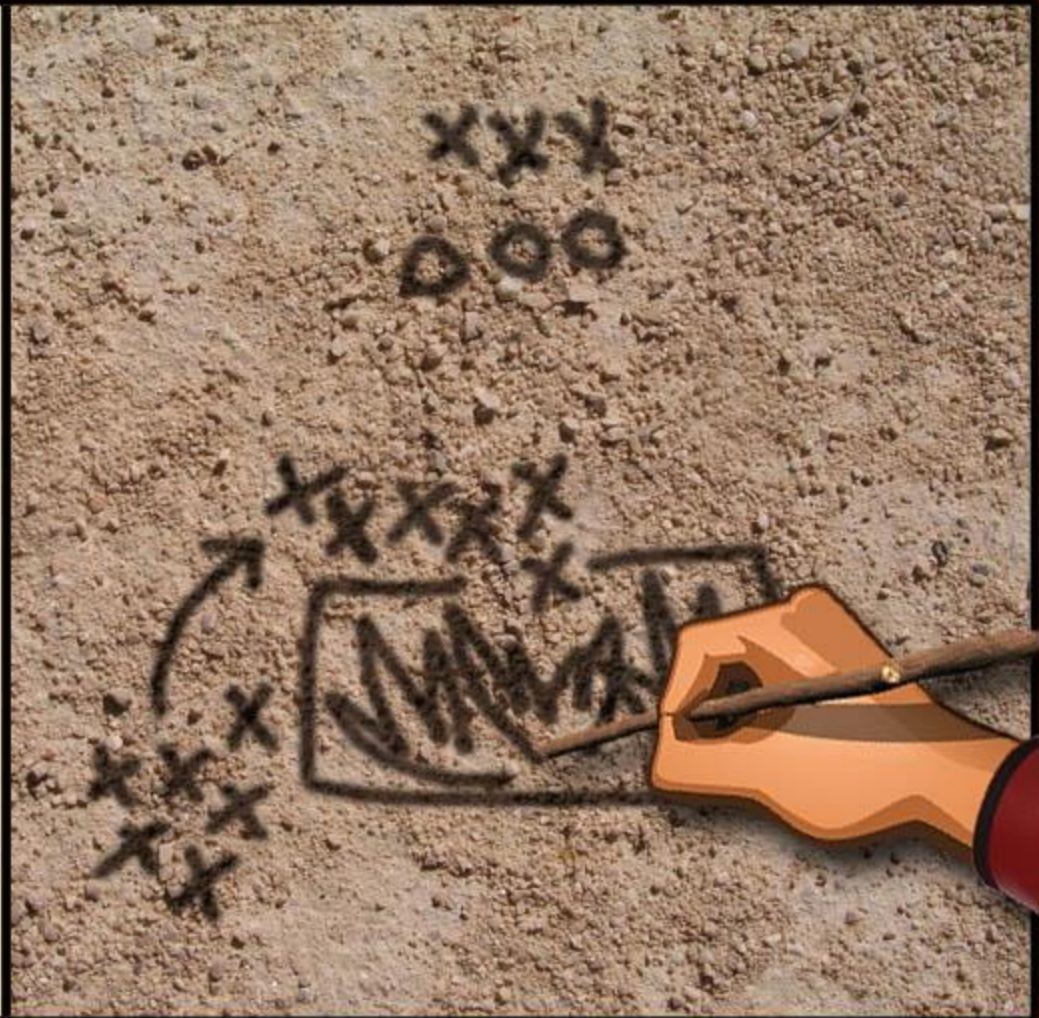
⁷ Then ye shall rise up from the ambush, and seize upon the city:
for the LORD your God will deliver it into your hand.



Joshua 8:8

⁸ And it shall be,
when ye have taken the city,
that ye shall set the city on fire:
according to the commandment
of the LORD shall ye do.

See, I have commanded you.



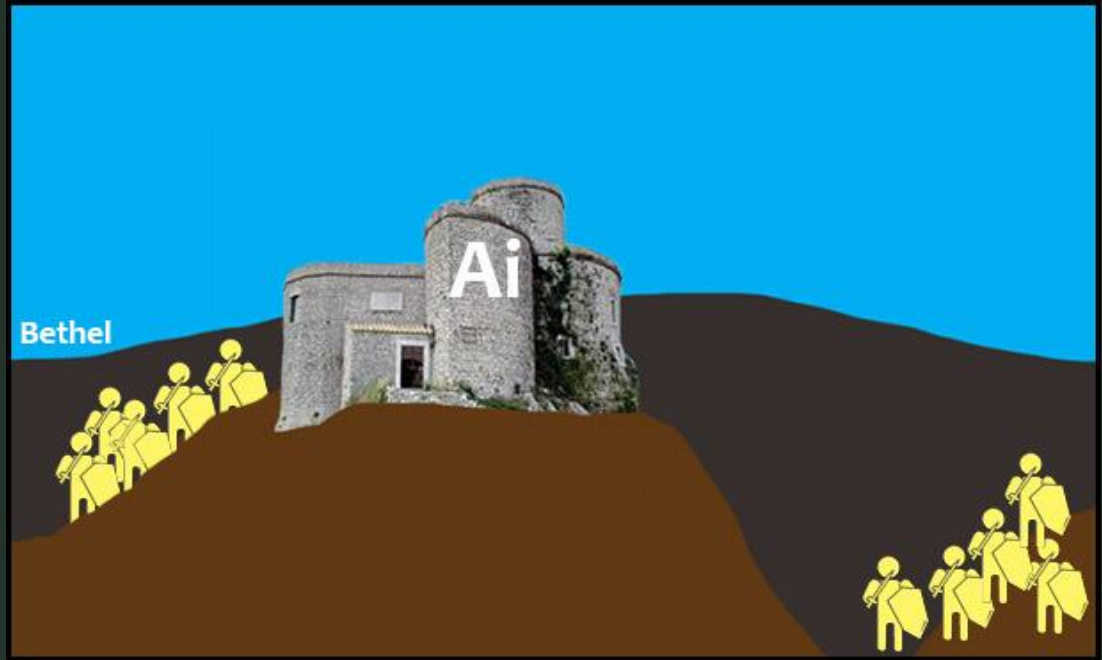
Joshua 8:9-11

- ⁹ Joshua therefore sent them forth:
and they went to lie in ambush,
and abode between Bethel and Ai,
on the west side of Ai:
but Joshua lodged that night among
the people.
- ¹⁰ And Joshua rose up early in the
morning, and numbered the people,
and went up, he and the elders of
Israel, before the people to Ai.
- ¹¹ And all the people, *even the people* of
war that *were* with him, went up, and
drew nigh, and came before the city,
and pitched on the north side of Ai:
now *there was* a valley between them
and Ai.



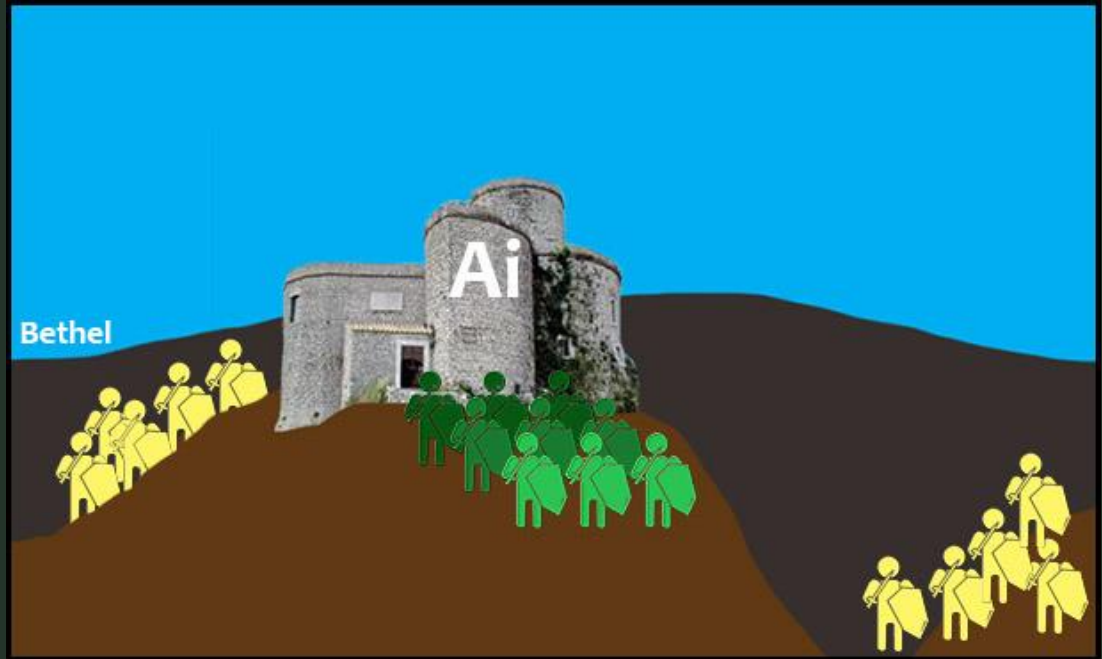
Joshua 8:12-13

- ¹² And he took about five thousand men, and set them to lie in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city.
- ¹³ And when they had set the people, even all the host that was on the north of the city, and their liers in wait on the west of the city, Joshua went that night into the midst of the valley.



Joshua 8:14

¹⁴ And it came to pass,
when the king of Ai saw it,
that they hasted and rose
up early,
and the men of the city
went out against Israel to
battle,
he and all his people,
at a time appointed,
before the plain;
but he wist not that *there*
were liers in ambush
against
him behind the city.



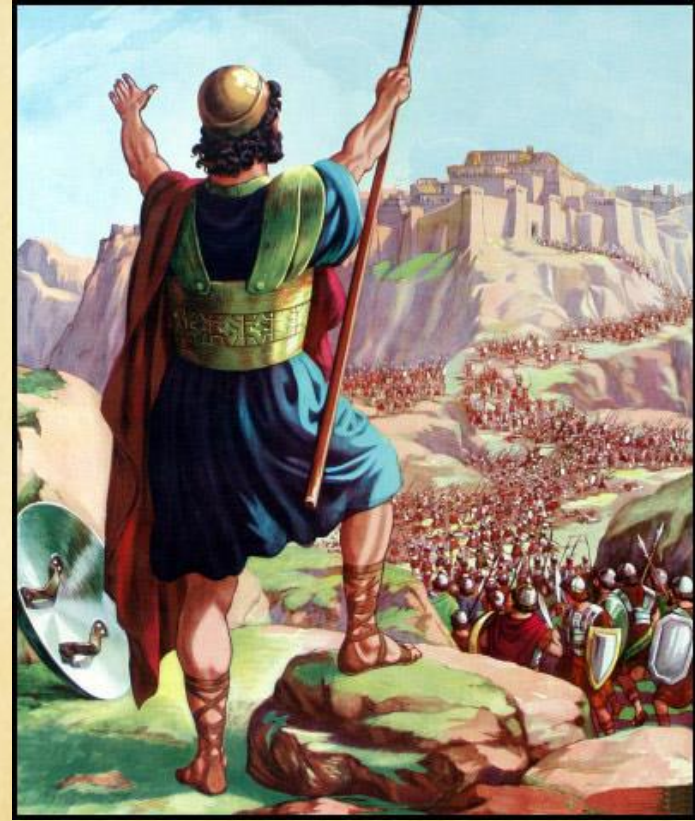
Joshua 8:15-17

- ¹⁵ And Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness.
- ¹⁶ And all the people that were in Ai were called together to pursue after them:
and they pursued after Joshua,
and were drawn away from the city.
- ¹⁷ And there was not a man left in Ai or Bethel, that went not out after Israel:
and they left the city open,
and pursued after Israel.



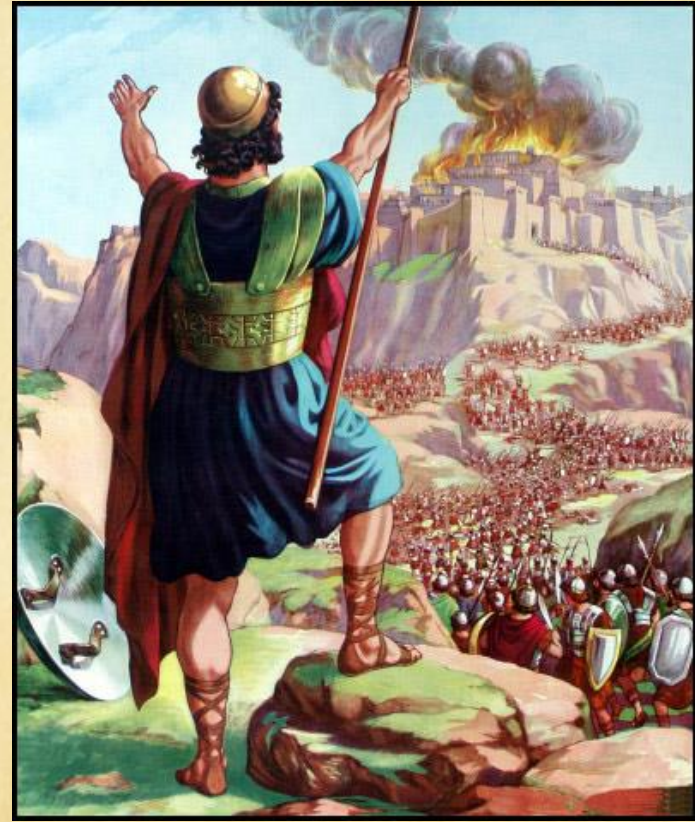
Joshua 8:18-19

- ¹⁸ And the LORD said unto Joshua,
Stretch out the spear that *is* in thy
hand toward Ai;
for I will give it into thine hand.
And Joshua stretched out the spear
that *he had* in his hand toward the city.
- ¹⁹ And the ambush arose quickly out of
their place, and they ran as soon as he
had stretched out his hand:
and they entered into the city,
and took it,
and hasted and set the city on fire.



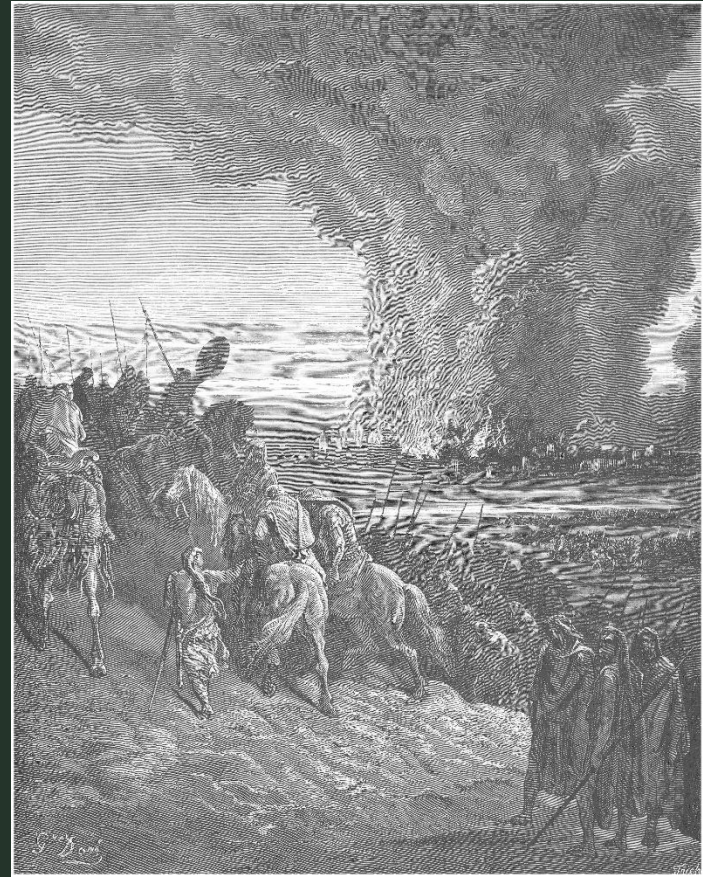
Joshua 8:20-21

- ²⁰ And when the men of Ai looked behind them, they saw, and, behold, the smoke of the city ascended up to heaven, and they had no power to flee this way or that way: and the people that fled to the wilderness turned back upon the pursuers.
- ²¹ And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city, and that the smoke of the city ascended, then they turned again, and slew the men of Ai.



Joshua 8:22-23

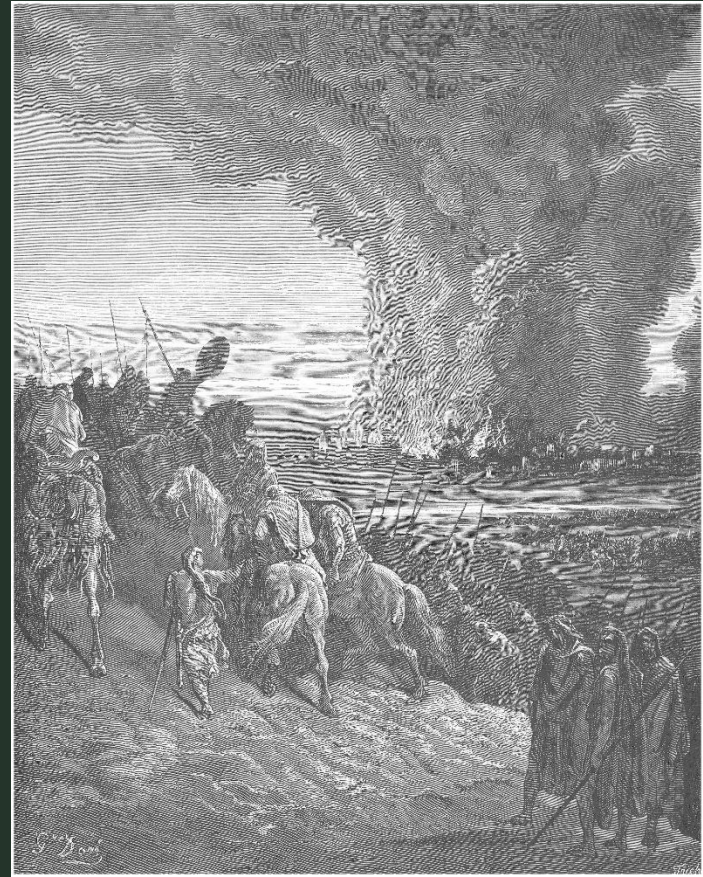
- ²² And the other issued out of the city against them; so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side: and they smote them, so that they let none of them remain or escape.
- ²³ And the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him to Joshua.



Joshua 8:24-25

²⁴ And it came to pass, when Israel had made an end of slaying all the inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness wherein they chased them, and when they were all fallen on the edge of the sword, until they were consumed, that all the Israelites returned unto Ai, and smote it with the edge of the sword.

²⁵ And so it was, *that* all that fell that day, both of men and women, were twelve thousand, even all the men of Ai.



Joshua 8:26-27

- ²⁶ For Joshua drew not his hand back, wherewith he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai.
- ²⁷ Only the cattle and the spoil of that city Israel took for a prey unto themselves, according unto the word of the LORD which he commanded Joshua.



Joshua 8:28-29

- ²⁸ And Joshua burnt Ai,
and made it an heap for ever,
even a desolation unto this day.
- ²⁹ And the king of Ai he hanged on a
tree until eventide:
and as soon as the sun was down,
Joshua commanded that they
should take his carcase down from
the tree, and cast it at the entering
of the gate of the city, and raise
thereon a great heap of stones,
that remaineth unto this day.



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Twice in these two chapters –
first over the man who brought a
cursed thing into the camp, and
all his family,
and second over the defeated
king.





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