

# Fall Quarter 2023

## Success and Failure

### Obedience and Success

September 3	<b>Be Strong and Courageous</b> .....	<i>Joshua 1:1-6; 11:16-19, 21-23</i>
September 10	<b>Rahab and the Spies</b> .....	<i>Joshua 2:3-9, 15-16, 22-24</i>
September 17	<b>The Fall of Jericho</b> .....	<i>Joshua 6:2-4, 12:20a</i>
September 24	<b>Ehud Frees Israel</b> .....	<i>Judges 3:15-25, 20-30</i>
October 1	<b>God Confirms Gideon's Mission</b> .....	<i>Judges 7:2-4, 13-15; 8:22-25</i>

### Disobedience and Failure

October 8	<b>The Sin of Achan</b> .....	<i>Joshua 7:1, 10-12, 20-26</i>
October 15	<b>A Backsliding People</b> .....	<i>Judges 2:16-23</i>
October 22	<b>Israel Rejects God as King</b> .....	<i>I Samuel 9:1-2; 10:17-26</i>

### Lessons and Warnings

October 29	<b>Joshua's Final Exhortation</b> .....	<i>Joshua 24:1, 14-24</i>
November 5	<b>Rebuke and Repentance</b> .....	<i>Judges 10:10-18</i>
November 12	<b>David's Sin and Punishment</b> .....	<i>I Samuel 11:2-5, 14-18, 26-27; 12:13-15</i>
November 19	<b>A Rebuke from the Lord</b> .....	<i>Amos 5:14-15, 18-27</i>
November 26	<b>Judgment and Exile</b> .....	<i>II Chronicles 36:15-21; Psalms 137:1-6</i>

Winston Churchill said success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm. He may have been humorously highlighting the need for persistence in muddling through hard tasks. But if this or any other philosophy leaves God out of the picture, it is flawed. True success always comes from a right relationship with God; failure comes from failing to trust Him. The lessons this quarter will remind us of that.

Our first unit shows God's people moving forward in bold faith. We see Joshua leading the Israelite nation in victory over the fierce Canaanite armies (lesson 1), including giants, descendants of Anak that may have been like Goliath of David's day (Josh. 11:21).

The spies who went into Jericho also succeeded when God provided them a surprising ally in Rahab (lesson 2). The Israelites' subsequent defeat of Jericho underscored again the reality that God is truly the source of success (lesson 3).

The next two lessons describe God delivering Israel from cruel oppression. Ehud did not hesitate to strike Israel's enemies (lesson 4), while Gideon needed lots of convincing (lesson 5). In the end, though, both Ehud and Gideon succeeded by trusting firmly in God.

The second unit shows vastly different results due to faithlessness. By ignoring God's direct command, Achan brought humiliation and military defeat to the whole nation (lesson 6). Rather than learning from Achan's ruin, the nation persistently rebelled against God and suffered the painful consequences (lesson 7). Finally, Israel showed the utmost disrespect for God by asking for a king (lesson 8).

The final unit provides stern warnings and real-life examples of what happens when people reject God. Joshua exhorted Israel to obey the Lord; but while they mouthed the words (lesson 9), their history shows a dismal lack of faith and obedience (lesson 10). Even David, their greatest king, transgressed God's commands in a despicable way (lesson 11). Although God sent prophets like Amos to condemn Israel (lesson 12), He ultimately handed down the worst punishment—removal from the Promised Land (lesson 13).

It seems the failures found in this quarter's lessons play out again all around us. The wealth of biblical instruction and examples, however, should inspire us to focus on God, the true source of success.