

Ai and Artificial Intelligence

Ai was a small city that the children of Israel were sent to conquer after their victory at Jericho, the first city taken in the promised land. Today, Ai is also the abbreviation for Artificial Intelligence. The key word here is "artificial." Some synonyms are: bogus, counterfeit, fake, phony, and sham. If a student is assigned to write a term paper, but instead has Artificial Intelligence compose one for him and passes it off as original, it is counterfeit. A sharp professor will recognize it as phony and the student will not get credit.

Jericho was conquered in an unusual way, "without firing a shot." Jericho was a gift given to them by God (Josh 6:2). Although it was a gift, it had conditions. Meeting the conditions didn't mean they had "earned" this gift by marching around the walls. The number "7", was significant. Seven priests were to go before the ark of the covenant, bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns for seven days, and on the seventh day they were to march around the city seven times, blow the seven trumpets and shout. When they obeyed the Lord, the walls fell. This was accomplished by God's Divine Intelligence and Power, not Israel's.

The next city to be conquered was Ai. Joshua sent spies to assess the situation. They reported that the city was few and unnecessary to bring all the men of valor but to only send two or three thousand. This was unlike Joshua seeking the divine will, prior to the conquering of Jericho (Josh 5:14). Another factor involved was that they were not to take any of the spoils for themselves for in this first city conquered, the spoils were to go into the treasury of the Lord (Josh 6:18,19). It is said that Israel had sinned (Josh 7:1,11). Apparently they were responsible for knowing that Achan had stolen some of the spoils for himself. He ignored Divine Intelligence and substituted his own artificial intelligence, just as the spies of Israel substituted their own artificial military intelligence and suffered defeat at the battle of Ai.

So far, Israel's experience is an illustration of their whole history, and the spiritual history of many Christians.

Obedience followed by victory. Victory followed by blessing. Blessing followed by pride and disobedience. Disobedience followed by defeat. Defeat followed by judgment. Judgment followed by repentance. Repentance followed by obedience. Obedience followed by victory, and the cycle continues.

God's Intelligence is the real thing. When man follows God he gets the benefit of the real thing. But when he rejects God's intelligence for his own, he is like the Israelites at Ai. He is following Artificial Intelligence.

- Dick Blackford -

StoneRidge Church of Christ, Jonesboro, AR

The church is not a club for saints; it is a hospital for sinners.

News Notes

COVERED DISH: TODAY about Noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** at the Church Building.

NEW ADDRESS: Tim & Joyce Martin, 137 W. Circle Drive, Weirton, WV 26062. No change in phone numbers.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m. on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

SUPPORT ST. CLAIR AVE. MEETING: Our Elders have asked that we go **tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m.** to hear Bro. Bill Watkins.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday, **9:00-11:00 a.m.** All ladies invited to participate.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Sept. 13th, **8:30 a.m.** at the Columbiana Church of Christ.

LADIES DAY: Saturday, Sept 27th, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Southern Hills Church of Christ. Topic: "Am I An Example?" Speakers: Bobbie Goodnight & Alycia Taylor.

PANTRY: Pancake mix & syrup.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Calcutta Health Care: David Stefl (Room 7). **At Home:** Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Brian Haught (Skip's brother), Micheal Sabol (Karen Strum's daughter-in-law's father). Serra Manor, Weirton: Jean Haught (Skip's mother). Fox, Chester: Mary Johnson. **Elsewhere:** Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

St. Clair Ave., East Liverpool	Sept, 7-10	Bill Watkins
Bridgeport, WV	Sept. 21-24	Rick Tincher
CHESTER	Oct. 5- 9	Jimmy Clark

Malfunctioning of Our Memory

One problem we face as human beings is the malfunctioning of our memory.

We remember what we are supposed to forget, and we forget what we should remember. God says, "Your sins and iniquities I will remember no more." Yet many Christians go through life shackled with the memory of sin God has forgotten. I meet many people who are still chained to failures of the past. Paul said, "Forgetting those things which are behind."

But we need to ask God for a good memory concerning the help He has given in the past. For some reason, we forget the mercies and blessings of the past. Our God has cared for you thus far. Continue to trust Him. His care is sure and steadfast. "Yesterday God helped me. Today He will do the same. How long will this continue? Forever — praise His name!"

- Findlay Church of Christ, Sparta, TN (via *Bulletin Digest*) -

