

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why would Joshua only send two or three thousand men into Ai and not all the people?
2. What was the accursed thing?
3. What was the sin of Achan?
4. Why did Achan's sin bring judgment on the entire nation?
5. What does it mean to "sanctify yourselves"?
6. Why did Achan's entire family pay for his sin?
Did the punishment fit the crime?
8. How does sin affect the spiritual progress of individuals, homes, churches?
9. What must be done if sin is present?
10. Why does the Church practice discipline?

SUMMARY:

After Israel's success in the battle of Jericho, they had confidence that they could easily defeat Ai. What a disappointment it was to Joshua to think that God had forsaken them. But "Israel had sinned" was God's answer. Although only one man and his family sinned, all Israel suffered, and God would not be with them anymore unless the accursed thing was destroyed.

If we expect God to be with us and to bless our labor for Him, we must be sure that there is not even a little sin within us. God abhors sin today just as much as He did in Joshua's time. From this scripture we can see the consequences—Spiritual failure and hindrance of God's blessings—of even just one sin if it is not purged from among us: "sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (James 1:15)

NOTES:

[SoF:14] We believe in the exercise of discipline by the church in order to deal with the presence of sin in the lives of its members.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #4

July 26, 2015

Third Quarter

SIN IN THE CAMP [SoF:14]

LESSON TEXT: *Joshua 7:1-26; James 1:14-15*

LESSON SETTING: Israel loses her first battle at the city of Ai.

TIME: Approximately 1451 B.C.

- I. SIN'S PROGRESSION.** Joshua 7:1-15
 - A. Independent of God (vs. 2) Psalm 10:4
 - B. Self-confidence (vs.3) Proverbs 14:16; John 9:41
 - C. Lust of World and Flesh. Matthew 19:21-22; 1 John 2:16
- II. SIN'S EFFECTS.** Joshua 7:16-26
 - A. Spiritual Failure. Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 24:3-5; 65:12-14
 - B. Unanswered Prayer. Psalm 66:18; John 9:31; James 4:3
 - C. Deprivation of God's Blessings. Numbers 20:12; Revelation 21:27
- III. SIN'S PUNISHMENT.** James 1:14-15
 - A. Judgment and Condemnation. John 3:18; Hebrews 12:25; Revelation 20:12
 - B. Eternal Death. Isaiah 13:11; Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 6:23
- IV. SIN'S REMEDY**
 - A. Repentance. 2 Chronicles 7:14
 - B. Confession. Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9
 - C. Forgiveness. 1 Kings 8:34; Luke 5:24

GOLDEN TEXT: *HE THAT COVERETH HIS SINS SHALL NOT PROSPER: BUT WHOSO CONFESSETH AND FORSAKETH THEM SHALL HAVE MERCY.*
Proverbs 28:13

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Joshua 10:1-27

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Psalm 21; Revelation 19:6

QUARTERLY THEME: Early Days in Canaan

TOPIC: OVERCOMING THE ODDS

INTRODUCTION:

Joshua's faith in God gave him power to overcome his many enemies. He possessed this faith because God had given it to him, but he also knew from past experiences what he could do through God's power. He took God at His Word and acted accordingly. He did not sit back waiting for God to work a miracle, but he himself did something about it. His works were a result of his faith.

We also have our enemies, physical as well as spiritual. Perhaps for some of us the spiritual are more numerous. Often a person wishes to give his life to Christ, but the devil comes with varied and many, many temptations, fleshly or spiritually. We feel it is impossible to overcome and it is, if we depend upon ourselves. But if we, as Joshua, depend upon God through faith, we will overcome. God helps us to do the impossible. God gives this faith to us through fervent prayer and faithful study of His Holy Word.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Unwavering faith in God, coupled with courageous action, leads to certain triumph.

GOLDEN TEXT: *TRUST IN THE LORD AND DO GOOD; SO SHALT THOU DWELL IN THE LAND, AND VERILY THOU SHALT BE FED.*
Psalm 37:3

In Old Testament times, as in some lands today, there was often danger of famine and starvation. Many times we read of famine in some countries in God's Word. Often people would leave their homes and countries and sojourn in a strange country where more food was available. This always caused heartaches and hardship. So our Golden Text contained a wonderful promise for God's people at that time: to live in their land and be fed. And what a simple and blessed condition God placed before those who would heed. "Trust in the Lord and do good." Just to consider such a covenant with God thrills our hearts.

Christ did not come to destroy the Law. He came to fulfill it, and then provide something better. He also had a better promise with a more blessed condition than this beautiful Golden Text. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

The New Covenant repeats all Old Covenant promises with something better added.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF July 27 – Aug. 2

- M. *Joshua Acts in Faith. Joshua 10:1-27
- T. Fearing God's Presence. Joshua 9:3-14
- W. Dealing with Craftiness. Joshua 9:20-27
- T. Facing Hostility. Joshua 10:1-5
- F. Trusting Brings Triumph. Joshua 10:15-23
- S. Triumph Calls for Thanksgiving. Psalm 21:1-13
- S. Faithfulness Brings Eternal Reward. Revelation 19:6-16

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