

Heeding God's Instruction Will Prevent Your Destruction!

Joshua 7:1-6

1. But the Israelites acted unfaithfully in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel.

2. Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and spy out the region." So the men went up and spied out Ai.

3. When they returned to Joshua, they said, "Not all the people will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary all the people, for only a few men are there."

4. So about three thousand men went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai,

5. who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

6. Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads.

Joshua 8:1-7

1. Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. For I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land.

2. You shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king, except that you may carry off their plunder and livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city."

3. So Joshua and the whole army moved out to attack Ai. He chose thirty thousand of his best fighting men and sent them out at night

4. with these orders: "Listen carefully. You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on the alert.

5. I and all those with me will advance on the city, and when the men come out against us, as they did before, we will flee from them.

6. They will pursue us until we have lured them away from the city, for they will say, 'They are running away from us as they did before.' So when we flee from them,

7. you are to rise up from ambush and take the city. The LORD your God will give it into your hand.

2 Cor. 2:14 (NKLV) - Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

I. God always has a PRECISE PLAN!

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:12-13

12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

II. God always has a PRODUCTIVE PURPOSE!

III. God always has a POWERFUL PROMISE!

Joshua 8:1 - Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. For I HAVE delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land.

Joshua 1:5 - The Lord said to Joshua "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Col. 1:13-15

13. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

14. in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
15. He is the image of the INVISIBLE God, the firstborn over all creation.

Heb. 11:27 - By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is INVISIBLE.

1 Tim. 1:17 - Now to the King eternal, immortal, INVISIBLE, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

God always has a PRECISE PLAN!

Even if you're eyes and your nose say, "by this time it stinks" let your faith say, "God has a Precise Plan."

God always has a PRODUCTIVE PURPOSE!

Even when your reason says "this makes no sense" let your faith say, "God Has a Productive Purpose"

God always has a POWERFUL PROMISE!

Even when your heart says "God has left me hanging" let your faith say, "God has made a Powerful Promise"