

BOOK OF JOSHUA
“SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES”
JOSHUA 7:1-26

Introduction

ISRAEL had experienced the greatest military **VICTORY** in their history and no doubt one of the all time greatest military **VICTORIES** in all of history, thanks to the **LORD!** They witnessed the **LORD’S** tremendous defeat of **JERICHO** and they were basking in the glow of that great event.

But now we see in *Joshua 7:1* how that the **LORD** was upset with the people. Now understand that **JOSHUA** and the children of **ISRAEL** thought that everything was all right between them and the **LORD** because of the wall coming down and their trouncing of **JERICHO** afterward. They thought that they were standing on the edge of a great string of **VICTORIES** that would see them conquering the entire land of promise.

But, what they did not know was that there was a problem in the camp...not just any problem, but there was sin in the camp! There was one in their midst who, by his **INATTENTION** and **DISOBEDIENCE** to the **LORD’S WORD** was causing a problem for all the people of **GOD!**

May I tell you that things are still the same today? According to the Bible, when one member of the body has problems, the entire body has problems.

You see our **SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE** can have a deep effect on the entire **BODY OF CHRIST!** None of us are an island unto ourselves. What we do can an often does affect the entire **CHURCH BODY!**

SIN causes problems. It causes problems for the **SINNER** and can cause problems for those around them.

Sadly, there are some **BELIEVERS** who, like **ACHAN**, are guilty of living selfishly and allowing **SIN** into their lives and then as they try to hide or cover up their **SINS**, they bring pain and trouble into their lives and the lives of others who are near them!

These verses reveal to us **THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN**, and the correction that is necessary because of **SIN**.

BOOK OF JOSHUA
“SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES”
JOSHUA 7:1-26

I. WE SEE THE PAINFUL DEFEAT! (Vs 1-5)

A. Israel Was Over-Confident! (vs 2-3)

1. Again, **ISRAEL** was still basking in the glow of their **VICTORY** at **JERICHO** and they looked at **AI** and felt like that little town would be no problem for such a great army as theirs!
2. **ISRAEL** was a confident people, but a closer look reveals that their confidence was misplaced.
3. In *vs 3*, we see they felt like that just a few of the soldiers are needed to secure a victory in little **AI**.
4. They already had forgotten that it was the **LORD GOD**, and not their own ability, that had brought about the wonderful **VICTORY** at **JERICHO!**
5. How soon we forget! When we forget that we owe **EVERYTHING** to **GOD**, we begin to be filled up with **PRIDE!**
Proverbs 16:18—“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”
6. **CONFIDENCE** is a good thing as long as one's **CONFIDENCE** is in the right place.
7. When we are **WALKING** with our **HOPE** and our **CONFIDENCE** in the **LORD**, we will win the **VICTORY**, but when we are **WALKING** with our **CONFIDENCE** in the power of **OUR ABILITY** and in **OUR FLESH**, then we are destined to **FAIL!**

Israel Was Over-confident...

B. Israel Was Defeated! (vs 4-5a)

1. When **ISRAEL** went up to **AI** they suffered a terrible **DEFEAT** and 36 of them were killed.

BOOK OF JOSHUA
“SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES”
JOSHUA 7:1-26

2. That had to have been very devastating to the **ISRAELITES!**
3. However, when we take the time to look more closely at their actions, it is easy to see that they made several mistakes. They made mistakes that many of us are guilty of making as well.

a. They didn't PRAY!

Nowhere in this passage does it even hint that **JOSHUA** and the children of **ISRAEL** sought the **WILL OF GOD** for dealing with **AI**.

If they had, **GOD** would have revealed the problem before people died.

How many times are we guilty of jumping ahead of the **LORD** and **HIS WILLI**?

Sometimes we rush headlong into things without consulting the **LORD!** And then we get into a mess, we look to the **LORD** to bail us out!

It is far better to consult **GOD** before we make the mistake than it is to expect **HIM** to clean up our messes afterwards.

b. They didn't take the ARK OF THE COVENANT into the BATTLE.

The **ARK** symbolized the very **PRESENCE** and **POWER OF GOD!**

They went into the **BATTLE** in their own strength and they failed!

BOOK OF JOSHUA
“SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES”
JOSHUA 7:1-26

Again, here is an area where we could all use some help. Sometimes we try to live the **CHRISTIAN** life by fighting the **WORLD**, the **FLESH** and the **DEVIL** in our own **POWER**, we **FAIL** time and time again.

The reason? We don't take the time to **STRENGTHEN** our **WALK** with **GOD!**

When we are **WALKING** with the **LORD** and in **HIS WORD** and in **PRAYER** as we should be, **HE** will go with us into the **BATTLE** and face our **ENEMIES** on our behalf.

Who killed the giant, **DAVID** or **GOD?**
1 Samuel 17:47—“And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.”

- c. **Finally, ISRAEL had their CONFIDENCE in their OWN POWER and not in the LORD.** They were not **WALKING BY FAITH**, but they were guilty of **TRUSTING** what they could do.

How many times have we suffered **DEFEAT** at the hands of our **ENEMY** because we **BELIEVED** we were **ABLE** and that we could get the job done?

We all need the **LORD** if we are to **WALK** in **SPIRITUAL VICTORY** in our lives.

Philippians 4:13—“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

BOOK OF JOSHUA
“SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES”
JOSHUA 7:1-26

John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

Israel Was Over-Confident.
Israel Was Defeated.

C. Israel Was Clueless! (vs 5b)

“...wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.”

After their terrible defeat at the hands of **AI**, the people of **ISRAEL** began feeling the same **FEAR** that their enemies experienced!

That is one of the problems with **SIN**. **SIN DEFEATS** us and can even leave us feeling just like a lost man!

Nothing is right in the life of a **BELIEVER** while there is **SIN** in his life!

ISRAEL didn't know at this point what was wrong. All they knew was that they had just suffered their first **DEFEAT**.

Thankfully, the **LORD** wants **HIS PEOPLE** to have the **VICTORY**, not to be living **DEFEATED!**

So, **HE** takes the necessary steps to reveal to the nation of **ISRAEL** just exactly where the problem lies.

WE SEE THE PAINFUL DEFEAT...

II. WE SEE THE PAINFUL DISCOVERY! (Vs 6-15)

A. JOSHUA Reacted In PRAYER. (Vs 6-9)

After the tragedy happens, **JOSHUA** found himself before the **LORD** in **PRAYER**. His **PRAYER** was from a broken heart!
(Vs. 6)

BOOK OF JOSHUA
“SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES”
JOSHUA 7:1-26

However, there was also a hint of **ANGER** and **ACCUSATION** against the **LORD!** But the **LORD** had not failed **JOSHUA** or **ISRAEL!** **ISRAEL** had failed the **LORD!**

But understand that **PRAYER** is the correct recourse in a time of trouble, but **PRAYER** will avail us nothing until our **SIN** has been dealt with.

Psalm 66:18–“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the LORD will not hear me:”

When there is a tragedy in our lives, we first need to look within and see if that is where the problem is. It isn't always, but that is the first place we should look!

JOSHUA Reacted In PRAYER...

B. GOD Rehearsed The Problem. (Vs 10-15)

While **JOSHUA** and **ISRAEL** were trying to figure out what was happening, **GOD** already knew and so **HE** told **JOSHUA** all about it.

The **LORD** told him that there was **SIN** in the camp of **ISRAEL!** He told **JOSHUA** that it was this **SIN** that was hindering **HIS POWER** and what was bringing about their **DEFEAT!**

He also told **JOSHUA** how to discover the guilty party.

In these words to **JOSHUA**, the **LORD** gives us some insights into **SIN**, of which we need to take note.

1. The **LORD** knows all about our **SINS!** *(Vs 11)*
2. Our **SIN** can affect those around us. *(Vs. 11-12)*
3. Our **SIN** can hinder **GOD'S WORK!** *(Vs. 12)*
4. **SIN** must be dealt with in **GOD'S WAY!** *(Vs. 13)*

WE SEE THE PAINFUL DEFEAT...THE PAINFUL DISCOVERY...

BOOK OF JOSHUA
“SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES”
JOSHUA 7:1-26

III. WE SEE THE PAINFUL DEATH! (Vs 16-26)

A. The Sinner Was Discovered! (Vs 16-18)

The **LORD** chose to use this process to point out **ACHAN** as the one who was guilty.

Why didn't the **LORD** just tell **JOSHUA** who they were looking for?

I don't know, but perhaps the **LORD** was giving **ACHAN** additional time to repent and confess.

As **JOSHUA OBEYED** the **LORD**, the guilty party was eventually narrowed down to being **ACHAN!**

The lesson in this for each of us is this: the **LORD** already knows our **SIN**, and it will be found out!

We may try to hide and cover it up, but it will be found out!
Numbers 32:23b "...Behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out."

The Sinner Was Discovered.

B. The Sin Was Discussed. (Vs 19-21)

1. The Compassion. (Vs 19)

When Joshua spoke to **ACHAN** here, he spoke with **LOVE** in his **HEART!**

He knew that **ACHAN** was condemned, but he still cared for this man who brought so much trouble to **ISRAEL!**

While **GOD** hates **SIN** with **HIS** entire being, **HE** still **LOVES** the **SINNER!**

2. The Confession. (Vs 20-21)

ACHAN confessed his **SINS** after he got caught.

BOOK OF JOSHUA
“SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES”
JOSHUA 7:1-26

That is not **GOD'S** method for us to handle our **SIN!**

GOD'S way is for a man to be open and honest about the **SIN** in his life and for him to **CONFESS** those things to the **LORD!**

Proverbs 28:13—"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

GOD'S way is for **HIS** people to throw the covers off their **SINS** and tell **GOD** the **TRUTH** that **HE** already knows!

HE can **BLESS** a person who handles **SIN** the **BIBLICAL** way.

But the person who tries to **HIDE** his **SINS** will never **PROSPER!**

Note that in **vs 21**, **ACHAN** calls the things he took "**spoils**". However, these things were not "**spoils**".

GOD said in **6:18-19** that these things were **HIS!**
So, **ACHAN** was guilty of stealing from the **LORD!**

ACHAN had things buried in his tent that he couldn't even use! So **ACHAN** sinned and died for nothing!

The things he stole were no good to him at all!

C. The Sinner Destroyed. (Vs 22-26)

These verses give us the sad conclusion to this tragic tale.

ACHAN and all that he had were taken out and stoned to death by the people of **ISRAEL** and then burned with fire.

BOOK OF JOSHUA
“SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES”
JOSHUA 7:1-26

But, it didn't have to end this way!

If only **ACHAN** had listened to **GOD** in the first place.
GOD said, “*Don’t do it!*” (6:18)

We can choose to **SIN**, but we cannot choose the
CONSEQUENCES of our **SIN**! We need to remember that
GOD chooses the **CONSEQUENCES**!

Conclusion

It is a hard lesson to be learned! “*The wages of sin is death...*”
GOD’S attitude toward **SIN** hasn't changed.

Galatians 6:7–“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

We may convince ourselves that we can get involved with **SIN** and not have to suffer any **CONSEQUENCES**, but that simply isn't true!

What a sad account following such a wonderful **VICTORY**!

But that is the way it is. When we disobey **GOD’S COMMANDS** and choose to **SIN**, we can bring upon ourselves, our loved ones and even other people around us some harsh **CONSEQUENCES** from **GOD**!

How much better it is to just to **OBEY HIM**, and **FOLLOW HIS WORD**!