

The Third Battle

Judges 20, War with Benjamin

1-10, Council of Tribes (tribes)

11-17, Ultimatum to Benjamin (tribes, men)

18-48, Three Questions & Three Battles

18 Who shall go first? (children)
Asked counsel of **God**

19-21 Defeat (men)

22-23 Shall I go? (men)
Asked counsel of the **LORD**

24-25 Defeat (children)

26-28 Shall I stop? (children)
Wept, fasted, sacrificed

29-48 Victory (men)

Three Lessons for Prayer:

1. Ground it in our covenant relation with God.
2. Don't ask for approval of your own ideas; be ready to obey whatever God shows you.
3. Expect a response through the Word of God

Following Joshua's Example at Ai

Section	Ai, Joshua 8				Gibeah, Judges 20				
	Plan	Execution							
1 Ambush set	3-4	9	12		29				
2 Main army approaches	5a	10-11	13		30				
3 Enemy lured out	5b		14		31				
4 Israel feigns retreat	5c-6		15-17		32-33a	36	39		
5 Attack from ambush	7		18-19a		33b-34	37			
6 City burned; smoke	8		19b-20a	21		38	40-41		
7 Final victory			20b	21b-22	35		42-44	45-46	47-48

Parallels with Joshua 8

- 1) **29, Setting an ambush:** Josh. 8:12 And he took about five thousand men, and set them to lie in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city.
- 2) **30, Main army approaches:** Josh 8:10 And Joshua rose up early in the morning, and numbered the people, and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai. 11 And all the people, even the people of war that were with him, went up, and drew nigh, and came before the city, and pitched on the north side of Ai:
- 3) **31, Enemy is lured out:** Josh 8:14 And it came to pass, when the king of Ai saw it, that they hasted and rose up early, and the men of the city went out against Israel to battle, he and all his people, at a time appointed, before the plain; but he wist not that there were liers in ambush against him behind the city.
- 4) **32-33a, Feigned retreat:** Josh 8:15 And Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness. 16 And all the people that were in Ai were called together to pursue after them: and they pursued after Joshua, and were drawn away from the city. 17 And there was not a man left in Ai or Bethel, that went not out after Israel: and they left the city open, and pursued after Israel.
- 5) **33b-34, Ambushers strike:** Josh 8:18 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Stretch out the spear that is in thy hand toward Ai; for I will give it into thine hand. And Joshua stretched out the spear that he had in his hand toward the city. 19 And the ambush arose quickly out of their place, and they ran as soon as he had stretched out his hand:

Parallels with Joshua 8, cont.

Skipping ahead:

7) 35, Final Victory: Josh 8:21 then they turned again, and slew the men of Ai. 22 And the other issued out of the city against them; so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side: and they smote them, so that they let none of them remain or escape.

Backtracking:

4) 36, Feigned Retreat

5) 37, Ambushers strike

6) 38, City burned: Josh 8:8 And it shall be, when ye have taken the city, that ye shall set the city on fire: according to the commandment of the LORD shall ye do. See, I have commanded you. ... 21 And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city, and that the smoke of the city ascended, then they turned again ...

Backtracking again:

4) 39, Feigned Retreat

Skipping ahead:

6) 40-41, City burned

7) 42-48, Final Victory: breakdown of 25,100 from v. 35, marked by

- Turned
- Wilderness
- Partial accounting:

<i>Verse</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Notes</i>
15	26,700	Total Benjamin
35	25,100	Total Casualties
42-44	18,000	Around Gibeah
45a	5,000	In the highway
45b	2,000	At Gidom
46	25,000	Total
47	600	Rock Rimmon

Two Lessons from the War with Benjamin

Past Victories
→ Future
Defeats

Past Defeats
→ Future
Victories

Luk 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. 34 And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

2Co 1:3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

Compare:

- David and Bathsheba
- Our Lord's temptation

2Cor. 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

Luke 22:31-32

31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

- Who do you seek for protection and strength?

