### Joshua

## Chapter 8

1Then Jehovah said to JoShua:  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid or tremble anymore; for, now you must take all the men of war and return to Gai. Look; I’ve given the king of Gai and his land into your hands!  
  
 2‘So you must do to Gai as you did to JeriCho and its king; however, [this time] you may take their cattle.  
  
 ‘Now, go and set up an ambush behind the city.’  
  
3Therefore, JoShua got the men of war ready to go to Gai. He chose 30,000 mighty men and sent them during the night, 4giving them these orders:  
  
 ‘Wait in ambush behind the city… Don’t go too far, and everyone must be ready.  
  
 5‘Then I’ll take [a group] up to the city [gate]; And when the people of Gai come out to meet us, we’re going to turn and run from them, 6so they’ll chase after us and leave the city… For they’ll think that we’re running from them as we did before.  
  
 7‘That’s when those lying in ambush must get up and enter the city. 8You must do exactly as I’ve commanded you!’  
  
9So JoShua sent them on, and they waited in ambush to the west of Gai, between BethEl and Gai.  
  
  
10Well, early the next morning, JoShua got up and counted off the people. Then he and the elders went up to face the people of Gai, 11approaching it from the east, 12as the rest hid in ambush to the west of the city.  
  
13[verse 13 not present in LXX source]  
  
14And when the king of Gai saw them, he and all his people rushed out to meet them head on, not realizing that an ambush had formed behind their city. 15Then JoShua and IsraEl turned and retreated from them, 16and they chased the children of IsraEl for some distance, 17which left very few people inside Gai… They’d left the city wide open as everyone was out chasing IsraEl.  
  
18Then Jehovah said to JoShua:  
  
 ‘Now, raise the spear that’s in your hand towards the city, for I’ve given it into your hands.  
  
 ‘Those who are hiding must quickly get up and enter it.’  
  
19So then JoShua raised his spear towards the city, and when those who were hiding in ambush saw him raise his spear, they quickly arose and entered the city, capturing it and setting it on fire.  
  
20Well, when the inhabitants of Gai turned around and looked back, they saw the smoke from their city rising high into the sky, and they [realized] that they then had nowhere to run.  
  
21And when JoShua and all IsraEl saw that the city had been taken and its smoke was rising into the sky, they turned around and started cutting down the men of Gai. 22Then the men [who were burning] the city came out and attacked them from their rear, cutting them all down until no one was left… Not a survivor or an escapee!  
  
23They also captured the king of Gai and brought him before JoShua.  
  
24Well, after the children of IsraEl had finished killing everyone in Gai in the fields and on the descent from its mountain where they’d started chasing them, JoShua returned to Gai and cut down all those who remained with his sword. 25So, 12,000 inhabitants of Gai fell and were destroyed that day (both the men and the women).  
  
26[verse 26 not present in LXX source]  
  
27Then the children of IsraEl took all their cattle and they looted the city for themselves, following the instructions that Jehovah had given to JoShua.  
  
  
28Thereafter, JoShua finished burning the city. He turned it into an uninhabitable pile of rubble, which is how it’s remained throughout the ages down to today.  
  
29Then he hung the king of Gai [on a tree] and left [his body] there until the evening. But after the sun set, JoShua gave instructions to take his body down, and they threw it into a pit and piled a heap of rocks over it, [which can still be seen] today.  
  
30Then JoShua built an altar to Jehovah the God of IsraEl on Mount Ebal, 31just as Moses (Jehovah’s servant) had commanded the children of IsraEl, like it’s written in the Law of Moses... It was an altar made of rocks that hadn’t been cut or touched by iron. And there he sacrificed whole burnt offerings and a peace offering to Jehovah.  
  
  
32Thereafter, JoShua inscribed the Law of Moses on those rocks in front of all the children of IsraEl.  
  
33Then everyone in IsraEl (including their elders, judges, and scribes) filed past the [Sacred] Chest, passing on either side, as the Levite Priests were carrying the Chest of the Sacred Agreement of Jehovah.  
  
  
And after that, all the native [IsraElites] and the aliens were divided into two groups:  
  
Half were stationed near Mount GiriZim, and the other half were stationed near Mount Ebal, just as Moses (Jehovah’s servant) had commanded, so as to receive the first blessings on the people.  
  
34Then JoShua read all the words of the Law… all the blessings and curses that were written in the Law of Moses.  
  
35There wasn’t a word that Moses had said to JoShua that wasn’t read within the hearing of the entire assembly of the children of IsraEl… The men, the women, the children, and all the aliens that had joined themselves to IsraEl.