

# Possessing the Promises of the Kingdom

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## God's Victory In The Midst of Defeat

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Joshua 8:1-8

The battle of Ai is a perfect example of a biblical theme that I call "God's Victory in Defeat." What looked like defeat, set up Victory over the enemy. It was the retreat that made the victory possible. In each of our lives God sends victory through defeat. God not only lets us have the victory but uses the defeat to accomplish His purposes in our lives. The battle of Ai is an object lesson to help us see some things we need to remember when we are facing victory at our defeat.

The first thing we need to remember during those days is that:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

**And the Lord said to Joshua, *Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai.*** See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land. And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves. **Lay an ambush against the city, behind it.**

Joshua 8:1-2

**He who dwells** in the shelter of the Most High **will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.** Psalm 91:1

**For I know the plans I have for you,** declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, **to give you a future and a hope.** Jeremiah 29:11

Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, **but time and chance happen to them all.**

Ecclesiastes 9:11

2. \_\_\_\_\_

So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai. **And Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor** and sent them out by night. And he commanded them, "Behold, **you shall lie in ambush against the city**, behind it. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you remain ready. And I and all the people who are with me will approach the city. And when they come out against us just as before, **we shall flee before them. And they will come out after us**, until we have drawn them away from the city. For they will say, 'They are fleeing from us, just as before.' So we will flee before them.

Joshua 8:3-6

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Then you shall rise up from the ambush and seize the city,  
for **the Lord your God will give it into your hand.**

Joshua 8:7

No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life.

Just as I was with Moses, so **I will be with you.**

**I will not leave you or forsake you.**

Joshua 1:5