

3c. Besides those, what about days such as Memorial Day and Fourth of July?

4a. Compare these stones with the Passover with respect to purpose (Ex. 12:14, 26-27; 13:3-10).

4b. Compare also the significance of the Lord's supper for Christians (I Cor. 11:23-26).

5. What is the meaning of "feared" in v. 14?

6. What indicates that Jehovah wanted to be known not only by that generation of Israelites, but also by future generations and by other peoples of the earth? Cite verses.

Lesson Two | Joshua 5-8

Effect of the Miraculous Crossing on the Kings of Canaan (5:1)

What was the effect of the miraculous crossing of Jordan on the heathen kings? Give the Biblical language and then explain the effect in your own words.

Circumcision of the Israelites (5:2-9)

1a. What had to be done after the crossing of Jordan?

1b. Why was it necessary?

2a. What was the significance of circumcision? See Gen. 17:1-14.

2b. What would seem to be demonstrated by the circumcising of the Israelites on this occasion? Compare the explanation given in Joshua 5: 9. Explain this statement in the light of Ex. 32:12, Num. 14:13-16, Deut. 9:28 & Zeph. 2:8. Include in your explanation:

(1) What is meant by "the reproach of Egypt"?

(2) Why was the reproach of Egypt upon them?

(3) What now takes that reproach away?

Keeping of the Passover and Cessation of the Manna (5:10-12)

1. What else was done at Gilgal? (v. 10).

2. When did the manna cease, and why? (vv. 11-12).

Joshua's Vision (5:13-15)

1a. Who appeared to Joshua?

- 1b. Who was this person? Is it a manifestation of Jehovah? (Cf. 6:2, where evidently this person continues to speak.)
- 1c. How is this appearance connected with Exodus 3:5? Does that help to identify the person?
2. What is meant by "the host of Jehovah" (v. 14)? For help, see also First Kings 22:19, Psalms 103:19-21 & 148:2.
3. What is the purpose of this appearance?¹

Conquest and Destruction of Jericho (Ch. 6)

- 1a. Describe how Israel captured the city of Jericho.
- 1b. Was there any natural connection between the things commanded to be done and the fall of the walls?
- 1c. What was shown by Israel's obedience? See Heb. 11:30.
- 1d. How does this history compare with and illustrate the relation between baptism and the forgiveness of sins taught in the New Testament? (Acts 2:38).
2. Jericho is described as a gift of God to Israel (vv. 2, 16). It is sometimes argued that since salvation is a gift of God (Eph.

¹ The drawn sword would seem to be a clue. Some other help might be obtained from such passages as Joshua 7:12, 10:10-11 & 10:42.

2:8-9), baptism cannot be necessary to salvation. The argument is that if persons do anything in order to be saved, then salvation would not be a gift. But does a gift cease to be a gift when a person must meet conditions in order to obtain it? Use Joshua 6 to show the fallacy in this argument.

3. Comparing v. 8 with vv. 4, 6, 7, and using also Ex. 25:22, explain the significance of the ark of the covenant and of the carrying the ark about the city.

4a. What warning was given in connection with the taking of Jericho? (vv. 17-19).

4b. What is meant by "the devoted thing"?²

5. Who was spared when the city fell, and why?

6. Question related to v. 21: Using the following verses, explain two purposes of the extermination of the Canaanites.

(1) Gen. 15:16; Lev. 18:25; Deut. 9:5; 18:12.

(2) Ex. 23:31-33; 34:12-16; Deut. 7:1-5; 20:16-18.

7a. What warning was given about rebuilding Jericho? (v. 26).

² KJV, "the accursed thing"—but at v. 17 the margin puts "devoted" for "accursed."

7b. What happened in later times when someone attempted to rebuild the city? (1 Kings 16:34).

Achan's Sin and the Defeat at Ai (Ch. 7)

1. This chapter records a dark hour in Israel's history—a rapid reversal, a halt in progress, defeat in place of victory. Why was Jehovah angry at Israel? (v. 1 compared with 6:17-19).
2. Describe the first effort to take Ai (vv. 2-5).
3. What two things does Joshua express concern about? (vv. 6-9).
- 4a. What had caused Israel to lose its power and what did Jehovah demand be done about it? (vv. 10-15).
- 4b. Observe how the sin of one man weakened the entire nation. Is it possible for the sin of an individual to rob the church of its strength today?
- 4c. How should the people of God deal with sin in their midst today? (cf. 1 Cor. 5).
5. Describe the organization of Israel as set forth in verse 14.
6. Does v. 15 mean a man was to be burned alive? See verse 25.
- 7a. How was the guilty party exposed? (vv. 16-21).

7b. What was his name?

7c. List the steps in his sin (v. 21).

7d. A similar progressiveness—one thing leading to another—is found in the cases of Eve (Gen. 3:6) and David (2 Sam. 11). Do these cases provide a valuable warning about the nature of sin that we should heed? Explain.

7e. How can we make use of such a warning?

8. The punishment of the sin is described in verses 22-26. Achan's family was stoned and burned along with him. But do you suppose they were innocent? Is it likely, for example, that he could have done as he did without their knowledge and consent?

Conquest and Destruction of Ai (8:1-29)

Describe the strategy used in the conquest of Ai. Perhaps the teacher or one of the students would like to make a diagram of the battle, with movable emblems representing the different companies, and present an illustrated account to the class. Do not omit Joshua's part in the battle. How many companies were involved? (For help on this assignment see John J. Davis, *Conquest and Crisis*, 56-57.)

Covenant Renewal (8:30-35)

1. Describe Joshua's actions after the battle of Ai, using also Deut. 27 which provides necessary background. Use your

imagination in order to see with your mind's eye the ceremony that took place between the two mountains.

2. Locate the mountains Ebal and Gerizim on the map.

Lesson Three | Joshua 9-12

The Gibeonite Treaty (Ch. 9)

1a. How did the Gibeonites deceive Israel?

1b. Why did they deceive them?

1c. What did they want? (vv. 3-15).

2. What difference did it make to the Israelites whether these people lived in the land or were from a far country? See Exodus 23: 31-32; 34:12; Num. 33:55; Deut. 7:1-5; and then pay special attention to the distinction made in Deut. 20:10-18.

3a. What was back of Israel's mistake? (vv. 14-15).

3b. How could it have been prevented? Consult Numbers 27:15-23 and then explain the provision by which Joshua could obtain counsel from Jehovah.