



Grow: INTO OUR
DESTINY IN **CHRIST**

A study of Joshua

Reclaiming Ai – God of 2nd Chances

Scripture: Joshua 8:1–29

Ms Lilian Poon

Recap: Joshua 7



1. God's Redemptive Word

i. Do not fear, and do not be dismayed

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."

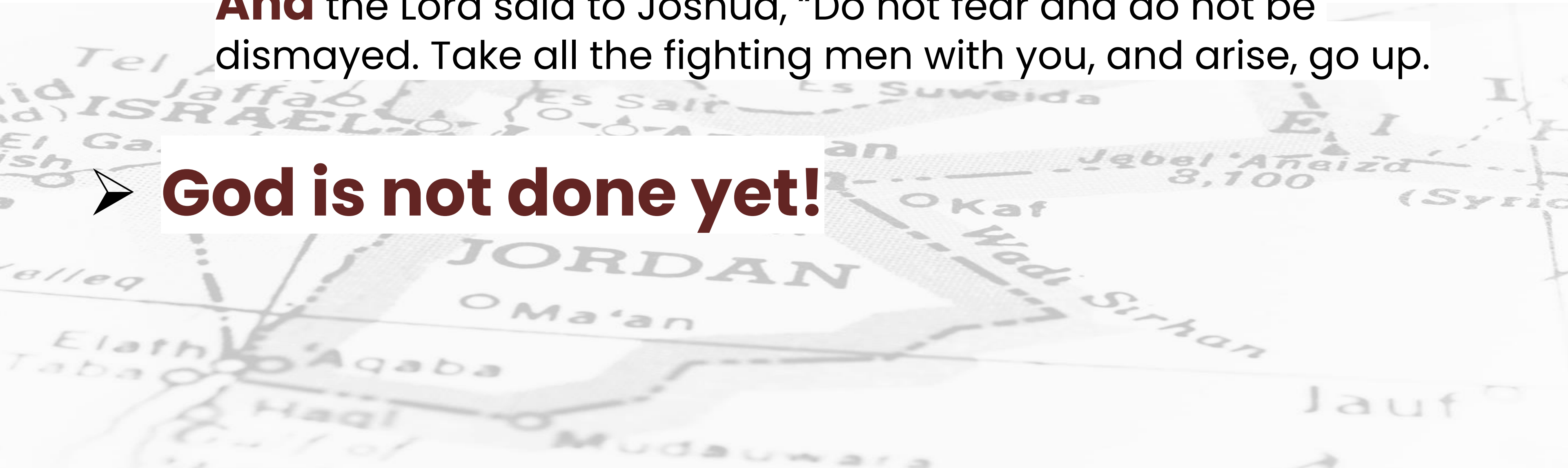
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➤ **Instruct; Command**

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➤ **When God speaks,
EVERYTHING changes**

- Failure into victory
- The impossible becomes possible

1. God's Redemptive Word

ii. Go up to Ai – Redeem What Is Lost.

Joshua 8:1-2

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."

1. God's Redemptive Word

ii. Go up to Ai – Redeem What Is Lost.

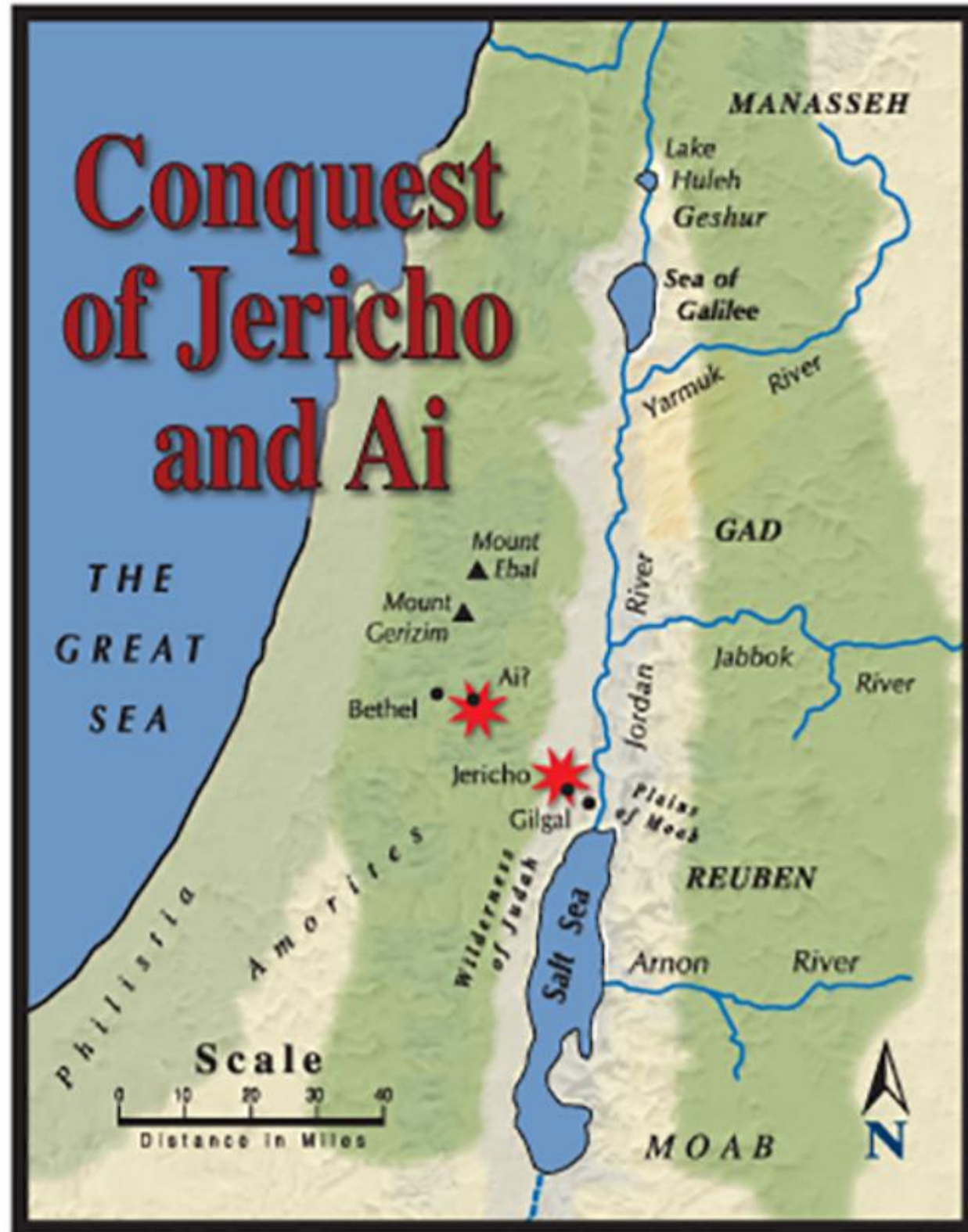
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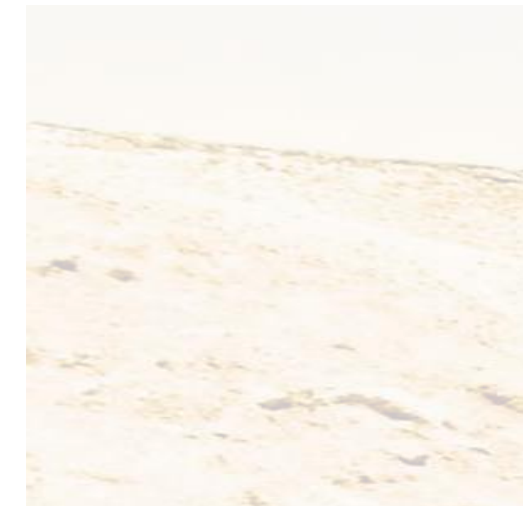
➤ Joshua and the Israelites must **CHOOSE** between their **EXPERIENCE** or God's Word

1. God's Redemptive Word

ii. Go up to Ai – Redeem What Is Lost.

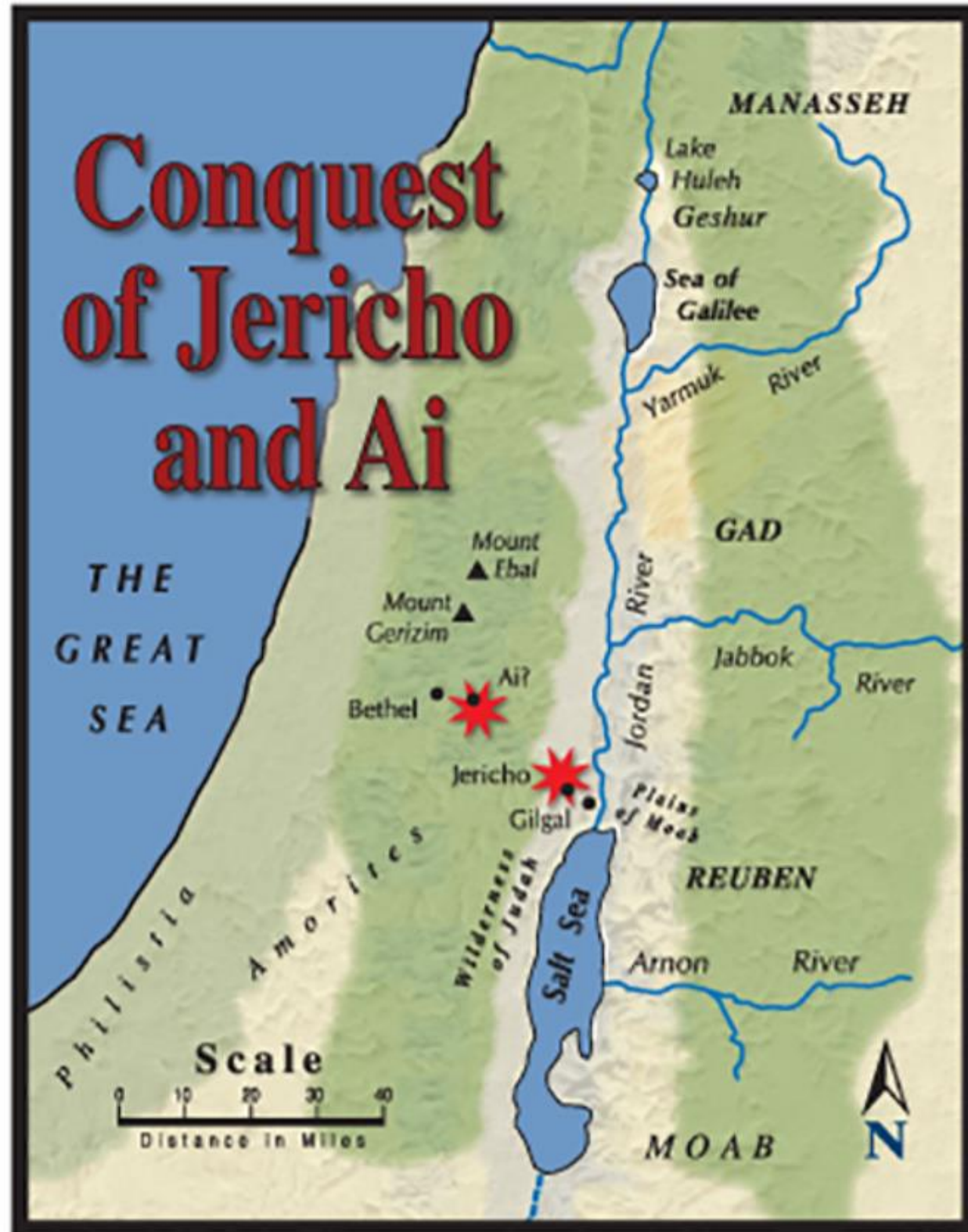


- **Back to Ai**
- Strategic



1. God's Redemptive Word

ii. Go up to Ai – Redeem What Is Lost.



- **Back to Ai**
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1. God's Redemptive Word

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- **Back to Ai**
 - Strategic
 - God of 2nd Chances



2. God's Inspired Strategy

i. Different Plan; Same God

Joshua 8:2-13

2 You shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king, except that you may carry off their plunder and livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city."

3 So Joshua and the whole army moved out to attack Ai. He chose thirty thousand of his best fighting men and sent them out at night.

4 with these orders: "Listen carefully. You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on the alert.

5 I and all those with me will advance on the city, and when the men come out against us, as they did before, we will flee from them.

2. God's Inspired Strategy

i. Different Plan; Same God

Joshua 8:2-13

6 They will pursue us until we have lured them away from the city, for they will say, 'They are running away from us as they did before.' So when we flee from them,

7 you are to rise up from ambush and take the city. The Lord your God will give it into your hand.

8 When you have taken the city, set it on fire. Do what the Lord has commanded. See to it; you have my orders.

9 Then Joshua sent them off, and they went to the place of ambush and lay in wait between Bethel and Ai, to the west of Ai—but Joshua spent that night with the people.

2. God's Inspired Strategy →

i. Different Plan; Same God

Joshua 8:2-13

10 Early the next morning Joshua mustered his army, and he and the leaders of Israel marched before them to Ai.

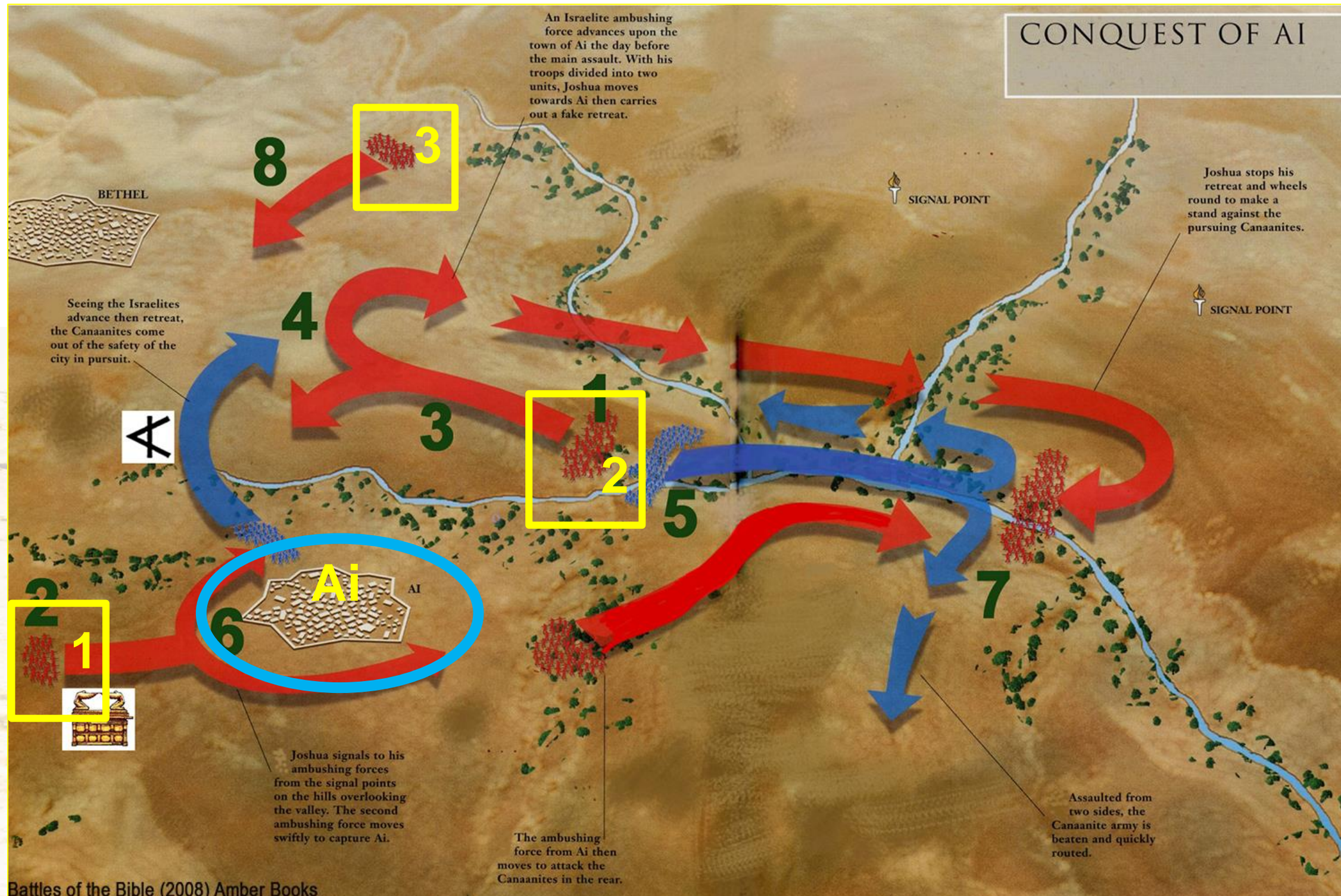
11 The entire force that was with him marched up and approached the city and arrived in front of it. They set up camp north of Ai, with the valley between them and the city.

12 Joshua had taken about five thousand men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city.

13 So the soldiers took up their positions—with the main camp to the north of the city and the ambush to the west of it. That night Joshua went into the valley.

2. God's Inspired Strategy

i. Different Plan; Same God



Legend:

Red: Israel route of attack

Blue: Ai's defense

Israel's contingent



2. God's Inspired Strategy →

ii. Israel's mistake turned into a stepping stone.

Joshua 8: 14-17

¹⁴ When the king of Ai saw this, he and all the men of the city hurried out early in the morning to meet Israel in battle at a certain place overlooking the Arabah. But he did not know that an ambush had been set against him behind the city. ¹⁵

Joshua and all Israel let themselves be driven back before them, and they fled toward the wilderness. ¹⁶ All the men of Ai were called to pursue them, and they pursued Joshua and were lured away from the city. ¹⁷ Not a man remained in Ai or Bethel who did not go after Israel. They left the city open and went in pursuit of Israel.

2. God's Inspired Strategy

ii. Israel's mistake turned into a stepping stone.

Joshua 7: 3-5

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."

4 So about three thousand men went up there from the people.
And they fled before the men of Ai,

5 and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

2. God's Inspired Strategy

ii. Israel's mistake turned into a stepping stone.

Mistakes & Failures

into

Stepping Stones for Victory



2. God's Inspired Strategy

ii. Israel's mistake turned into a stepping stone.

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**When you make mistakes, God can
make the mistakes work for you.**

1. God's Redemptive Word

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Joshua 8:1

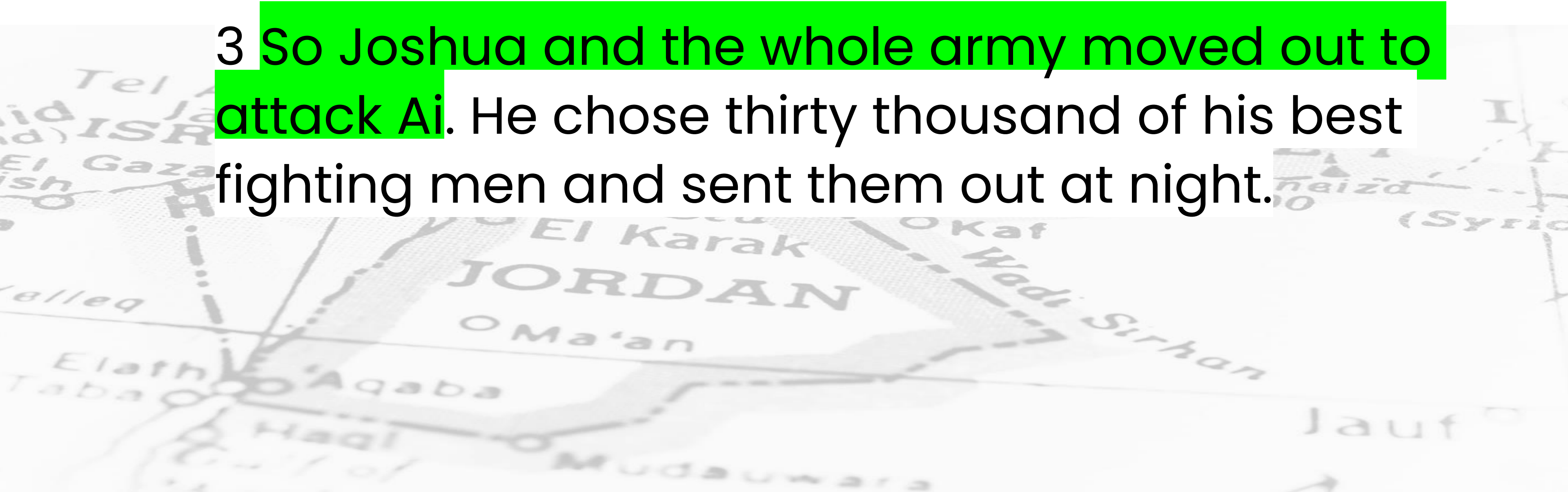
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1. God's Redemptive Word

i. Do not fear, and do not be dismayed

Joshua 8:3

3 So Joshua and the whole army moved out to attack Ai. He chose thirty thousand of his best fighting men and sent them out at night.



3. Victory in Solidarity

i. Israel's response

Joshua 8: 18–25

18 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand.” And Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city. **19** And the men in the ambush rose quickly out of their place, and as soon as he had stretched out his hand, they ran and entered the city and captured it. And they hurried to set the city on fire. **20** So when the men of Ai looked back, behold, the smoke of the city went up to heaven, and they had no power to flee this way or that, for the people who fled to the wilderness turned back against the pursuers.

3. Victory in Solidarity

i. Israel's response

Joshua 8: 18-26

²¹ And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had captured the city, and that the smoke of the city went up, then they turned back and struck down the men of Ai. ²² And the others came out from the city against them, so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side. And Israel struck them down, until there was left none that survived or escaped. ²³ But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him near to Joshua. ²⁴ When Israel had finished killing all the inhabitants of Ai in the open wilderness where they pursued them, and all of them to the very last had fallen by the edge of the sword, all Israel returned to Ai and struck it down with the edge of the sword. ²⁵ And all who fell that day, both men and women, were 12,000, all the people of Ai.

3. Victory in Solidarity

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i. Israel's response

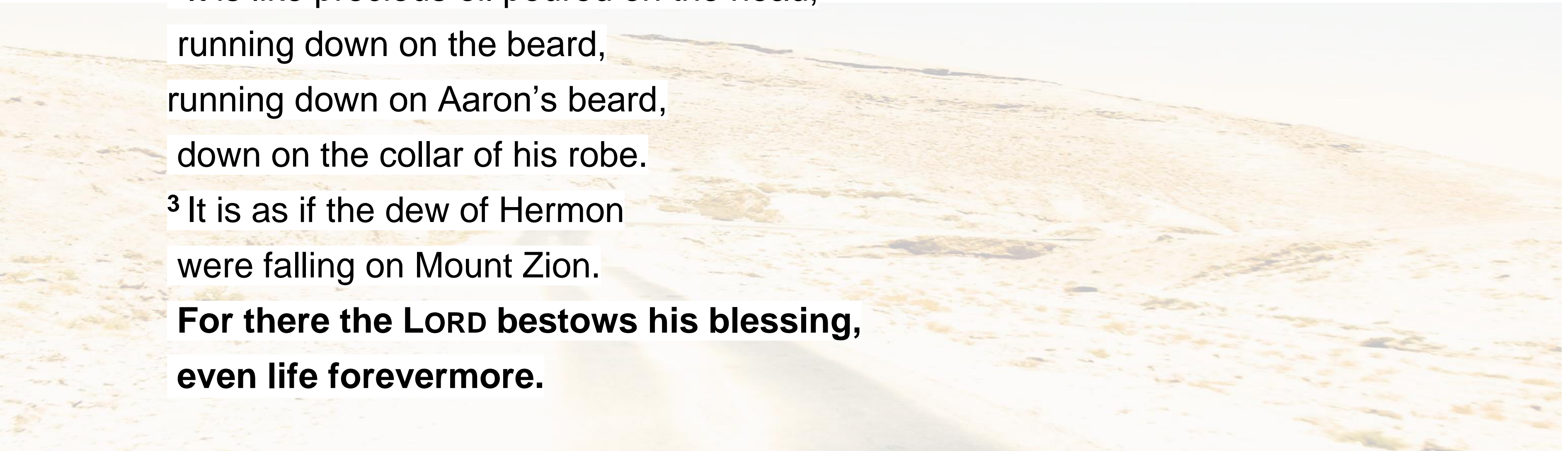
Psalm 133

¹ How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!

² It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.

³ It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.

**For there the LORD bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.**

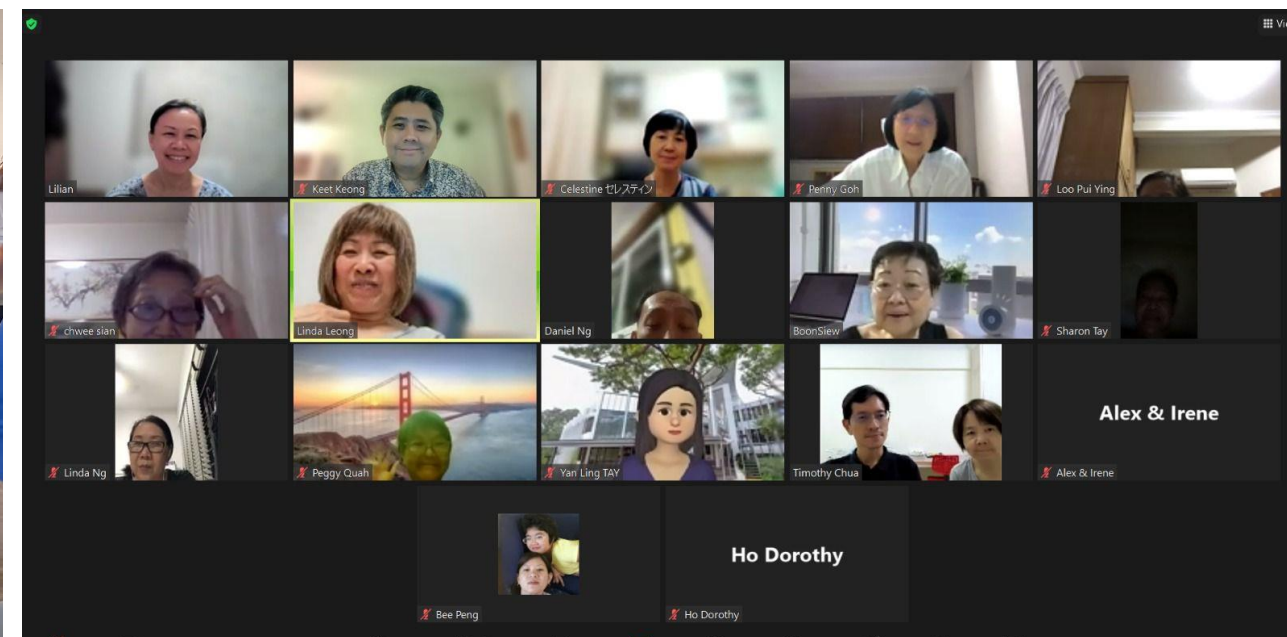


3. Victory in Solidarity

- . Alignment with God's kingdom purposes expressed through the vision and missions of the church?**
- . Discern that time is short**
- . God's heartbeat for the community around us**

3. Victory in Solidarity

Clementi Peaks Outreach



3. Victory in Solidarity

1. God's Redemptive Word

2. God's Inspired Strategy

3. God's Ordained Unity (Israel's response)