

**THE CASE OF ACHAN
OR
SIN IN THE CAMP #2
JOSH. 6,7**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Don't forget the value of O.T. history and its present relevance to us, even though we don't live under that law, Rom.15:4; 1Cor.10:4.
2. The account of Achan and his sin in Josh.6,7 is a case in point of things "written aforetime" and "written for our admonition" and "learning."

II. DISCUSSION

A. THE HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF ACHAN REVIEWED

1. Achan was a common soldier in the Israelite army.
2. The beginning of the account contains the **POSITIVE** instructions pertaining to the siege and fall of the city of Jericho, 6:1-5.
 - a. Jericho was one of the major cities of Canaan the Israelites had to conquer before they could possess the land they were to occupy which the Lord had sworn with an oath to the fathers to give them, Josh.1:1-11.
 - b. Note that God had said, "I have given into thine hand Jericho (the city), and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor," 6:2.
 - c. Take note of how God instructed them to proceed in conquering the city, which came to pass as he instructed, 6:3-5, 15,16,20,21,27.
3. The account continues with the **NEGATIVE** instructions pertaining to "the accursed thing", or what they were forbidden to do in their conquering the city, 6:17-24.
4. The historical account continues in Josh.7 with the record of Israel's humiliating defeat and failure to capture the city of Ai following their fabulous success at Jericho.
 - a. Josh.7:1 tells of the Lord's anger "kindled against the children of Israel" and why it was so. (But, of course, at this time neither Israel nor Joshua knew this.)
 - b. Vv.2-5 tell of Israel's humiliating defeat by the men of Ai, their enemies, when sent by Joshua against that city.
 - c. Vv.6-9 tell of Joshua's resultant devastation and of his taking the matter before the Lord to find the reason for this

shameful defeat by the idolatrous heathen occupants of the land.

- d. This is when and where he learns there is sin in the camp, what that sin is, that being the reason they “could not stand before their enemies” at Ai as they had at Jericho, vv.10-12
- e. Then he is instructed what to do to determine who is the guilty party, how to expose him, and what was to be done with him, vv.13-15.
- f. Vv.16-26 reveal how Achan was exposed as the guilty party, moved to confess his guilt, and receive his punishment.

B. NOW LET US EXAMINE ACHAN’S CONFESSION WHICH REVEALS THE ORDER OF HIS SIN, 7:20,21.

- 1. However, first take note that he acknowledges his sin as being against the Lord, as all sin is, v.20.
 - a. The sooner we learn this the better off we are.
 - b. Cf. Gen.39:9; 20:6; Lev.6:2; Num.5:6; 2Sam.12:13; Psa.51:4; Ac.5:3,4.
- 2. In confessing his sin, he said: “when I **SAW**,” v.21a.
 - a. This is how temptation originated.
 - b. Cf. Gen.3:6a: “And when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food” cf. 2Cor.11:3 and be warned.
 - c. It’s the same course temptation took when David committed adultery with Bathsheba, 2Sam.11:2. (You know the rest of the story.)
 - d. In Prov.6:25 wisdom’s warning teaches the same truth: “Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.”
 - e. In defending himself against his friend’s false accusations, Job declared: “I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?” Job 31:1. (Let us do so!)
- 3. Next Achan confessed: “Then I **COVETED** them,” v.21b.
 - a. His seeing led to his desire for and his coveting the accursed thing.
 - b. Advertising makes us want what we don’t have. It makes for discontentment.
 - (1) The business and commercial world know this and use it effectively.
 - (2) Why do you think the street-corner harlot dresses as she does? Cf. Prov.7:10; Gen.38:15.

- (3) What makes others think they can dress like a harlot and not sent the same message?
- (4) Recently one in a position to know even warned about very young girls being dressed in very skimpy attire being an attraction to the perverts because of such dress! (Statement made in connection with the rash of child abductions and rapes)
- c. Holy contentment is the attribute of God's children. Cf. 1Tim.6:5-10,17-19; Heb.13:5.
 - (1) Contentment with what we have is a matter of trust.
 - (2) So, covetousness is destructive of faith.
 - (3) Covetousness is idolatry, a work of the flesh, which will keep one out of the kingdom of God, Eph.5:5; Col.3:5; Gal.5:19-21.
 - (4) No wonder Paul says: "Free fornication" – don't even look – flee it ; look the other way, as it were!
 - (5) No one can flirt with sin and escape its pull!!
- 4. Then Achan said: "I **TOOK**," v.21c. For emphasis note his full confession and then the order of his sin: "When I **saw**...then I **coveted** them, and **took** them."
 - a. When he looked for the wrong reason it created an inordinate desire that led to a deadly action.
 - b. After desire was created by looking, it became his master.
 - c. James attests to this, Jas.1:14,15.
 - d. 1Jno.2:16 declares the three avenues of temptation.
 - e. Sin is a progressive thing, as well as a deceitful thing. Cf. 2Tim.3:13; Heb.3:13; Rom.7:11; Tit.3:3; Eph.6:11; 2Cor.2:11; Jas.1:26.
- 5. Finally, he confessed that he "**HID**" or concealed what he took, v.21d.
 - a. He was robbed of much of the pleasure of his ill-gotten gain, if not of all of it, because he was forced to hide it.
 - b. He couldn't wear the garments. He couldn't make use of or display the silver or the gold.
 - c. Here is an example of the normal course of sin and sinful practices: it brings on fear of exposure and guilt, and is normally carried on under cover of darkness or some form of secrecy.

C. FINALLY, CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF ACHAN'S SIN.

1. First, the consequences to himself and his family, 7:25,26.
2. Then, the consequences to Israel as a whole.
 - a. Israel suffered humiliating defeat by their enemies and the enemies of God, 7:4,5.
 - b. Joshua, the great leader of Israel, was devastated, 7:6-9.
 - c. God was sinned against and angered, 7:1.
3. This reminds us of the truth of Gal.6:7,8.
 - a. You can't cheat God with impunity. Can't make a fool of God.
 - b. The wages of sin has always been death, Rom.6:23.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Our sins are never isolated matters. Sin will find you out, Num.32:23.
2. Sin is never without hurt to self, to others, to God.
3. Sin begets sin; sin is deceitful.
4. God takes action against sin – all sin – sooner or later!
5. Sin cost God his Son; his Son, his life.
6. Sin will cost us our soul and body in hell unless we repent and turn from it.
7. What sin did to Achan and Israel then, it will do to us and the local church of which we are a member today!