

# JOSHUA CHAPTER SEVEN

## “SIN IN THE CAMP” (PART 1)

### Introduction

Note: The first 6 chapters of Joshua are all about faith, remembrance, obedience, and victory... “BUT”... something happens.

Disclaimer: Joshua chapter 7 will NOT bring any comfort to your soul... unless you're a Matthew 5 kind of person.

**Matthew 5:3-9; Proverbs 28:13 -**

### I. The Disobedience of Achan

Note: The name “Achan” means “trouble”.

**1 Corinthians 12:24b-27 -**

Note: The Church will never (and can never) be conquered from the OUTSIDE... so... Satan must try to corrupt it from the INSIDE.

**2 Corinthians 7:1 -**

*So what was Achan's sin exactly, that brought such disaster & defilement upon Israel?*

**Proverbs 3:9-10 -**

1) Achan Saw

**Proverbs 4:25-27; 1 John 2:16 -**

2) Achan Redefined Reality (at least he tried to!)

*Warren Wiersbe - “They were not ‘the spoils’; they were a part of the Lord's treasury and wholly dedicated to Him. They didn't belong to Achan, or even to Israel; they belonged to God. When God identifies something in a special way, we have no right to change it. In our world today, including the religious world, people are rewriting God's dictionary!”*

3) Achan Coveted (which is a sin of the heart!)

**Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 5:28 -**

4) Achan Stole

**Luke 6:45b - “...for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”**

5) Achan Hid

**John 3:20; Hebrews 4:13; Matthew 5:3-4 -**

## II. The Disaster at Ai

- 1) This is the ONLY loss Israel would experience under the leadership of Joshua!
- 2) Israel seems to have an unhealthy self-reliant & self-confident perspective.  
**2 Corinthians 3:5 -**
- 3) Israel lost “only” 36 men in battle and it completely discouraged the nation.

## III. The Despair of Joshua

Note: Joshua’s response is one of total shock, dismay, and bewilderment.  
**Joshua 6:18 -**

Note: When Joshua is in confusion & despair, he goes to the right place... to God!  
**Psalm 120:1; Matthew 6:9; 1 Peter 2:9 -**

*Matthew Henry - “We cannot urge a better plea than this, Lord, ‘what wilt Thou do for Thy great name?’ Let God in all be glorified, and then welcome His whole will.”*

## IV. The Declaration by God

### A. God Explains Israel’s Sin.

### B. God Explains the Consequences of Israel’s Sin.

- 1) Israel is going to lose all their battles.
- 2) Israel will become like Jericho... devoted to destruction.
- 3) Israel has lost the good & gracious presence of God.

**Judges 16:19-20 - “She made him sleep on her knees. And she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. And she said, ‘The Philistines are upon you, Samson!’ And he awoke from his sleep and said, ‘I will go out as at other times and shake myself free’ But he did not know that the Lord had left him.”**

### C. God Explains the Process of Exposing, Judging, and Destroying Sin.

**1 Peter 2:21 - “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you...”**

**1 Peter 2:24 - “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.”**

**1 Peter 3:18 - “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God...”**

**1 Peter 4:1a - “Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh...”**