

Title: Revenge Of The Zombie Robots - Joshua 8 18-29

Read:

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Then God spoke to Joshua: "Stretch out the javelin in your hand toward Ai—I'm giving it to you." Joshua stretched out the javelin in his hand toward Ai. At the signal the men in ambush sprang to their feet, ran to the city, took it, and quickly had it up in flames. ²⁰⁻²¹ The men of Ai looked back and, oh! saw the city going up in smoke. They found themselves trapped with nowhere to run. The army on the run toward the wilderness did an about-face—Joshua and all Israel, seeing that the ambush had taken the city, saw it going up in smoke, turned and attacked the men of Ai. ²²⁻²³ Then the men in the ambush poured out of the city. The men of Ai were caught in the middle with Israelites on both sides—a real massacre. And not a single survivor. Except for the king of Ai; they took him alive and brought him to Joshua. ²⁴⁻²⁵ When it was all over, Israel had killed everyone in Ai, whether in the fields or in the wilderness where they had chased them. When the killing was complete, the Israelites returned to Ai and completed the devastation. The death toll that day came to twelve thousand men and women—everyone in Ai. ²⁶⁻²⁷ Joshua didn't lower his outstretched javelin until the sacred destruction of Ai and all its people was completed. Israel did get to take the livestock and loot left in the city; God's instructions to Joshua allowed for that. ²⁸⁻²⁹ Joshua burned Ai to the ground. A "heap" of nothing forever, a "no-place" —go see for yourself. He hanged the king of Ai from a tree. At evening, with the sun going down, Joshua ordered the corpse cut down. They dumped it at the entrance to the city and piled it high with stones—you can go see that also.

Think:

With God without God it's your choice. Your God never made you a robot that has no choice. There is no little circuit board inside of you that makes you do what God wants. Can you image if the machines we use had the freedom to do what they wanted. You turn on the TV, and see as message that says. I'm too tired to show TV programs today. Maybe you go to college and the computers are complaining that they are too busy to deal with you today. Hey even the washing machine complains that it just finds doing your clothes boring. Actually that sounds just like the way I am with God sometimes. I'm too tired to ask God what I should do when I have to make a decision in my life. I'm so busy I couldn't possibly read my Bible today. And really going to Church is just a bit boring sometimes. Now I know that you never think that way, but just suppose you did on the odd occasion, what's wrong with doing things your way anyway? Well Joshua sure found out. Before this passage doing things the people's way caused massive problems, but the minute he started listening to God, things turned around. The minute Joshua and his people chose to get God involved, things changed. So actually you are not a robot, and you don't have to involve God in you day to day life. When you make you decisions on your own without God, the outcome is down to you. With God or without God, it's your choice.

Pray:

Lord thank you for my Freedom to choose. Please Lord guide me to make wise decisions in my life. Amen.

Action:

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