

# Joshua 8: Covenant Renewal

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

# JOSHUA 8: COVENANT RENEWAL

## Last week

- Small force sent to Ai
- 36 Killed and 3000 sent running
- Leader in crisis – ‘Get Up’
- Discovery of sin – needs to be addressed
- Achan – sin revealed
- Penalty delivered

# JOSHUA 8: COVENANT RENEWAL

“And the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land. <sup>2</sup> And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves. Lay an ambush against the city, behind it.” **Joshua 8:1-2**

# JOSHUA 8: COVENANT RENEWAL

## 1. Not Disqualified from Future

### a) Lead On

- don't be afraid, discouraged

### b) Take Everyone

- together you will participate

### c) Return to Ai

- back with my leading, new result

### d) Spoil is Yours

- my promise remains

# JOSHUA 8: COVENANT RENEWAL

Joshua 8:3-29

## 2. Victory Delivered

### a) Specific Instructions

- strategy from God ... do this.....

### b) Obedient People

- they did .....

### c) Victory Granted

- God delivered

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**Joshua 8:22** “And the others came out from the city against them, so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side. And Israel struck them down, until there was left none that survived or escaped.”

**Joshua 8:25** “And all who fell that day, both men and women, were 12,000, all the people of Ai. <sup>26</sup> But Joshua did not draw back his hand with which he stretched out the javelin until he had devoted all the inhabitants of Ai to destruction.”

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**Joshua 8:30-35** “<sup>30</sup> At that time Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, <sup>31</sup> just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, “an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool.” And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings. <sup>32</sup> And there, in the presence of the people of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.

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<sup>33</sup> And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel. <sup>34</sup> And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law.

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<sup>35</sup> There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.”

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## 3. Covenant Renewal

- Mt. Gerizim, Mt. Ebal – natural amphitheatre
- blessings – Gerizim, curses – Ebal

### a) Done God's Way

- 'obedience is to be explicit, not creative!'
- 'careful to build the altar as commanded'

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**Exd 20:24-25** “An altar of earth you shall make for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you. <sup>25</sup>If you make me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stones, for if you wield your tool on it you profane it.”

- God clear about how to approach him, offer covering for sin, show obedience

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## **b) Done in Community**

- vs. 32 “presence of all the people”
- vs. 33 “all Israel, sojourner, native born”
- vs. 35 “all the assembly, women, little ones, sojourners”

## **c) Word and Presence of God Central**

- ark in the center, all eyes on God
- copied the Law – in front of them

# JOSHUA 8: COVENANT RENEWAL

- Blessed the People – as scripture specified 33b
- read all the words of the law
- “not a word Moses commanded he did not read”

“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you (high above all the nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.” **Deut 28**

# JOSHUA 8: COVENANT RENEWAL

**Deut. 28:15** ““But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. <sup>16</sup> Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. <sup>17</sup> Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. <sup>18</sup> Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. <sup>19</sup> Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.”

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## SO WHAT?

### 1. Good News – Not Disqualified

- relate to Achan – saw, coveted, took, hid
- wrath of God satisfied in Cross of Christ
- 1 John 1:9 – significant truth
- Lead on – do not be discouraged or afraid

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## 2. Remember it is God's to Deliver

- not ours to take – God's to give
- receive instruction, be obedient
- **1 John 5:1-3** “Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. <sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome”

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## 3. Covenant Renewal Today

### a) God Decides

- chose a covenant people – set apart
- chose the way for relationship
- chose the mark of the covenant
- invites you to check your heart, participate

# JOSHUA 8: COVENANT RENEWAL

## **b) Done in Community**

- chosen to make us a body, family
- to build up, correct, respond together
- need each other, designed by God

## **c) Focus on Word & Presence of God**

- obedient to His commands
- responding to His leading

**Communion**