

Defeat at Ai

Joshua 7:1-15



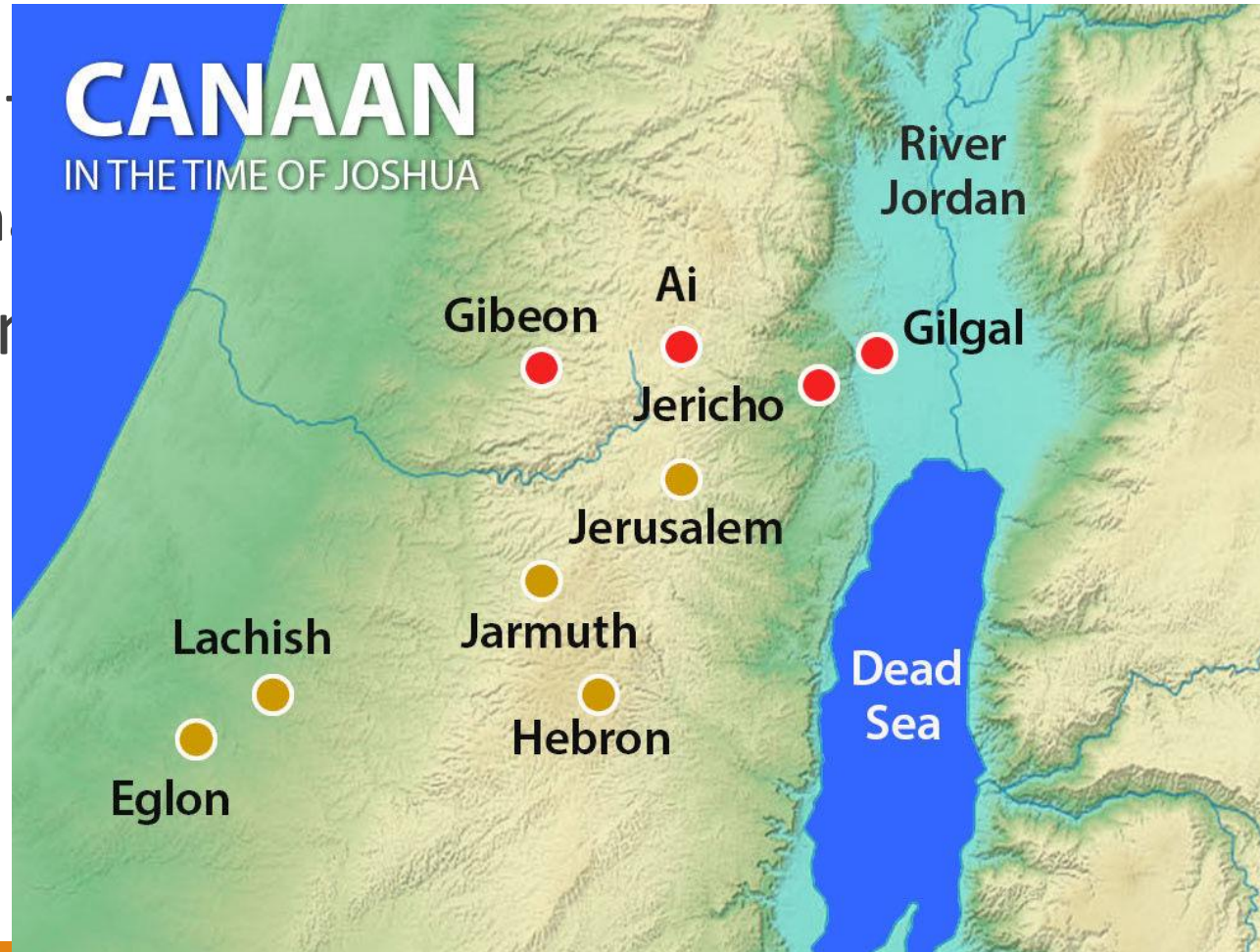
Possible Site of Ai

An Unexpected Defeat (1-5)

- The situation: Israel's unfaithfulness (1)
 - One man's sin brought guilt on the entire nation
- Developing the plan: spies are sent out and report (2-3)

An Unexpected Defeat (1-5)

- The situation
- One month
- Developing



port (2-3)

An Unexpected Defeat (1-5)

- The situation: Israel's unfaithfulness (1)
 - One man's sin brought guilt on the entire nation
- Developing the plan: spies are sent out and report (2-3)
 - No prayer? Overconfidence? Inaccurate estimate?
- A military disaster (4-5)
 - Ai left fully intact
 - 36 of Israel's soldiers dead
 - Israel's army put to flight

Joshua's Response (6-9)

- An expression of deepest anguish (6)
- Joshua's questions to the LORD (7-9)
 1. Why have You set us up to be destroyed? (7)
 2. What am I to say to the nation now? (8)
 3. What will You do for Your great name? (9)

The LORD responds to Joshua (10-15)

- A mild rebuke (10)
- The cause of Israel's failure spelled out (11-12)
- Dealing with the sin (13-15)
 - Consecration (13a)
 - Information (13b)
 - Separation (14)
 - Conflagration (15)

Implications / Application

1. Holiness matters to God. As God's New Covenant people, those in Christ are called to be holy as well. "You are to be holy, as I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16
2. Sin is offensive to God and even what may seem like a small infraction is serious to Him. When we sin, we must be quick to confess it and turn from it.
3. Whether we realize it or not, our sin has consequences not just for us, but also for other people.
4. God is holy and just. Every sin will be judged and the price will be paid, either by the one who committed the sin or by Jesus taking the punishment in the sinner's place.
5. When trouble comes and we don't understand what is happening or what we should do, we need to seek the Lord and ask for His wisdom (James 1:5) and we need to rest in the promises of God's Word (2 Peter 1:4)