

# BIBLE BOWL -2016

Lesson #4 –The Fall of Ai

Scripture Reading: Joshua 7-8

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Introduction:

1. E.g. –CD in VCR
2. We can never be victorious win sin in our lives.
3. From this incident in Ai we learn the harmful effects of sin.

## **I. ISRAEL FALLS BEFORE ITS ENEMIES**

### **A. WHAT WENT WRONG?**

1. Ai was a smaller city by comparison to Jericho
2. Only 3,000 soldiers were sent out
3. They fled before their enemies in defeat. About 36 men lost their lives.
4. Joshua is distraught -7:6-9

### **B. SIN IN THE CAMP**

1. The Lord reveals the trouble
  - a. The battle belongs to the Lord. Without the Lord even a small city cannot be taken.
  - b. One cannot hide sin from God.
2. If further victories are to be won, sin has to be eradicated.

### **C. FINDING THE SIN**

1. Joshua begins early in the morning; he wastes no time in finding the problem.
2. There was a succession: tribe, family, and then household.

### **D. SIN PUNISHED**

1. Achan was found guilty of taking the accursed things from Jericho.
2. He was taken out and stoned to death as a result.

### **E. APPLICATION FOR TODAY**

1. Sin will keep one from ultimate victory –i.e. heaven itself.
2. One can never hide sin from God. Sin must be washed away by the blood of Christ! –Re 1:5

## **II. ISRAEL'S ENEMIES FALL BEFORE THEM**

### **A. INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN**

1. Take all the military
2. Set an ambush behind the city
3. Joshua and his men in the front. They were to flee as if they were beaten again.

### **B. APPLICATION FOR TODAY**

1. Only when sin has been illuminated can they be victorious.
2. Only when they follow what the Lord says will they find victory.

Conclusion:

1. There is a great symbolic reference to our spiritual home
2. Victory is ours through abolishing sin and living in faithful obedience unto God.