

WATCHMAN'S TEACHING LETTER

Monthly Letter #222 October, 2016; Teacher Clifton A. Emahiser
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THOSE TO WHOM THE COVENANT BELONGS

This is my two hundred and twenty-second monthly teaching letter and continues my nineteenth year of publication. I am continuing my resolution to do a series of lessons providing clarifying criticism of Howard B. Rand's books, tracts and articles published in his *Destiny Magazine*, which includes several guest writers of varying degrees in excellence. Although I rate Rand and his associate writers only 50%, some of their articles are simply outstanding.

With this lesson, I will start a critical review of a series entitled "The Book Of The Kingdom" found in *Destiny* magazines from January, 1949 until April, 1952, in 24 chapters, yet oddly enough Rand does not identify an author. He may have written it all himself, or it might have been a team effort by him and some of his associate writers. So, even if Rand wrote it, or if by the help of others, at least he approved of it and is responsible for it (and it will be edited):

"The Book Of The Kingdom, *Destiny*, January 1949:

Chapter I of XXIV, "Crossing The Jordan River":

"THE BOOK OF JOSHUA begins with the account of Israel entering the Promised Land. Joshua means *Jehovah saves* or *Jehovah, the Saviour*. In Greek the name means *Jesus*. Referring to Joshua in the New Testament, the writers call him Jesus (see Acts 7:45 and Hebrews 4:8). It is perhaps not without significance that Joshua (*i.e.*, Jesus) led Israel from the wilderness over the Jordan River into the Promised Land, bringing them into possession of their inheritance there. In this Joshua was a type of the Coming One, Jesus Christ, who is yet to lead His people into a land of promise when, at the close of the present age, we pass into the new order of the ages."

Critical note by Clifton A. Emahiser: The pronunciation "Jehovah" was unknown until 1520 A.D., when it was introduced by the catholic monk, Galatinus, (Brown, Driver, Briggs *Hebrew and English Lexicon*.) It was a failed Latinized attempt to transliterate the Hebrew Tetragrammaton, Yahweh! Yahshua Christ had the same identical name as Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua), as there was no "J" in any language before the 1500's A.D. Actually, the name "Jesus" is a mistransliteration of Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua). Evidently, Howard B. Rand and associates never learned the real truth about the Hebrew Tetragrammaton! Matthew Henry, in his 6-volume *Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 2 says the following in part:

"... Though Joshua is not expressly mentioned in the New Testament as a type of Christ, yet all agree that he was a very eminent one. He bore our Saviour's name, as did also another type of him, Joshua the high priest, Zech. vi. 11, 12. The LXX., giving the name of Joshua a Greek termination, call him all along 'ee-ay-sooce', Jesus, and so he is called in Acts vii. 45, and Heb. iv. 8. Justin Martyr, one of the first writers of the Christian church (*Dialog. cum Tryph. p. mihi* 300), makes that promise in Exod. xxiii. 20, 'My angel shall bring thee into the place I have prepared', to point at Joshua; and these

words, *'My name is in him'*, (v. 21) to refer to this, that his name should be the same with that of the Messiah. It signifies, *He shall save*. Joshua saves God's people from the Canaanites; our Lord Jesus saves them *from their sins*. Christ, as Joshua, is the *captain of our salvation, a leader and commander of the people*, 'to tread Satan under their feet', to put them in possession of the heavenly Canaan, and to *'gave them rest'*, which (it is said, Heb. iv. 8) Joshua did not."] – Back to Rand & *Destiny*.

"Following the death of Moses, Yahweh spoke to Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua):

"Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.' (Joshua 1:2.)

"Promised Inheritance

"Yahweh informed Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) that every foot of ground on which Israel would tread would be assigned to them according to the promise to Moses. Their frontiers would stretch from the desert to Lebanon and from the River Euphrates throughout all the land where the Hittites were living to the great or Mediterranean Sea. Not a man, so Yahweh told Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua), would be able to hold his own against him all the days of his life. Yahweh promised Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua):

"... as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.' (Joshua 1:5.)

"Importance of the Law

"Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) was admonished to be strong and brave for his was the difficult task of taking the people into the land. He was to remember to observe the law in its entirety just as Moses had commanded him. Above all, he was not to turn from it to the right hand or to the left so that he might have success wherever he went:

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.' (Joshua 1:8.)

"The final admonition to Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) was:

"... Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for Yahweh thy Almighty *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.' (Joshua 1:9.)

"Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) ordered the officers to go through the camp and command the people to prepare food, for in three days they were to cross the Jordan River. The tribes of Reuben and Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh had previously petitioned Moses to permit them to settle on the east side of the river for they saw that the land was good there. Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua), however, issued a command for all the fighting men of those tribes to go over the Jordan with the rest of the tribes to assist in conquering the land. Then they would be free to return and settle in the territory they preferred.

"Rahab, the Innkeeper

"Spies had been sent to Jericho and the King of Jericho, hearing that they had come into his city, commanded the woman Rahab, in whose house they were lodged,

to bring them out. Rahab is called a harlot in the King James translation but, according to Ferrar Fenton, she was 'an innkeeper.' [As Flavius Josephus also interpreted the Hebrew, Antiquities 5.9 ff. - CAE] She hid the two men on the roof of her house, evidently covering them with stalks of flax. She then misdirected the King's men, stating that some men had come to her but they had left when the gates were shut at dark. She told them that if they hurried the men might be overtaken before they reached the Jordan.

"As the King's men rode after them on the way to the Jordan, Rahab went to the roof and talked with the spies. She told them that terror had seized the people of the land for they had heard about all that Yahweh had done for Israel – how He had delivered them from Egypt and their passage of the Red Sea. They had heard about what they did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, utterly destroying them. Because she had hidden the men, she asked a favor that she and her household might be spared when the armies came to take the city. The two spies promised that if she would hang a scarlet cord [the emblem of Zerah-Judah C.A.E.] – which she subsequently used to lower them to the ground – from a window of her house, for her house was on the wall, she and those in her house would be spared. But they warned her that all persons must be in the house or the spies would not be bound by their oath. Dismissing the spies, Rahab tied the scarlet cord in the window. The spies returned to Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua), being careful to wait until the King's men who were searching for them had returned to the city.

"The Spies' Report

"The spies related their experiences to Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua):

"... Truly Yahweh hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us." (Joshua 2:24.)

"The time had come for Israel to pass over the Jordan River and therefore all the people moved to its banks. Instructions were given by the officers that the people were to follow the Ark of the Covenant as the Levitical Priests carried it before them. However, they were to keep two thousand cubits behind the Ark (using the sacred cubit of 25 inches, this would be a little over 4,000 feet) and they were warned not to approach any closer in following the Ark of the Covenant as it advanced before them. [Other sources say 21 inches. - CAE]

"Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) then commanded the people to sanctify themselves and he instructed the Priests to take up the Ark of the Covenant and precede the people as they moved toward the Jordan. Yahweh informed Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) that he would do great things in the sight of the people from which they would learn that He was with Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) just as He had been with Moses.

"Joshua's (*i.e.*, Yahshua's) Instructions

"The next command issued to the people was to gather around Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) so that they might hear the words of Yahweh. Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) informed them that the living Almighty was with them and that He would drive out the inhabitants of the land before them. The Ark of the Covenant was to pass on into the Jordan before them. Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) commanded that a man be selected from

each of the twelve tribes, who were to stand by for further directions. Then Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) announced the miracle the Almighty was to perform in their behalf:

“... it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of Yahweh, the Sovereign of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, *that* the waters of Jordan shall be cut off *from* the waters that come down from above ...’ (Joshua 3:13.) Ferrar Fenton translates the last clause of this verse: **“The waters will cease coming down from above.”**

“Passage of the Jordan

“The waters of the Jordan overflowed its banks at the harvest seasons and very likely, as the soles of the feet of the Priests bearing the Ark touched the water, a landslide in a gorge north of the place where Israel was about to cross blocked the waters above and the river became dry for their passage across. It was a miracle of timing so that all Israel might safely pass over to the other side of the Jordan. This miraculous crossing of the river added to the terror of the inhabitants of the land:

“And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that Yahweh had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel.’ (Joshua 5:1.)

“Memorials Set Up

“At Joshua’s (*i.e.*, Yahshua’s) command twelve stones were taken out of the Jordan from the spot where the Priests stood. Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) also set up a memorial of twelve stones in the Jordan River at the place where the Priests paused with the Ark of the Covenant while the people marched across. As soon as the passage of the river was completed, the Priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant came up out of the bed of the Jordan and the waters of the river returned to their previous state, flooding over the banks as they had before the crossing:

“And the people came up out of Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho.’ (Joshua 4:19.)

“There Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) erected the second memorial of twelve stones which had been taken from the river to commemorate the drying up of the Jordan River so that Israel could cross safely as they had safely passed over the Red Sea:

“That all the people of the earth might know the hand of Yahweh, that it is mighty: that ye might fear Yahweh your Almighty for ever.’ (Joshua 4:24.)

“Renewal of Circumcision

“Following the crossing of the River Jordan all the men of Israel were circumcised. The Record states that those who had come out of Egypt were circumcised but all who were born in the wilderness after they had left Egypt were not circumcised, for Israel ceased to practice circumcision while they were journeying from Egypt to the Promised Land. The whole nation remained in camp at that place for a period of time. It is as foolish to say that modern Israel today cannot be the descendants of Abraham because they have ceased to practice circumcision as it

would be to have accused those who were born during the wilderness wanderings of not being Israelites because they also had failed to practice the requirements of the rite of circumcision.

“Circumcision, as it was practiced then, was only a type to be superseded by Christian circumcision, to which Moses referred (Deut. 30:6). Spirit-filled men and women in modern Israel practice Christian circumcision today. It is worthy of our notice that Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) (whose name means Yah saves) circumcised the people as they entered the Promised Land. Our Saviour, Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) Christ, brings circumcision of heart to all those who accept [sic believe] Him and are to enter with him into the restored and glorified Kingdom:

“And Yahweh said unto Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) , This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.’ (Joshua 5:9.)

“Reproach Rolled Away

“This will also be so when Yahshua Christ leads His redeemed ones into the Kingdom, for then the reproach of the whole world will be rolled away and those who have followed Him will never again be held in contempt by their fellowmen but will be glorified with Him, sharing in His glory. Fear and dismay will grip the hearts of those who have ridiculed and opposed His servants as they endeavored to fulfill their mission here on earth. *[Egypt, symbolizing captivity, the reproach was rolled away in the stone at the tomb of the risen Christ. - CAE]*

“Manna Ceases

“Israel, encamped at Gilgal, kept the passover on the evening of the 14th day of the month. On the day after the passover the people ate some of the produce of the land, unleaven cakes and roasted grain:

“And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.’ (Joshua 5:12.)

“A Growing Kingdom

“A new era had begun. During the wilderness wanderings the people were schooled in the law under the tutelage of their great leader and law-giver, Moses. They were also well taken care of and fed by Yahweh during their sojourn in the wilderness and were not burdened with the responsibilities which confronted them as they prepared to advance into the land. Henceforth they must labor and plan their own work in order to provide for their daily needs.

“Under Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) a period of conquest began and the Kingdom of the Almighty was launched upon its mission to subdue evil aggressors and destroy wicked nations. That Kingdom was destined to grow in greatness and expand its borders until it would overspread the earth. Then, under the coming King, great David’s greater Son, universal peace will be established, for the government will rest upon His shoulders (Isa. 9:6-7). The day is coming when all *[Israel]* nations will be compelled to respect its laws. The Prophet Isaiah informs us that ‘of the increase of his government

and peace there shall be no end,' and down through the ages the people of the Kingdom, led by Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) into the Promised Land, have been increasing their numbers as promised. As we study the history of the Israel Kingdom, therefore, and note its small beginnings, let us not forget that it is the nucleus of the Kingdom of God upon earth and in the providence of the Almighty its ultimate end is to include the whole earth in its benevolent domain. [*emphasis [Israel] in brackets mine, C.A.E.*]

“The Book Of The Kingdom, *Destiny*, January 1949:

Chapter II of XXIV, “Jericho And Ai”:

“THE CITY OF JERICO had shut its gates and was closed to prevent anyone from entering or leaving it. The King of Jericho took this extraordinary precaution in his endeavor to prevent his city from falling into the hands of the Israelites. Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua), evidently out surveying the surrounding vicinity of the city with the idea of laying his plans for its capture, looked up and saw a Man standing before him, holding a drawn sword in His hand:

“... and Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) went unto him, and said unto him, *Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?*” (Joshua 5:13.) The Man replied: **“... Nay; but as captain (Prince) of the host of Yahweh am I now come ...” (Joshua 5:14.)**

“Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) Instructed

“Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) bowed in reverence and worshipped Him, for he recognized that He was Divine and of the Almighty-Sovereign. He asked, ‘What saith my Sovereign unto his servant?’ Before telling Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) His message, the command was given that Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) remove his shoes from his feet for the ground on which he stood was holy. Having complied with this request, Yahweh then informed him that He would give Jericho into his hands with its King and all its fighting men. Evidently Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) had been giving a great deal of thought to how the city could be taken. Therefore, as he stood before Jericho, looking over the situation, Yahweh appeared to him to give him the needed instructions for its capture. Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) was given directions in detail concerning the unusual method he was to use in his attack upon the city.

“For six days all the armed men of Israel were to march around the city of Jericho – just once each day for the six days. Seven Priests were to carry seven rams’ horns as trumpets before the Ark of Yahweh, which was to accompany them in their daily marches around the doomed city. On the seventh day they were to march around the city seven times, after which the Priests were to blow on their trumpets [*notice that the sabbath was later suspended - CAE*]:

““And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.” (Joshua 6:5.)

“Walls of the City Fall

“Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) carried out his instructions and on the seventh day, after marching around the city seven times, the Priests blew a loud blast on their trumpets. At that precise moment Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) told the people to shout, for Yahweh had

given the city to them. The walls of the city fell and the armies of Israel made their assault, utterly destroying all who were in the city except Rahab, her father, mother and brethren who were in her house with her. The city itself was completely destroyed by fire but the silver and gold, with all the vessels of brass and iron, were put into the treasury of the House of Yahweh:

“‘And Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) adjured *them* at that time, saying, Cursed *be* the man before Yahweh, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.’ (Joshua 6:26.)

“The Curse Fulfilled

“In 1 Kings 16:33-34 we are informed that during the days when Ahab ruled in Israel Hiel the Bethelite rebuilt Jericho. The Record states that when he laid the foundation his eldest son died and, when completing the city and hanging its gates, his youngest son passed away. This was according to the word of Yahweh as spoken through Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua). This fulfillment of Joshua’s (*i.e.*, Yahshua’s) prediction came some 500 years after he had uttered the curse upon anyone who would attempt to rebuild the city.

“As the result of this major victory, Joshua’s (*i.e.*, Yahshua’s) fame spread throughout the land, for all the Canaanites realized that Yahshua’s Almighty was with him and fought in his behalf.

“Sin in the Camp

“Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) had warned the people before Jericho was captured that under no consideration were they to take any of ‘the accursed thing’ in the city when they assaulted the city lest the camp of Israel be troubled:

“‘But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of Yahweh was kindled against the children of Israel.’ (Joshua 7:1.)

“Israel Defeated

“Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) next sent men from Jericho to Ai, a city near Bethel, ordering them to go and spy out the territory. The men returned and reported that the inhabitants of Ai were few and that it was not necessary to send all Israel against them. They said that two or three thousand fighting men would be sufficient to take the city. But when the campaign was launched, the men of Ai routed the attacking Israelites, killing about 36 men and driving them from their gates, pursuing them to Shebarim and defeating them at Morad.

“Joshua’s (*i.e.*, Yahshua’s) Prayer

“The hearts of the people melted with fear when the news came to them and Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) rent his clothes and prostrated himself before the Ark of Yahweh, remaining there until eventide. He and the elders of Israel went into deep mourning and sprinkled dust on their heads. Then Joshua prayed:

“... Alas, O Yahweh Almighty, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would to the Almighty we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! O Yahweh, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round (surround us), and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?’ (Joshua 7:7-9.)

“Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) could not understand why Israel should have turned their backs upon an enemy, yet he should have recognized in this defeat that something was materially wrong within Israel in their relationship to the Almighty. The fact that they could not stand before their enemies was clear evidence of a violation of the covenant, for such a defeat was the curse that was to come upon them for refusing to keep the law.

“Israel’s Sin

“Yahweh answered Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) by first telling him to get up, asking him why he was laying on his face before Him. Then He said:

“Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put *it* even among their own stuff.’ (Joshua 7:11.) Moffatt translates this: **“Israel has sinned; they have broken my compact which I commanded them to keep, they have taken some of the doomed spoil, stolen it, acted deceitfully, and hidden it among their own goods.’**

“Yahweh informed Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) that because of this Israel was not able to stand before their enemies, for they were themselves accursed. Then He said:

“... neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.’ (Joshua 7:12.)

“The Trial

“Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) was told that he must sanctify the people and inform them that because of the accursed thing among them they would be unable to stand before their enemies. This condition would continue until it was removed. In the morning they were brought tribe by tribe before Yahweh and the tribe that was selected was to approach family by family. The family chosen was to approach man by man:

“And it shall be, *that* he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of Yahweh, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel.’ (Joshua 7:15.)

“Achan’s Crime

“Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) did as Yahweh had commanded and the tribe of Judah was selected. Out of that tribe the family of Zarahites was chosen. Out of that family the household of Zaddi was taken and from that household Achan was picked. Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) then adjured Achan to confess his sin and he told Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) that when he saw among the spoils a fine Babylonish garment, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold that he coveted them and took and hid them in the earth under his tent.

[Critical note by Clifton A. Emahsier: Evidently Achan intended on starting a bank, making loans at usury!] – Back to Rand & *Destiny*:

“Messengers were sent to his tent and there they found the hidden goods which they brought to Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) and spread out before Yahweh in the sight of all the people.

“Sentence Carried Out

“Having confessed his crime, and being confronted with the evidence to prove the truth of his confession before all the people, Achan, with his sons and daughters, and all his possessions, were brought into the Valley of Achor. There Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) rendered the verdict:

“... Why hast thou troubled us? Yahweh shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.’ (Joshua 7:25.)

“Crime Against Kingdom

“Here we have demonstrated the seriousness of any man’s trespass against the commands of Yahweh in committing acts that bring harm to the entire Kingdom. Achan’s crime led directly to the slaughter of over thirty-six men in battle for which he had to pay with his life and the life of every member of his family, as well as the destruction of all his possessions. It must be remembered that the fact that he hid the stolen property under his tent is proof that his offense must have been known to his immediate family, who no doubt were accessories with him in the crime committed. The entire situation and the resulting difficulties and final detection and punishment of the individual responsible must have had a marked effect upon all Israel. It was a needed lesson for the people to learn as they began the conquest of the land. Severe as the judgment was, it was in keeping with the enormity of the crime committed in view of the destruction it brought upon the nation. Achan not only sinned against himself and against His Almighty but he caused the nation to suffer and therefore had betrayed his people for financial gain. Note: [Let’s not overlook the Babylonian garment!]

“Basic Cause of Trouble

“In this incident we have the reason for many of the difficulties and troubles which afflict modern Israel today. Because there is ‘sin in the camp’ and the people are walking contrary to the requirements of the commandments, statutes and judgments of Yahweh, we have no peace and our enemies are emboldened to make war against us. The Almighty cannot and will not be with His people to bless them in their undertakings while there is sin among them.

“Evil and immorality are rampant and disobedience to Yahweh and to His commands are clearly in evidence in the activities that are going on in our land. Our nation is suffering because there are many Achans among us, coveting wealth and willing to stoop to any means, no matter how questionable, in their quest for financial gain regardless of the multitudes that may be engulfed in the wake of their evil activities.

“Valley of Achor

“The place of the execution of Achan and his family was called the Valley of Achor, that is, trouble. This valley is referred to prophetically by Hosea when he speaks of Israel’s troubles and final deliverance, stating that the Valley of Achor (trouble) will become a door of hope. The significance of this is that Israel, through trouble, will finally turn to Yahweh and become His people in fact as well as in name.

“Capture of Ai

“Joshua was commanded to proceed against Ai, having been told that he would do to that city as he had done to Jericho. He was not to fear but he was to take all the men of war in the move against Ai. Evidently Yahweh wished all of Israel’s fighting men to share responsibility in the conquest of the land; hence, the specific command that all the men of war were to take part in the campaign against Ai. This was in keeping with the earlier command that the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh were to join the other tribes in conquering the land, even though they intended to eventually settle on the east side of the Jordan River. When Israel captured the city the cattle and spoils were to become their prey. The campaign was mapped and men were sent by night to take up positions behind the city while the rest of the army approached the gates as formerly. When the men of the city came out to battle, the army before the gates was to retreat and feign defeat. Then, when the defenders of Ai had been drawn away from the city, those of Israel lying in wait were to take the city and set it on fire.

“The plan was carried out and when the men of Ai saw the burning city behind them they did not know which way to turn and the forces of Israel destroyed them.

“Gerizim and Ebal

“Following the defeat of Ai, Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) built an altar to Yahweh in Mount Ebal as Moses had directed him to do. Then the people were divided into two groups as Moses had commanded. One group took their position on Mount Gerizim and the other on Mount Ebal. Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) then read all the words of the Law of Yahweh, the blessings and the curses as written therein. The account states:

“There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) read not before all the congregation of Israel ...’ (Joshua 8:35.)

“The stage was thereby set for the real conquest of the land to begin. The inhabitants of Canaan were aroused against Joshua (*i.e.*, Yahshua) and they gathered together to oppose him and to fight against Israel.”

This is the end of chapter II of “The Book Of The Kingdom”. This will be continued with chapter III in WTL #223.