

MAIN

Saturday, September 26, 2026
10:29 AM

INTRO

Good Morning TAC

Wasn't last week's message such a blessing! It felt like a family meeting where we were given a hyper-practical vision for this next season, driven by the spiritual wisdom that the Lord has given our pastors through their years of experience.

We were told that it is time to Carpe Diem, which is Latin for Seize the Day. We learned that Seize the Day means Pluck the Day, meaning to take the fruit right in front of you each day!

PIRKE AVOT 2:15-16A

“THE DAY IS SHORT. THE WORK IS MUCH. THE WORKERS ARE LAZY, THE WAGE IS HIGH, AND THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE PRESSES. YOU ARE NOT OBLIGATED TO COMPLETE THE WORK, BUT NEITHER ARE YOU FREE TO NEGLECT IT.”

We each have a short amount of time in this life and now is not the time to rest on our laurels, it is time to seize the day!

We were given the charge to meet with each other in our homes and our Pastors committed to Shalom Bayit.

We want to remind you that we are still in the year of the sword in the bow. How many of you remember what that is?

For those of you who weren't here for that message last year, we stated that God has given us a vision to plant local churches in the northwest quadrant of Illinois. Since this is a close range mission, we are calling it the sword. He has also given us a vision to plant churches across the country and overseas, we are calling this the bow because it is a long distance mission.

Whether you feel called to plant a church or stay here, you have a part to play in this mission!

Our church's calling comes from Ephesians 4 and is to equip and mature the saints. Ephesians 4 makes clear that EVERYONE has a part to play in this calling.

- **Ephesians 4:16 (ESV)**

16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Do you see that in order for the body to be built up each part must work properly! That means whether you are called to go or stay, you are necessary to the vision God has called us to.

Whether you are called to be an ordained minister or not, whether you are called to plant churches or not, the next step in your development is implementing EXACTLY what we talked about last week. Learning to minister to each other in your homes! This will uniquely test and develop each one of us

For some of you the test will be opening up your home to have others in, for others the test will be feeling sufficient to share a word with your brother even if they've been here longer than you or seem more mature. For others it will be learning to receive ministering from your brothers even if they haven't been here as long as you or they are younger than you. The goal is that we all minister to each other.

Last week we learned that this type of ministry to one another is an investment in something eternal with a guaranteed ROI.

Before we jump into today's message we wanted to wish you all a Happy Sukkoth (this week is the real week for FoT). With Sukkoth being the ingathering of the harvest let's see what God says about the harvest time:

- **Isaiah 28:23–26 (NIVUK)**

²³ Listen and hear my voice;

pay attention and hear what I say.

²⁴ When a farmer ploughs for planting, does he plough continually?

Does he keep on breaking up and working the soil?

²⁵ When he has levelled the surface,

does he not sow caraway and scatter cummin?

Does he not plant wheat in its place,

barley in its plot,

and spelt in its field?

²⁶ His God instructs him

and teaches him the right way.

We see here that God instructs farmers in how to work. Lets see some of the specific ways in which he instructs them.

Agricultural Cycle of the Levant/~~Palestine~~

Israel

SOLAR MONTHS	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT			
HEBREW LUNAR MONTHS		TISHRI	MARCH-ESHVAN	CHISLEV	TEBETH	SHEBAT	ADAR	NISAN	IYYAR	SIVAN	TAMMUZ	AB	ELUL			
FEASTS AND FESTIVALS	TRUMPETS		DEDICATION			PURIM			PENTECOST & FIRSTFRUITS							
	DAY OF ATONEMENT					PASSOVER										
	TABERNACLES					UNLEAVENED BREAD										
SEASON	RAINY SEASON									DRY SEASON						
RAINFALL	EARLY RAINS			WINTER RAINS			LATE RAINS			DROUGHT						
AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES	PLOW		PLANT			HARVEST										
HARVEST							BARLEY		WHEAT		FIRST FIGS		GRAPES		DATES, SUMMER FIGS	

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This slide shows the agricultural Cycle of Israel Throughout the year. Now we could stare at and meditate on this for hours but today is not the day for that. Instead we want to point out 1 specific facet of this calendar.

Agricultural Cycle of the Levant/~~Palestine~~

Israel

SOLAR MONTHS	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT			
HEBREW LUNAR MONTHS		TISHRI	MARCH-ESHVAN	CHISLEV	TEBETH	SHEBAT	ADAR	NISAN	IYYAR	SIVAN	TAMMUZ	AB	ELUL			
FEASTS AND FESTIVALS	TRUMPETS DAY OF ATONEMENT TABERNACLES		DEDICATION			PURIM			PENTECOST & FIRSTFRUITS PASSOVER UNLEAVENED BREAD							
SEASON	RAINY SEASON									DRY SEASON						
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HARVEST							BARLEY		WHEAT		FIRST FIGS		GRAPES		DATES, SUMMER FIGS	

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Trumpets, Day of Atonement, And Tabernacles celebrate the ingathering of the harvest. As we spoke about these are the most joyful holidays of the year! What do you do right after the most joyful time of the year?

Agricultural Cycle of the Levant/~~Palestine~~

Israel

SOLAR MONTHS	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT
HEBREW LUNAR MONTHS		TISHRI	MARCH-ESHVAN	CHISLEV	TEBETH	SHEBAT	ADAR	NISAN	IYYAR	SIVAN	TAMMUZ	AB	ELUL
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HARVEST							BARLEY		WHEAT		FIRST FIGS	GRAPES	DATES, SUMMER FIGS

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After the most joyful time of the year you plow and plant starting the cycle all over again with some of the hardest work! (The alignment makes it look like you plow during the fall feasts but you would often start right after the fall feasts.)

- Compare this with our after christmas hibernation...

Church, in many ways we have seen a harvest over this past season (DT, Marriage, Singles, Parenting, Foundations)! Last week we were informed that it is not time to rest in the harvest, but to start the cycle all over again. Continue equipping and maturing the saints, continue building up families continue doing the things we know to do!

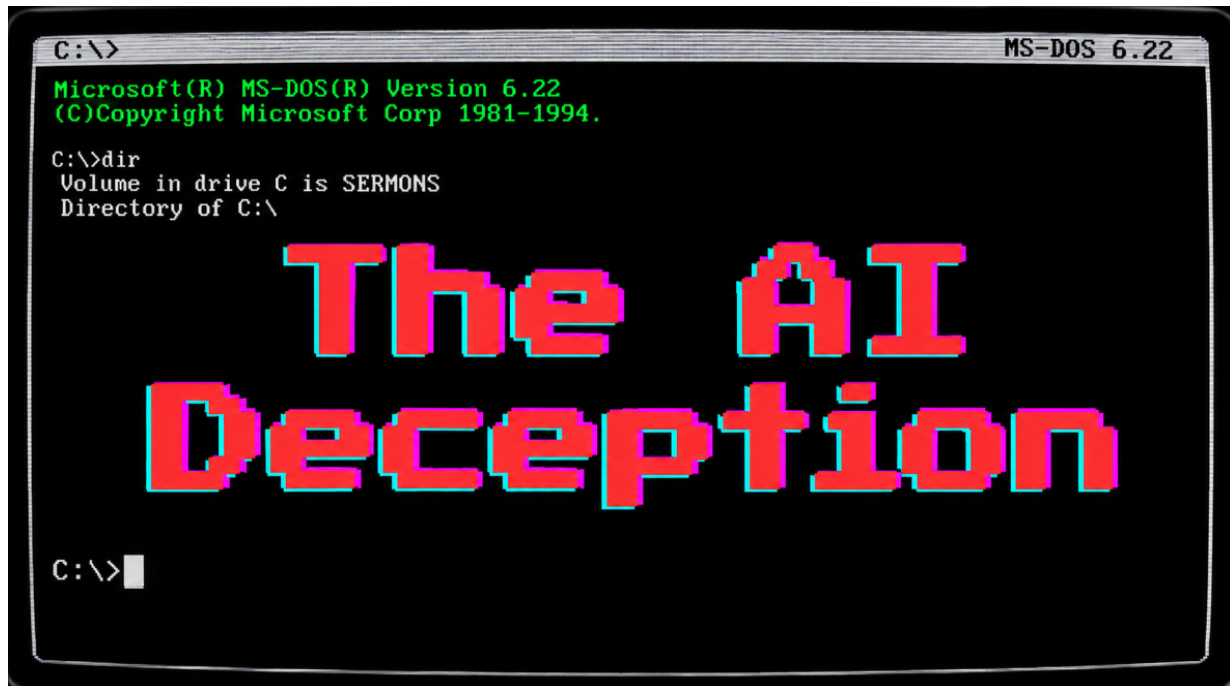
You can see sprouts of life growing all around you, cultivate that life in your brothers and you will see the fruit mature! Fruit only matures through cultivation!

- **Luke 8:14 (ESV)**

14 And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.

You see, if we get caught up with the cares of the world, the fruit we are seeing around us will not mature, but if we are FULLY DEVOTED to the work God has set out for us, then we will reap a harvest 30/60&100 fold!

This brings us to what we really wanted to speak about today. There is covert force that is trying to keep the fruit from maturing in this body that we want to expose. This covert force is taking the world by force, it is very practical, in many of your homes, and you may not even realize it! Our goal today is to expose this malevolent force and replace it with the truth so that we can win!



Studies show that over 800 million people use chat GPT every single week! That is 1/10th of the world's population, and that doesn't include other forms of AI! 69% of google users leave without clicking on a website, presumably because they are relying on googles AI. It is fair to say that in just a few years these AI programs have taken the world by storm.

(<https://evolvagency.io/learn/generative-search/llm-statistics-2026>)

However, today we are not going to talk about Chat GPT or Claude or any other modern AI because those are simply tools. The real AI deception is actually much more sinister and has much more ancient roots that go back all the way to the times of Joshua and Moses!

Turn to Numbers 13:2

Numbers 13:2 (ESV)

2 "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them."

Here we see men being sent to spy out the land of Canaan to gather information. What do we call information gathered by spies? Intelligence (or military intelligence).

- **Numbers 13:31–32 (ESV)**

31 Then the men who had gone up with him said, “**We are not able** to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.” 32 So they brought to the people of Israel a **bad** report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height.

What happens what that intelligence seems good but is truly bad... it becomes Artificial Intelligence.

You see, the spies were going into a land that God gave them and rather than being full of faith that God would give them the land, they were full of fear that they themselves could not take it. However, as we know, Joshua did not give into this faithless artificial intelligence.

You all know the story, Joshua and Caleb stood up and gave good military intelligence concerning the land:

- **Numbers 14:6–8 (ESV)**

6 And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes 7 and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, “The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. 8 If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey.

Joshua's response was based on what he was getting from the LORD and what God has spoken in the Law, not what he was seeing with his eyes... Not the artificial intelligence.

We all love Joshua for his bravery in this moment, however, this wasn't the only time Joshua was faced with artificial intelligence, let's consider the rest of his life and look at how he fell prey to this AI Deception:

In Joshua 6, the people of Israel defeated Jericho a great stronghold city! The walls of Jericho were driven into the ground by the very hand of God and the people of Israel were given victory miraculously! This was the first battle Joshua led the people into since the death of Moses and it was a stunning victory! However, after this great victory, we see something noteworthy happen.

- **Joshua 7:1 (ESV)**

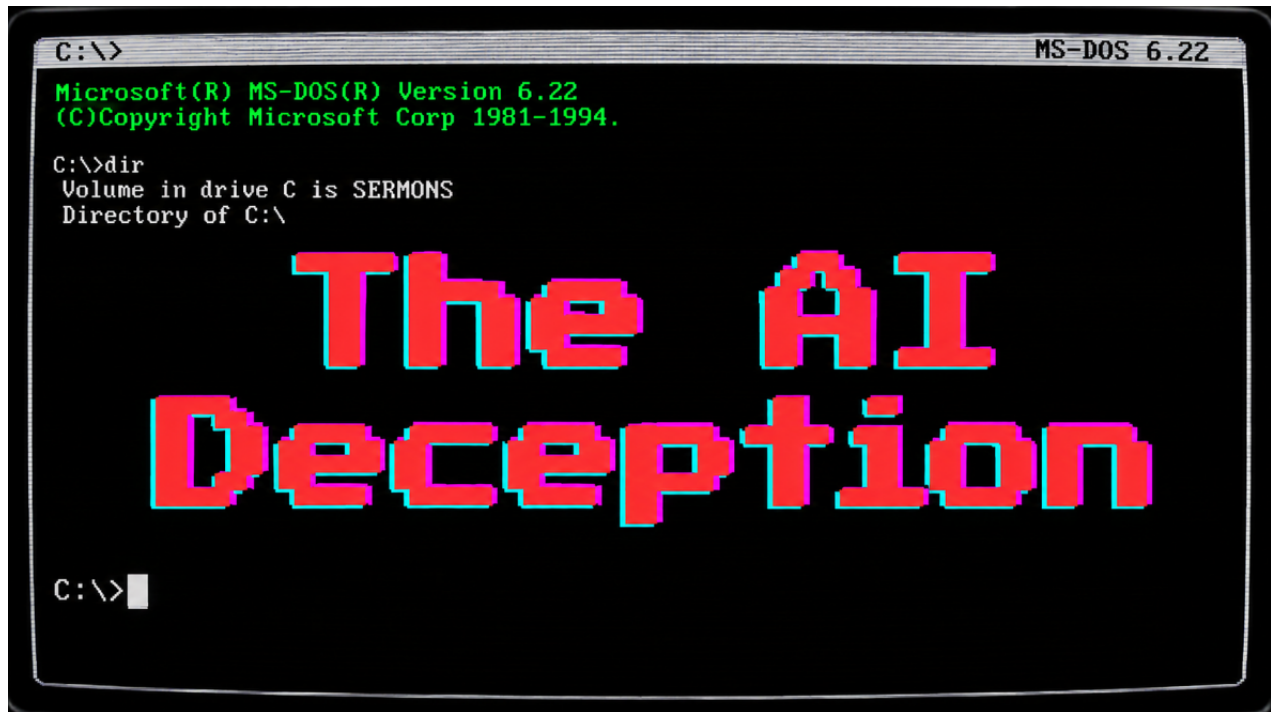
7 But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel.

Although they had just won a great victory, there was sin in the camp that needed to be addressed. However, rather than addressing the sin, consider what Joshua does:

- **Joshua 7:2–3 (ESV)**

2 Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, “Go up and spy out the land.” And the men went up and spied out Ai. 3 And they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few.”

Joshua immediately sends spies to receive more military intelligence, and once again these spies bring back what could be called artificial intelligence. Also, take note, what town are they attacking? What is the name of our message today?



This is the real AI deception we want to speak about today, we want to talk about the way Joshua was deceived by his own confidence and it led to a grave failure with the battle of Ai!

Let's pull back up Joshua 7:2-3. We are going to campout in these two verses

- **Joshua 7:2–3 (ESV)**

2 Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." And the men went up and spied out Ai. 3 And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few."

Consider the report given by the spies. Contrast this to Numbers 14 where the report is seemingly "bad news" Here, rather than obviously 'bad' news, the spies bring back a seemingly good report, yet it is still artificial intelligence.

How often do we sit back when we hear "good" news and don't consult the LORD?

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As the story goes on, we see that Israel suffers a great Defeat at Ai and 36 men die. This is one of Israel's first military defeats, and God comments on it in Joshua 7

◦ **Joshua 7:10–12 (ESV)**

10 The LORD said to Joshua, “Get up! Why have you fallen on your face?

11 Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings.

12 Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies.

They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you.

Because Israel did not deal with Achan's sin, they could not defeat their enemies!

Let's consider 4 traps that Joshua falls into in the battle of Ai:

Four Traps at Ai:

From Joshua 7

- Failure to hunt for sin (V. 1)
- Failure to give all (V. 3)
- Thinking that not everyone is needed (V. 3)
- Thinking that victory depends on your own strength (V. 3)

**The AI
Deception**

1. Failure to hunt for sin
2. Failure to give a full price sacrifice
3. Thinking not everyone is necessary for the task God has called them to
4. Thinking the victory depends on your own strength

We are going to break these for things down 1 by 1

Failure to hunt for sin:

God had promised to give them the land and that everywhere the sole of Joshua's feet would go the land would be given to him! However, when they broke faith with the LORD they could no longer have victory:

Consider in your own life. God has given you tasks to do, are you being intentional to ask God to put to death your own Nabal traits? The only way you can have true victory in the mission is if your flesh is being continually put to death.

- You cannot have victory without putting to death the sin in your life and in your family.
- Further, if you see sin in brothers around you, it is your responsibility to address that as well!
- This is the only way we can continue and have victory in the tasks God has assigned.
- So to make this clear, The Ai deception centers on: "Don't worry, you have enough strength (or men) to accomplish this task"...The real intelligence from God says, "that doesn't matter, what matters is: are you right with me?"

Four Traps at Ai:

From Joshua 7

- Failure to hunt for sin (V. 1)
- Failure to give all (V. 3)
- Thinking that not everyone is needed (V. 3)
- Thinking that victory depends on your own strength (V. 3)

**The AI
Deception**

Failure to give all or pay full price:

In Joshua 7 the report says, "Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few."

Joshua did not want his men to need to TOIL at the work God had given them, he took an easier way out.

The task was right, but the effort was lacking!

Consider what the people of Israel had been told concerning these battles in the Law:

- **Deuteronomy 7:1 (ESV)**
7 "When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you,

You see, here the promise is that the nations they go up against WILL BE more numerous and mighty than Israel. Joshua is deceived by thinking the enemy before him is smaller than him!

Consider also:

- **Deuteronomy 7:17–18 (ESV)**

17 “If you say in your heart, ‘These nations are greater than I. How can I dispossess them?’ 18 you shall not be afraid of them but you shall remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt,

God does not deny the fact that the nations before them are stronger and more numerous, but he does state He will be with them!

In Numbers 13-14 the spies bought the lie that the enemy is too strong, we cannot win,

In Joshua 7 the spies bought the lie that the enemy is weak and we don't need to give this fight our all!!!

- Both of these are a form of pride... thinking it depends on YOU!

The truth is that EVERY enemy that stood before them was too strong for them! Only through God could they do anything, and God does not accept half-hearted efforts.

Consider how sneaky of a deception this one truly is... We defeated Jericho, we got this. We have battle experience, we can do this. These are the lies he may have been telling himself.

What lies do you tell yourself:

- I've been through Discipleship Training twice, I don't need to give all when we go back through it.
- I've been through ministry Training, I know how to get interesting stuff out of the word, I don't need to toil for revelation from God, I can simply find

surface level stuff that will somewhat feed those around me and they will think is really cool.

- I don't really need to pray for the people coming over to my house, I am a great minister and I'm sure I'll just come up with something.
- I've worked really hard for God this past season, I can take it easy for a while and still accomplish most of what he told me to.

OR maybe you have believed the lies of the Numbers 13-14 spies instead:

- I haven't been through Ministry Training, I can't minister like these people
- I'm not married so I can't practice hospitality
- I'm new here, what do I have to share with others
- I'm an awkward homeschooler (or introvert), I can't start up conversations and evangelize to others.
- I am just not good enough. (This one actually is true)

If these are lies you have been believing then you have given in to the AI Deception:

It was never about you 'doing enough' to accomplish the task! Consider:

- **John 15:5 (ESV)**
5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

It is only through God that you can do anything!

Let's move on to the next trap:

Four Traps at Ai:

From Joshua 7

- Failure to hunt for sin (V. 1)
- Failure to give all (V. 3)
- Thinking that not everyone is needed (V. 3)
- Thinking that victory depends on your own strength (V. 3)

**The AI
Deception**

Thinking that not everyone is needed

Let's Read Joshua 7:3 again:

◦ **Joshua 7:3 (ESV)**

3 And they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few.”

Here we see that they thought they could just send a few delegates. Maybe they wanted to send a few of their best... or a few of the least likeable maybe...

Whatever it was, it was not all. In fact, in the entire campaign recorded in the book of Joshua God ALWAYS tells them to all fight together...never separately. Consider the following Slide:

Joshua and ALL Israel

- Joshua 3:1
- Joshua 6:3
- Joshua 8:15
- Joshua 8:21
- Joshua 10:7
- Joshua 10:29
- Joshua 10:31
- Joshua 10:34
- Joshua 10:36
- Joshua 10:38
- Joshua 10:43
- Joshua 11:7

You see, last week God had given us vision for the WHOLE Arising Church, this is not something for just a few to take part in, but for Everyone to take part in.

This is why we have been instructed by God to do the season of Shalom Bayit...because a primary goal is that this entire body would be unified towards the purpose that God has given this church.

- **Colossians 1:28 (ESV)**

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Paul's mission that he Toiled and struggled for was the mission of presenting EVERYONE mature in Christ, no one left behind. Our mission is the same!

Colossians 1:29 (ESV)

29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Paul knew that this mission would require TOIL and was a STRUGGLE, but that it was GOD who would work it out in him ultimately!

Which brings us to the fourth point:

Four Traps at Ai:

From Joshua 7

- Failure to hunt for sin (V. 1)
- Failure to give all (V. 3)
- Thinking that not everyone is needed (V. 3)
- Thinking that victory depends on your own strength (V. 3)

**The AI
Deception**

Thinking that victory depends on your own strength:

We briefly touched on this already through the other points, but it is worth noting again because this is what both the spies in Numbers 13 and in Joshua 7 failed to recognize.

The devil wants us to fall into either "The enemy is too big I can't do this" or "The enemy is small, I can take them".

The proper view is, through God we shall do valiantly, he will defeat the enemy as I am fully devoted to him!

ASA

We have covered what the AI Deception is from the Law and the Prophets from the life of Joshua. But we want to give you a second witness to just how dangerous this deception can be in the life of another righteous man.

His life mirrors the same pattern we just saw in Joshua: yesterday's victory becoming an opportunity for future self-reliance.

We see it in the life of King Asa, so turn with us to 2 Chron 14.

And as you are turning there...understand this: the danger of the AI Deception isn't just that we forget God in defeat. Sometimes the greater danger is that after victory, we forget how much we still need him.

In 2 Chron 14 we see Asa begin his reign by:

- Doing what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD.
- He destroyed foreign altars and gods and commanded Judah to **SEEK** the LORD and to keep his commands.
- They had peace and prosperity and in **2 Chron 14:7** Asa said:

2 Chronicles 14:7 (NIV)

7 “Let us build up these towns,” he said to Judah, “and put walls around them, with towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because **we have sought the LORD our God; we sought him** and he has given us rest on every side.” So they built and prospered.

- In their time of peace Asa's army grew to 580,000 fully armed men!! That is a lot of guys!

Then...

2 Chronicles 14:9 (ESV)

9 Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah.

- Even though this was a MASSIVE army coming against them...Asa could have been proud and tried to defend the land himself.
- He could have said, "alright men, this is 2 to 1 odds, but we have the defensive position and we can do this!!"

But instead look at what he does:

2 Chronicles 14:11 (ESV)

11 And Asa cried to the LORD his God, “O LORD, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O LORD our God, for we **rely** on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude. O LORD, you are our God; let not man prevail against you.”

- Asa knew where his help came from. It did not come from good intelligence or clever strategies or the strength and skill of Judah and Benjamin...it came from the LORD alone.
- And God gave them an overwhelming victory...Verse 13 says that none of the enemy remained alive for they were broken before the LORD and **HIS** army.
 - Asa knew this was not his army...it was an army of God.

And that dependence upon God continued to mark the early years of Asa's reign. In the next chapter, the prophet Azariah comes to Asa and reminds him that **“The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you.”**

Asa responds by removing more of the idols from the land, repairing the altar of the LORD, and gathering the people together. And then we read:

2 Chronicles 15:12–13 (ESV)

12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul, 13 but that whoever would not seek the LORD, the God of Israel, should be put to death, whether young or old, man or woman.

Do you see what Asa's life is centered around?
SEEKING THE LORD.

When the enemy was too big—**seek the LORD.**

When the nation was at peace—**seek the LORD.**

When there was work to be done—**seek the LORD.**

To the point where they were willing to even put people to DEATH if they don't seek the LORD.

- In fact, in the entire story of Asa, "seeking" or "sought" after the Lord appears exactly 7 times.
 - 14:4, 7 (x2), 15:3, 4, 12, 15

- I would love it if Asa's story ended there...but actually it ends with an AI Deception...
- Over 21 years passes...and during that time Asa's experience grows, his confidence grows (and not in a good way), his resources grow and then he starts making bad alliances with other men.
- When the King of Israel comes to fight against him... he doesn't SEEK THE LORD, instead he RELIES on men...

Look at what the prophet Hanani says when he comes to him:

2 Chronicles 16:7–9 (NIV)

7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him: “Because you **relied** on the king of Aram and not on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand. 8 Were not the Cushites and Libyans a mighty army with great numbers of chariots and horsemen? Yet when you **relied** on the LORD, he delivered them into your hand. 9 **For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.** You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war.”

- Did you notice that he says because you **RELIED ?**
- That is the exact word Asa himself used all those years ago when the million-man army stood in front of him:
 - “LORD our God, we RELY on you.”
- But something happened to Asa over the years.
- The man who once looked at a million-man army and said, “We need God,” eventually looked at a smaller problem and said, “I've got this.”
- The enemy didn't become more dangerous.
- Asa became more self-reliant.
- And maybe that's one of the greatest dangers of success. **The victories God gives us through dependence can become the experiences that tempt us toward independence.**

Look at verse 9 again:

9 For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

What is beautiful is this story and THE AI DECEPTION is about SEEKING THE LORD for the right information, but do you know who else is seeking??? The LORD is SEEKING those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

CLOSING

As we approach a close, we want to go back to the battle of Ai and look at what Joshua does to defeat the enemy AND what he does afterwards.

Once sin is dealt with, look at what the Lord tells Joshua,

- **Joshua 8:1 (NIVUK)**

8 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.

- The battles ahead, no matter the size of the enemy, require a complete reliance on God AND the entire army, you are not a one man show!
- As they go up again, this time, the battle is a complete rout! Ai stood no chance and Israel completely destroyed the city!
 - The battles ahead of us require the whole body, not just the best, not just the brightest, not just the most skilled, the entire army moving forward as one!
- Once the enemy is routed, look at what Israel does next:

- **Joshua 8:30–31 (NIVUK)**

³⁰ Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel,
³¹ as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses—an altar of uncut stones, on which no iron tool had been used. On it they offered to the Lord burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings.

Now, don't miss what has happened here.

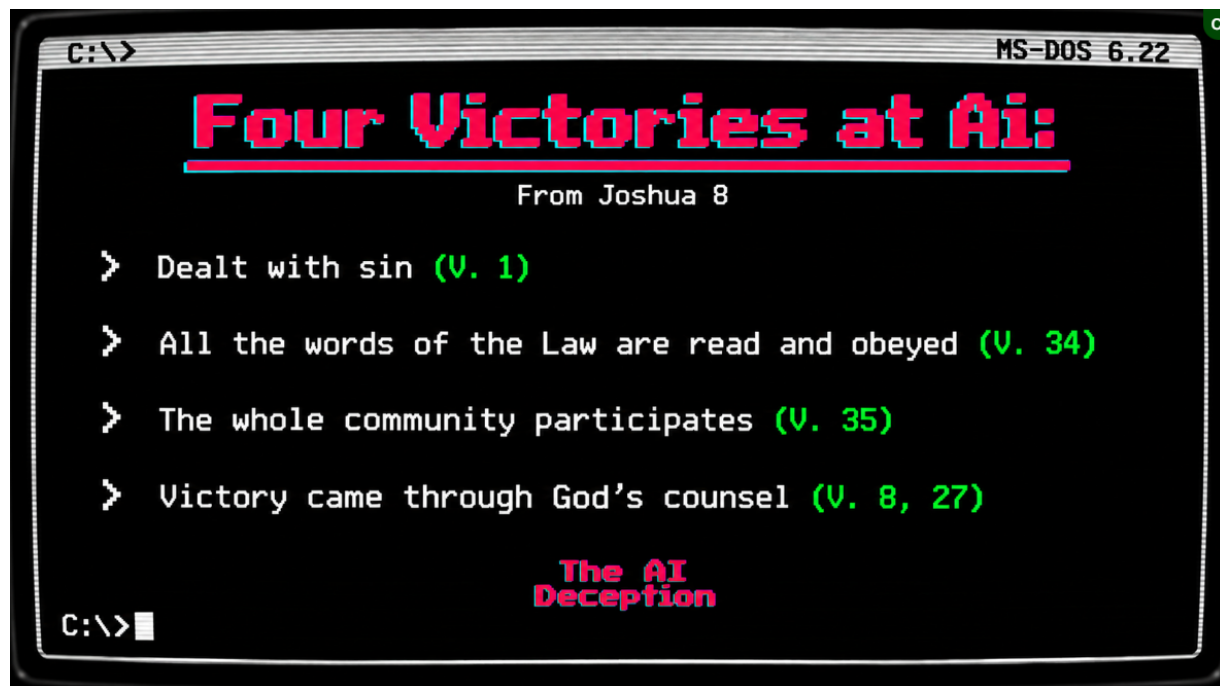
Joshua 8 isn't merely the story of Israel trying the battle again and getting a better result.

Everything that went wrong at Ai the first time is being corrected.

Remember the four traps we saw in chapter 7?

- They failed to deal with sin.
- They withheld their full effort.
- They thought the whole body wasn't necessary.
- And underneath it all, they relied upon their own strength rather than the LORD.

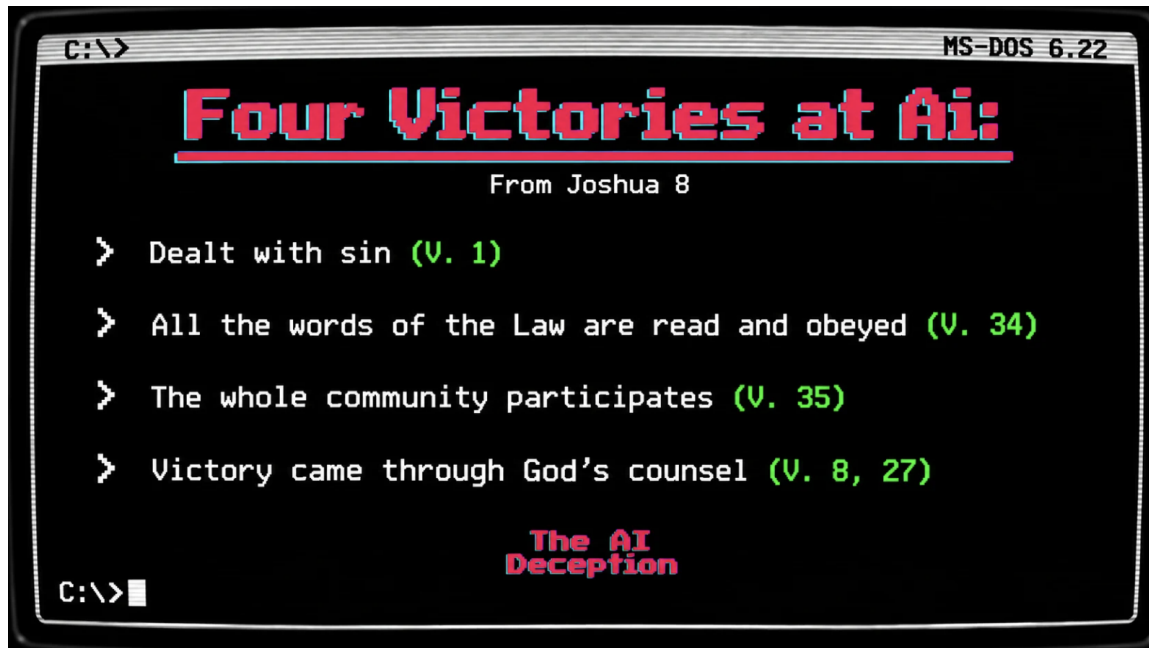
But look at what happens when they return to Ai God's way:



- The whole nation goes up to the mountains of blessing and curses to offer sacrifices to the Lord, according to the command of Moses (Dt 27).
 - After great victory, the response is to go back and just do what was already commanded!
 - There wasn't new vision, new words from God, it was simply to return to what he had spoken and commanded them to do!

- Just like the season after tabernacles is a season of plowing again, even so after great victory it is a returning to the last thing the Lord has told you to do!
 - **Deuteronomy 27:7 (NIVUK)** - ⁷ Sacrifice fellowship offerings there, eating them and rejoicing in the presence of the Lord your God.
- Following the sacrifices, the entire law is read:
- **Joshua 8:34–35 (NIVUK)**

³⁴ Afterwards, Joshua read all the words of the law—the blessings and the curses—just as it is written in the Book of the Law. ³⁵ There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read to the whole assembly of Israel, including the women and children, and the foreigners who lived among them.
- We don't have time to discuss how Yeshua is speaking the Law of God to both Jews and Gentiles from a mountain in Israel...
 - The whole Law is read, not one word is missed
 - The last thing God commanded you—is some of it optional or is every word something you are obeying?
 - The whole assembly hears the word of God (Shalom Bayit)—families, this time is given to you as a time to assemble everyone to hear the word of God!
 - Kids may be crazy, wives might be stressed, but the answer is still the Word of God
 - Foreigners were present- remember the challenge last week to invite others into your home and minister the word of God to them!



- Give yourself FULLY to the work of the Lord
- **1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIVUK)**
 - ⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. **Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord**, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

It requires effort to plow again, it required everything for Joshua to go up again and the work of God requires you to give yourself FULLY to it.

APPLICATION

We must be a body who relies on Adonai to fight every battle and do it with the whole body!

- Busy with the right things
- Go back to the last thing the Lord told you
- Do it WITH the body

Bring up the four traps slide... gather with your families...

2 Corinthians 6:1–2 (ESV)

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

****MAYBE****

Titus 3:14 (NIVUK)

¹⁴ Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.