#### **He Lives**

I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today; I know that He is living, Whatever men may say; I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, And just the time I need Him He's always near.

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and He talks with me Along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see His loving care, And tho my heart grows weary I never will despair; I know that He is leading Thro' all the stormy blast, The day of His appearing Will come at last.

He lives, He lives, **Christ Jesus lives today!** He walks with me and He talks with me Along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, Lift up your voice and sing Eternal hallelujahs To Jesus Christ the King! The hope of all who seek Him, The help of all who find, None other is so loving, So good and kind.

He lives, He lives,
Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and He talks with
me

Along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart.



#### Let The Redeemed

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so Let the redeemed of the Lord say so Let the redeemed of the Lord say so I'm redeemed, I'm redeemed, Praise the Lord

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so Let the redeemed of the Lord say so Let the redeemed of the Lord say so I'm redeemed, I'm redeemed, **Praise the Lord** 



## Sanctuary Lord prepare me To be a sanctuary Pure and holy Tried and true With thanksgiving I'll be a living Sanctuary for You

Lord prepare me To be a sanctuary Pure and holy Tried and true With thanksgiving I'll be a living Sanctuary for You



#### Garment of Praise

Put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, Lift up your voice to God. Praise with the Spirit and with understanding, Oh, magnify the Lord

# All you that mourn in Zion, I have authority; To appoint unto you in Zion, Oil of joy that will set you free.

Put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, Lift up your voice to God. Praise with the Spirit and with understanding, Oh, magnify the Lord

## Worship The Lord In His Word

#### Journey Into Success

Turning Blunders Into Blessings

TEXT: Joshua 8:1-8;

Please Open Your Bibles and Let Us Read Together

Joshua 8:1 "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. 2 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." 3 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. 4 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. 5 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. 6 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. 7 Then you shall rise up from the ambush and seize the city,

for the Lord your God will give it into your hand. 8 And as soon as you have taken the city, you shall set the city on fire. You shall do according to the word of the Lord. See, I have commanded you."

#### Introduction:

Henry Ford said that a mistake "is an opportunity to begin again, more intelligently."

As believers we can "begin again more intelligently" if we remember the truth of:

Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

To turn blunders into blessings we must first:

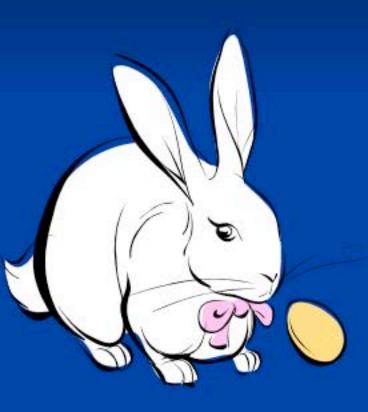
## I. Try Again

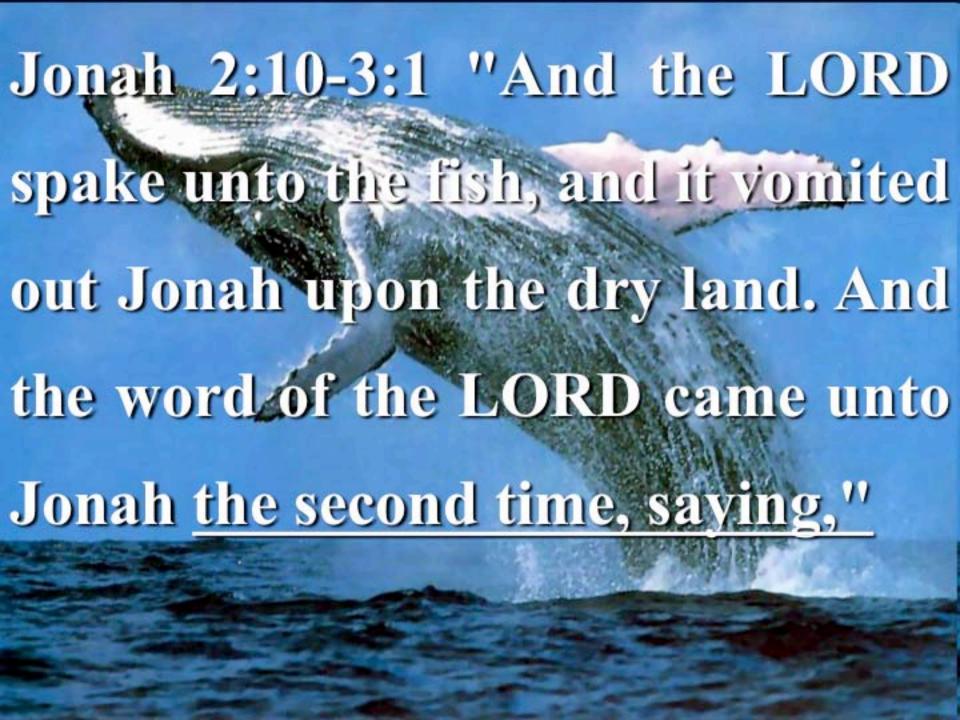
Joshua 8:1-9 "And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land: 2 And thou shalt

do to Ai and her king as thou didst unto Jericho and her king: only the spoil thereof, and the cattle thereof, shall ye take for a prey unto yourselves: lay thee an ambush for the city behind it."

## A. Fear Not (8:1)

### Ill. Jonah



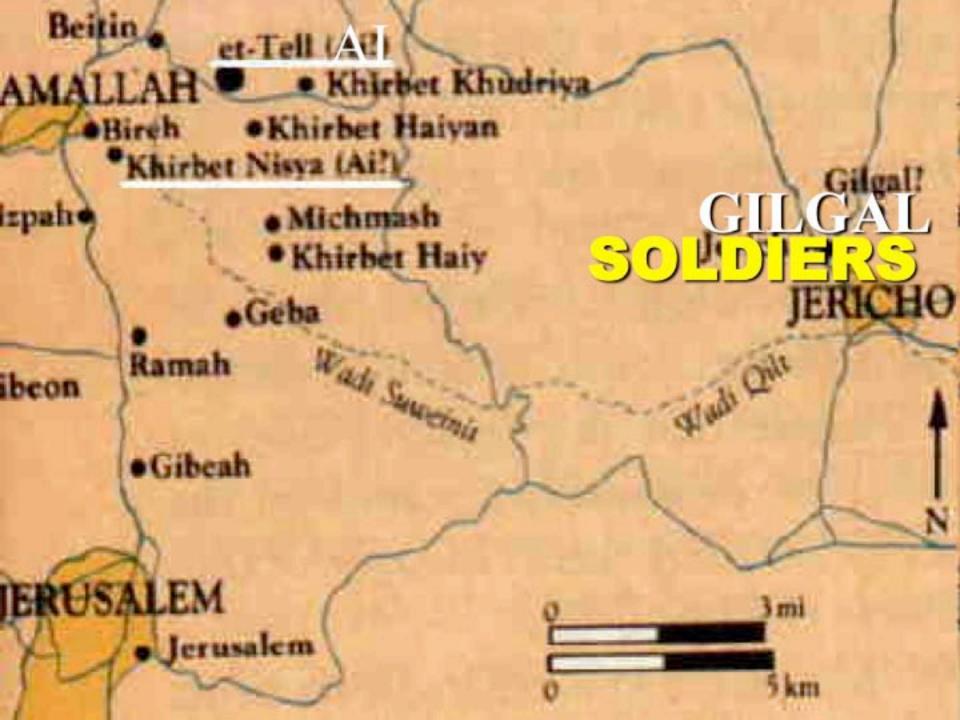


Psalms 37:24 "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand."

B. Remember the Promises -

2 Chronicles 16:9a "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him..."

Joshua 8:2a "And thou shalt do to Ai and her king as thou didst unto Jericho and her king:..."



#### C. Wait on the Lord

Joshua 8:2b "...only the spoil thereof, and the cattle thereof, shall ye take for a prey unto yourselves: ..."

If only Achan had waited, he could have had all he wanted at AI!!!!!!!!!!

## Satan offers shortcuts!!!!!

Faith always waits on the Lord.

Turning blunders into blessings requires we TRY AGAIN and that we...

II. Follow God's Plan (8:3-29)

### A. With Humility

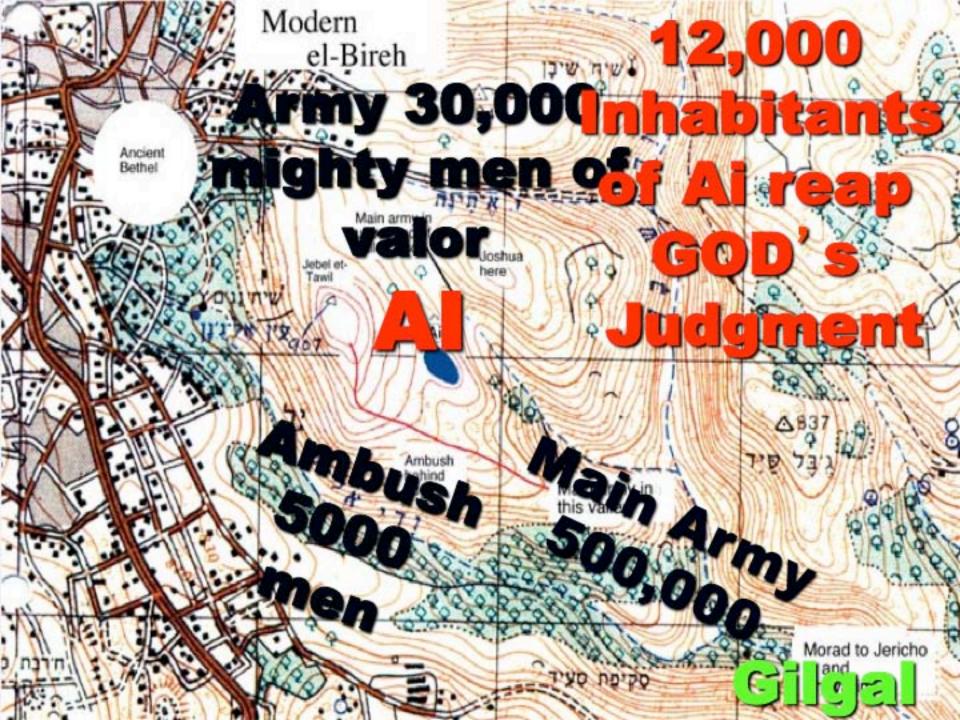
Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Joshua 8:3 "So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai: and Joshua chose out thirty thousand mighty men of valor, and sent them away by night."

#### **B. With Total Obedience**

Joshua 8:26 "For Joshua drew not his hand back, wherewith he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai."

Joshua 8:14a "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;"



Joshua 8:27 "Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as their plunder, according to the word of the Lord that he commanded Joshua."

C. IF ACHAN HAD ONLY WAITED -

Psalms 37:4 "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

To turn blunders into blessings we must try again, follow God's plan and third...

III. Give God the Glory for Success (8:30-35).

A. An Altar

Joshua 8:30 "Then Joshua built an altar unto the LORD God of Israel in mount Ebal,"

After the victory at Ai, Joshua leads all the Israelites 30 miles north into enemy territory to Shechem between mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim to worship.

These two mountains form a steep embankment on two sides of the valley, creating a natural amphitheater.



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# GOD SAID, It was to be an ALTAR of Uncut Stones!!!!

Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

# B. An Offering1. LIPS

Joshua 8:31b "... and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings."

Hebrews 13:15 "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."

### 2. BODY

Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

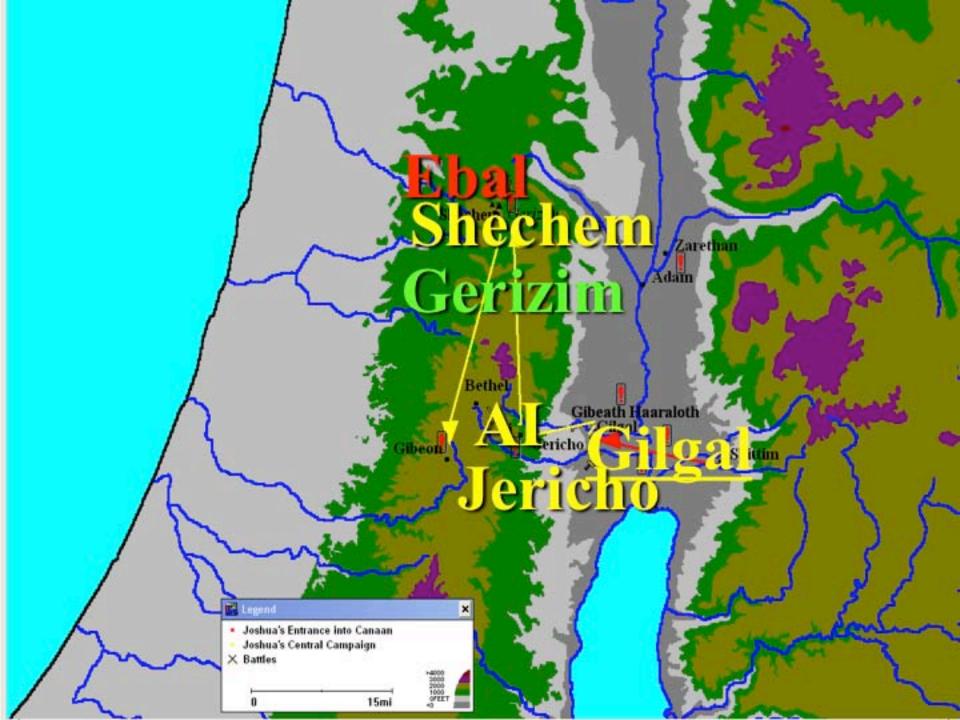
## C. A Reading

Joshua 8:34 "And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursing's, according to all that is written in the book of the law."

### 1. Location

Joshua 8:33 "And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, as well the stranger, as he that was born among them; half of them over against mount Gerizim,

and half of them over against mount Ebal; as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel."



Deuteronomy 11:29 "And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, you shall set the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal."

### 2. Locution – (to speak)

Deuteronomy 27:12-13 "These shall stand upon mount Gerizim to bless the people, when ye are come over Jordan; Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Joseph, and Benjamin:...

13 And these shall stand upon mount **Ebal to curse**; Reuben, Gad, and Asher, and Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali."

Knowing the Israelites' propensity for idolatry and the temptations for the apostasy which they would face among the Canaanites in the land, God experience by which they would be taught the outcomes that would result from worshiping Him or from worshiping idols.

Half of the tribes would be stationed on Mount Ebal and half on Mount Gerizim.

The former would shout the curses that God would bring on on them if they disobeyed him; the latter would shout the blessings that would result from obedience.

Deuteronomy 28:1-5 "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. 3 Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. 4 Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. 5 Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. 6 Blessed shall you be when you come in,

and blessed shall you be when you go out. 7 "The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. 8 The Lord will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. 9 The Lord will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways."

## D. Explanation

God wants His people to realize that what happens to them in the land will be determined by whether they are living on Mt. Gerizim (obedience) or Mt. Ebal (disobedience).

Matthew 7:24-27 "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will

liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended and thefloods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be

likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

### Conclusion:

Turning our blunders into blessings requires that whatever we do has obedience to God's Word as its foundation.

Upon what MOUNTAIN are you building your life?

If we are to turn our blunders into blessings, we must

Try again,

Follow God's plan,

and Give God the glory for success.

## INVITATION

#### TRUST AND OBEY

When we walk with the Lord In the light of His Word What a glory He sheds on our way While we do His good will He abides with us still And with all who will Trust and obey

# Trust and obey For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus But to trust and obey

Not a burden we bear Not a sorrow we share But our toil He doth Richly repay Not a grief nor a loss Not a frown nor a cross But is blest if we Trust and obey

# Trust and obey For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus But to trust and obey

But we never can prove The delights of His love Until all on the altar we lay For the favor He shows And the joy He bestows Are for them who will Trust and obey

# Trust and obey For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus But to trust and obey

Then in fellowship sweet We will sit at His feet Or we'll walk by His side In the way What He says we will do Where He sends we will go Never fear only trust and obey

# Trust and obey For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus But to trust and obey

# Prayer Time