# LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1. **04 Dec 2016** ……………………………… Joshua 1:1-18
2. **11 Dec** ……………………………… Joshua 2:1 – 6:27
3. **18 Dec** ……………………………… Joshua 7:2 – 12:24
5. **01 Jan 2017** ……………………………… Joshua 13:1 – 23:34
6. **08 Jan** ……………………………… Joshua 23:1 – 24:33
7. **15 Jan** ……………………………… Sanctity of Life Prov 24:10-12; Mark 10:46-49
8. **22 Jan** ……………………………… Judges 1:1 – 5:31
9. **29 Jan** ……………………………… Judges 6:1 – 12:15
10. **05 Feb** ……………………………… Judges 13:1 – 16:31
11. **12 Feb** ……………………………… Judges 17:1 – 21:25
12. **19 Feb** ……………………………… Ruth 1:1 – 2:23
13. **26 Feb** ……………………………… Ruth 3:1 – 4:22

## INTRODUCTION

- Whatever became of sin? Society now celebrates sin – Even the Pentagon has started celebrating “Gay Pride Month” every June
- Scripture presents sin as serious since it breaks our relationship with God, with people, and destroys lives, and even entire nations

## Passage

### Sin in the Camp Stops Progress
- v5. Only 36 soldiers died – why the hoopla? Isn’t this “acceptable losses” by most warfare standards?
- Joshua’s concern was for future battles:
  - Israel’s army would now be seen as beatable
  - Israel’s enemies would be emboldened and fearless
  - Future battles would be harder to win
- Why didn’t God warn Joshua before the battle with Ai?
  - vv6-9. Joshua seemingly did the right thing to humbly fall before God and seek out the reason for the loss
  - vv10-13. But, God asked Joshua - “Why are you here?” - implying Joshua should’ve known the reason for the loss – there was sin in the camp to find and resolve
- **Doctrinal Issue.** Seemingly, God spoke directly to Joshua regarding how to fix the problem. Is this God’s method today? If not, how does God work today?
  - v24. Achan and his kids were stoned, burned, and buried along with his war booty and all possessions – with no chance to repent and make restitution …. WHY?
  - God often used the 1st incidence of a major sin as an example to invoke fear & respect for His commands
    2. Man cursed God …………………….. Lev 24:11-16
    3. Ananias and Saphira lied to God ……. Acts 5:1-11
    4. Christians abused Communion……………. 1Cor 11:30

### Ai is Eventually Defeated by a Ruse
- v2. …and Israel could plunder its spoil and livestock
  - If only Achan had waited for this battle to keep some war booty. Our impatience often leads us to sin.

### The Gibeonites Deceived the Israelites and Lived
- Principle #1. Taking the “Path of Least Resistance” always has an expensive price tag
  - v14. The leaders failed to consult the Lord and just casually looked at the evidence given
- Principle #2. Always “Prove all things” and seek God’s wisdom to prevent being deceived

## Passage

### Sun Standing Still for 24 Hours – Mythical or Miracle?
- Since the Bible has proven to be reliable in many other incidences (historically, archeology, astronomy, behavior sciences, etc.) we should give it some leeway when unprovable incidences are presented.

## Notes

**Astronomical Note**

The urban legend that Princeton scientists or NASA computers have “discovered” Joshua’s long day has circulated for more than 50 years, but it is baseless. [Link](http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2010/08/24/joshua)

**Tough Statements on Genocide**

11:1-23
- 11:8b. They struck them down leaving no survivors
- 11:11b;14b. Joshua left no one alive
- 11:20b. They were completely annihilated w/out mercy
- 11:9,20a. Joshua treated them as God commanded – for it was the Lord’s intention to harden their hearts
- 11:23. After this, the land had rest from war

**Wars Today vs Yester-year**

- It is interesting to note the U.S. Civil War lasted 4 years, WW-I lasted 5 years, and WW-II lasted 6 years, but modern wars now last for decades
- One hypothesis for this seems to be our reluctance to annihilate entire towns. Is this biblical or not?

## Conclusion/Doctrine/Apologetics/Applications

- How should we deal with sin – individually and corporately?
- We need to consider when it is OK to keep our heads in the sand about some sins and when it is appropriate to hit sin head-on?
- We live under different mandates today since we do not live in a theocracy as Israel did

**NEXT WEEK: Luke 1. Christmas study**

![The Back Pew - Jeff Larson](http://www.backpew.org/)

The sun stood still for 24 hours until Israel defeated their enemies. **Joshua 10:12-14**