



Joshua 10

I picked this chapter specifically because God answered Joshua's request. However, really, this chapter is the result of failure. In chapter 6 we have Joshua being instructed by the Lord on how to take Jericho. God specifically told Joshua not to take any spoils. What I noticed is that in the beginning of chapter 7, Joshua does not have a dialogue with God. He assumes he can just take the city of Ai all by himself. Unbeknown to Joshua, this lack of Godly talk went even further. There was sin in his camp.

God had said "yes" to Joshua. You will take the land. So, why were they defeated at the beginning of chapter 7 of Joshua? It's two things. One is that Joshua figured that after Jericho he was the boss now. God helped them take Jericho and now he could command an attack on Ai himself. Secondly, one of the men named Achan had kept spoils from Jericho. God had specifically told them not to do that. I even wonder if Joshua was lax on that order.

As you go deeper into the Kings of Israel, dialogue with God gets smaller and smaller after Solomon. Yet, in a way, the backing away from God even begins with Joshua. He does not inquire of God about taking the city of Ai. Also, he assumes he can take it with a lack luster group of fighters. Joshua is defeated. He is frustrated and rips his clothes. Then, and only then he inquires of the Lord. Now God has his attention. So, yes, God will say "yes", but it has to be his way.

Is God saying “yes” to get his own way? It’s not that. It’s just that God knows the right way. God wants us to trust him. To give us the best outcome. Sometimes we must fail to win. God allowed Joshua to fail to get his attention. You will notice right after that talk by God (about the sin of Israel) Joshua came back bolder and more patient. Sometimes we just need to be put back on track.

After Joshua dismantles Ai, there is great fear of them in the region. Joshua then makes an alliance with another great city of Gibeon. Five kings surrounding this area decided to take matters into their own hands and attack that city. The king Gibeon asks Joshua to help him. You can see all the dialogue between the Lord and Joshua now. At one point in Joshua 10:12-13 God made the sun and moon stand still in the battle. They are working together.

I will say that the description of the battle is long. Joshua kicked them all pretty hard. He left no stone unturned. In the meantime, God has guaranteed him victory. It says in verse 42 that the Lord fought for Israel and gained their victory. The point of this story and all the previous battles is God. When Joshua involved God, they won. When the tribe of Israel put God first and followed his commands they won.

God will say “yes” when we do it the right way. Trust in the Lord is paramount. I even think that is why God was so mad about Achan keeping the spoils. It was more than just disobeying a command to keep nothing. The verses say that Achan hid it. It also says that his eyes were enticed by the Gold. I just think God wanted the Israelites to take the land for God and not for any other reasons. Reasons that would drive them away from God.

A final thought. Luke 12:21 “*So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.*” Jesus tells a parable of a rich man who stores his treasure. It’s

assumed he did not store God as his treasure. If you read this parable you will see the similarities to our Joshua story. God wanted Joshua and the nation Israel to value him. To use him. God did not want them to be distracted by other things that don't matter. Joshua 6-10 is a great lesson on being a Christian and what that means. God will say "yes" but be careful why your heart wants a "yes" in the first place.