

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

- ✓ **Joshua 7:1-8:35.** The fall of Ai.
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 10:1-8.** The battle for Whole Truth is a battle for the mind.
- ✓ **Psalm 49:1-20.** The confidence of the foolish.

COMMENTARY:

Joshua 7:1-8:35. Chapter 7 is about the defeat of Ai and the sin of Achan, and chapter 8 covers the fall of Ai and Joshua renewing the covenant. In Joshua 7:15, 24, we have the account of punishing Achan’s family along with him. How is it fair that Achan’s children were stoned along with their parents? Does not the Scripture insist that God does not punish the children for the sins of their parent (Ezek. 18:20), nor destroy the righteous with the wicked (Gen 18:23)? Is God not immutably righteous? Some have argued that Achan’s children were not given capital punishment, but merely brought along so the event could be an example to them. Those who teach that the children were not killed point out that only Achan acknowledged guilt (7:20-21), the text says that Israel stoned “him”, that the “burning them” refers to the garment and other items he had taken, and that God would never have ordered the killing of the children because of His insistence that “the son shall not bear the guilt of the father” (Ezek. 18:20). As much as I like this theory, the text does say in verse 25 that “they burned them with fire after they stoned them with stones.” In light of the fact that the whole family was stoned and burned, we need to keep two things in mind. First, it is unlikely that the family was not complicit in the crime since according to God’s law, no one could be punished for the sins of the parents—such an act was absolutely forbidden. In other words, the whole family was guilty since they would not have been punished if they had nothing to do with it. It would have been very difficult for him to hide the goods in his tent without their knowledge. Secondly, there is absolutely no reference to small children in the family. They could have been young adults.

2 Corinthians 10:1-8. Paul responds to attacks on him for “timid” in person but “bold” when he wrote to them. Moreover, he rejects his opponents’ charge that he lives “by the standards of this world.” He responds to this charge by extended uses of military metaphors, by asserting that while he lives in the world, that is, lives a normal human existence with all of its limitations, he does not wage war as the world does by employing human and doubtful means. On the contrary, he says, the weapons he fights with has divine power to demolish strongholds. Strongholds stands for arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God. His goal was to take every thought to make it obedience to Christ. Paul’s purpose was not only to demolish false arguments but also bring people’s thoughts under the lordship of Christ. Yes, the Christian ministry and life involves a battle for the mind. False arguments of the world, especially those which have infected anti-intellectual Christianity, need to be demolished so that people can live in whole truth and find life in Jesus Christ and really thrive spiritually instead of some fallacious on/off conduit system.

Psalm 49:1-20. Note the foolishness, especially the foolish confidence of the fool beginning in verse 6. One thing that often surprises me is how confident fools are about what are nothing but delusions dressed in their dogma. It really is a strange thing to behold people talking with confidence about things that they know nothing about. Consider how much foolishness exists about life as such, as millions of people, including modern believers, live as if they will never die and meet their Maker when their journey is over. What absolute idiots! Of course, the problem really is not that they do not know there is a God. The problem is that they suppress and displace that knowledge with temporal goods. However, one day it will all be gone and they will be left with nothing but a wasted life. We only have one life to live, one journey, let us make it count. While some mistakenly, or foolishly, say that some believers are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good, the contrary is true because it is the heavenly minded person who understands that his life here counts forever—every day counts forever!

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don