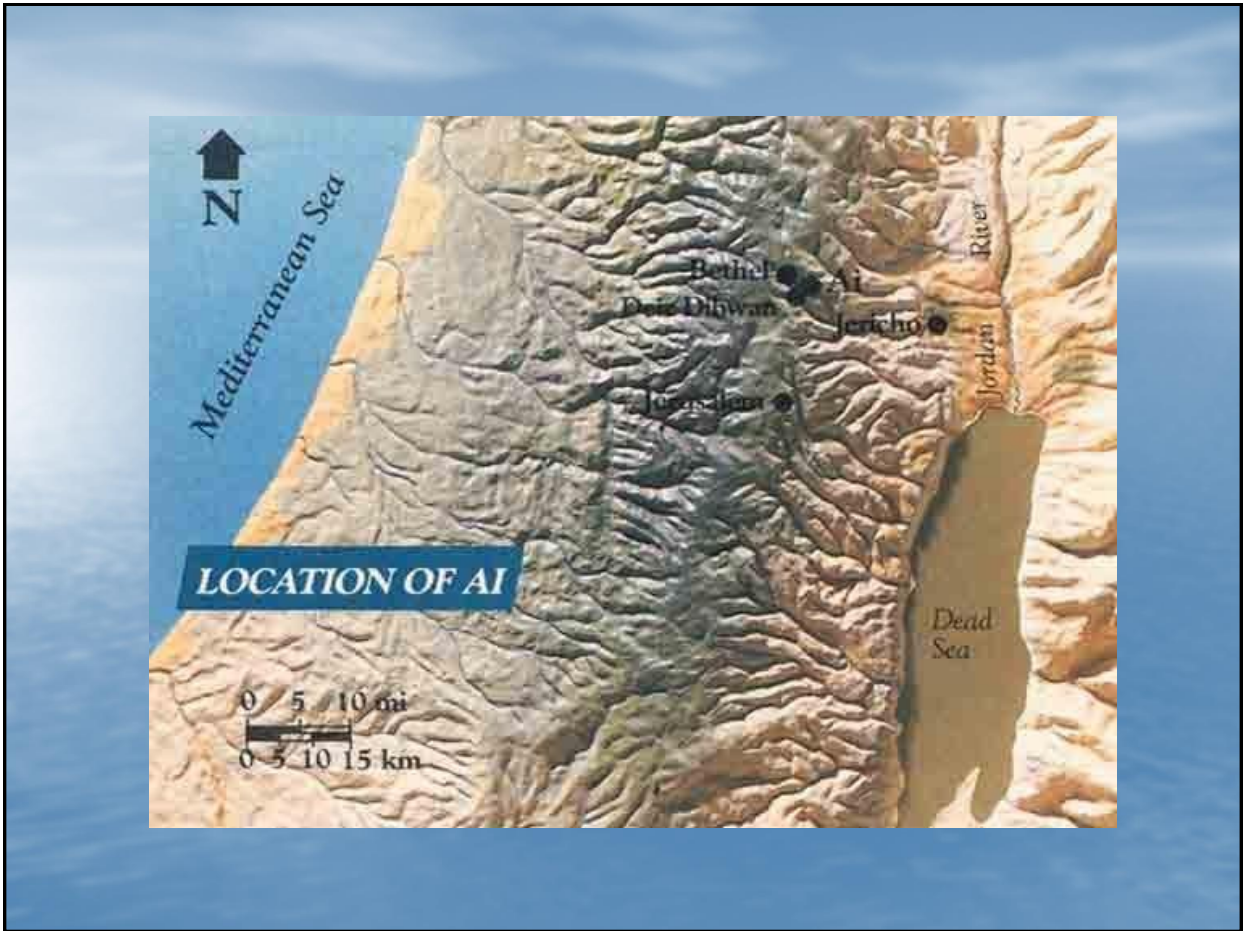


CONQUER IN CHRIST

Abide In the Lord



THE OBJECT LESSON OF AI

- ^{ESV} **Hebrews 12:5** And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?... ¹⁰ ... he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.



AI, ROUND 2

THE LORD'S BATTLE PLAN

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 8:1** Now the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear or be dismayed. Take all the people of war with you and arise, go up to Ai; see, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. ² "And you shall do to Ai and its king just as you did to Jericho and its king; you shall take only its spoil and its cattle as plunder for yourselves. Set an ambush for the city behind it." ³ So Joshua rose with all the people of war to go up to Ai; and Joshua chose 30,000 men, valiant warriors, and sent them out at night.

PHASE 1

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 8:13** So they stationed the people, all the army that was on the north side of the city, and its rear guard on the west side of the city, and Joshua spent that night in the midst of the valley. ¹⁴ And it came about when the king of Ai saw *it*, that the men of the city hurried and rose up early and went out to meet Israel in battle, he and all his people at the appointed place before the desert plain. But he did not know that *there was* an ambush against him behind the city. ¹⁵ And Joshua and all Israel pretended to be beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness.
- ^{NAS} **Joshua 7:4** So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai.

PHASE 2

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 8:16** And all the people who were in the city were called together to pursue them, and they pursued Joshua, and were drawn away from the city. ¹⁷ So not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who had not gone out after Israel, and they left the city unguarded and pursued Israel... ²² And the others came out from the city to encounter them, so that they were *trapped* in the midst of Israel, some on this side and some on that side; and they slew them until no one was left of those who survived or escaped.
- ^{ESV} **Joshua 7:9** For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will you do for your great name?"

GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY

- Deep in unfathomable mines Of never failing skill He treasures up His bright designs And works His sov'reign will.
- Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds ye so much dread Are big with mercy and shall break In blessings on your head.
- Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace; Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.
- His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour; The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flow'r.
- Blind unbelief is sure to err And scan His work in vain; God is His own interpreter, And He will make it plain.

APPLICATION

PRUNED IN CHRIST

- ^{NIV} **John 15:1** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.
- ^{NAS} **1 Peter 1:6** In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷ that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

ABIDING IN CHRIST

- ^{NAS} **John 15:3** "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you, unless you abide in Me.
- ^{NAS} **Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

BLESSED IN CHRIST

- ^{NAS} **John 15:7** "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.
 ⁸ "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

CONCLUSIONS

EXPECT ADVERSITY

- ^{NAS} **James 1:2** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- ^{NAS} **1 Peter 1:6** In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷ that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

ABIDING IN THE LORD

- ^{NAS} **John 15:3** "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- ^{NAS} **Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
- ^{NAS} **Romans 8:28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

TRUST IN THE LORD

- ^{NAS} **John 15:7** "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.
- ^{NAS} **John 14:13** "And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- ^{NAS} **1 John 3:22** and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.
- ^{NAS} **1 John 5:14** And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

HIS WILL?

- ^{NAS} **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 3:18** But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
- ^{NAS} **1 John 4:16** And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.