

REVIEW:

Last week we discussed the fall of Jericho.



Ultimately, the Israelites enter Jericho and inhabit it. There were three conditions that Joshua was given to the people.

- 1) Bring out Rehab and everyone in the home.
- 2) Destroy everything.

3) Bring the gold, silver, and treasures to the tabernacle of the Lord.

Their next conquest is a city called Ai.



Now remember the conditions:

Joshua 7:1-26 But the children of Israel **committed a trespass regarding the accursed things**, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, **took of the accursed things**; so the anger of the **LORD burned against the children of Israel**.

A) Achan knew the instructions but decided to take of the accursed thing. Everyone can make their own choices, but they cannot choose the consequences of those choices, and sometimes those consequences extend beyond themselves.

(2) Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, "Go up and spy out the country." So the men went up and spied out Ai. (3) And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. **Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few.**" (4) So **about three thousand men went up** there from the people, but **they fled before the men of Ai.** (5) And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for **they chased them from before the gate** as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the **people melted and became like water.** (6) Then **Joshua tore his clothes**, and fell to the earth on his face **before the ark of the LORD until evening**, he and the elders of Israel; and **they put dust on their heads.**

(7) And Joshua said, "Alas, Lord GOD, **why have You brought this people over the**

Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us?

Oh, **that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!** (8) O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? (9) For the Canaanites and all the **inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name** from the earth. Then what **will You do for Your great name?**"

(10) So the LORD said to Joshua: "**Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?** (11) **Israel has sinned**, and **they have** also **transgressed My covenant** which I commanded them. For **they have** even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and **they have** also put it among their own stuff. (12) Therefore the **children of Israel could not stand before their enemies**, but turned their backs before

their enemies, because **they have** become doomed to destruction.

Neither will I ***be with you anymore***, unless **you destroy the accursed from among you.**

(13) Get up, sanctify the people, and say, 'Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; **you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing** from among you."

A) Achan sinned but the Israelites suffered. We read all the they....“THEY”.

The disconnect among Christians is stifling! Not taking personal responsibility in our families, in our nation, in our schools, in our churches, and even in our own lives, believing “others” can sin all they want because it is “not me” is the attitude people take.

Ezekiel 33:6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the

trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.'

B) What I also find crazy is how people think “they” can hang on to a sin of commission or omission and think that they and others will not be affected by it.

Jonah – Eli - David

Effected and infected themselves and others because of their disobedience.

The fact is, people lose battles in their families, workplaces, health, and spiritual lives because they refuse to give up their sins. Battles that should be easily won, but they lose because of disobedience.

C) Joshua believed to do what was right by fasting and praying but God said, “NO” I do not care how much you pray and fast, I will not hear you.

Jeremiah 7:15-16 And I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren—the whole posterity of Ephraim.

(16) "Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you.

Jeremiah 11:14 "So do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them; for I will not hear them in the time that they cry out to Me because of their trouble.

Get up off your face and do what you are supposed to do. God wants obedience, not sacrifice.

Samuel and Saul

PART 2

(14) In the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the LORD takes shall come according to families; and the family which the LORD takes shall come by households; and the household which the LORD takes shall come man by man. (15) Then it shall be that he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.' " (16) So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken. (17) He brought the clan of Judah, and he took the family of the Zarhites; and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man, and Zabdi was taken. (18) Then he brought his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. (19) Now

Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." (20) And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done: (21) When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it." (22) So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver under it. (23) And they took them from the midst of the tent, brought them to Joshua and to all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD. (24) Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he

had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. (25) And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. (26) Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day.

Joshua 8:1-29 Now the LORD said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. (2) And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves. Lay an ambush for the city behind it." (3) So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai; and Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men of valor and sent them

away by night. (4) And he commanded them, saying: "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind the city. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you be ready.

(5) Then I and all the people who are with me will approach the city; and it will come about, when they come out against us as at the first, that we shall flee before them. (6) For they

will come out after us till we have drawn them from the city, for they will say, 'They are fleeing before us as at the first.' Therefore we will flee before them. (7) Then you shall rise from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will deliver it into your hand.

(8) And it will be, when you have taken the city, that you shall set the city on fire.

According to the commandment of the LORD you shall do. See, I have commanded you."

(9) Joshua therefore sent them out; and they went to lie in ambush, and stayed between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of Ai; but Joshua lodged that night among the people.

(10) Then Joshua rose up early in the morning

and mustered the people, and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai. (11) And all the people of war who were with him went up and drew near; and they came before the city and camped on the north side of Ai. Now a valley lay between them and Ai. (12) So he took about five thousand men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city. (13) And when they had set the people, all the army that was on the north of the city, and its rear guard on the west of the city, Joshua went that night into the midst of the valley. (14) Now it happened, when the king of Ai saw it, that the men of the city hurried and rose early and went out against Israel to battle, he and all his people, at an appointed place before the plain. But he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city. (15) And Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness. (16) So all the people who were in Ai were

called together to pursue them. And they pursued Joshua and were drawn away from the city. (17) There was not a man left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. So they left the city open and pursued Israel. (18) Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Stretch out the spear that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the spear that was in his hand toward the city. (19) So those in ambush arose quickly out of their place; they ran as soon as he had stretched out his hand, and they entered the city and took it, and hurried to set the city on fire. (20) And when the men of Ai looked behind them, they saw, and behold, the smoke of the city ascended to heaven. So they had no power to flee this way or that way, and the people who had fled to the wilderness turned back on the pursuers. (21) Now when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city and that the smoke of the city ascended, they turned back and struck down the men of Ai. (22) Then the

others came out of the city against them; so they were caught in the midst of Israel, some on this side and some on that side. And they struck them down, so that they let none of them remain or escape. (23) But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him to Joshua. (24) And it came to pass when Israel had made an end of slaying all the inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness where they pursued them, and when they all had fallen by the edge of the sword until they were consumed, that all the Israelites returned to Ai and struck it with the edge of the sword. (25) So it was that all who fell that day, both men and women, were twelve thousand—all the people of Ai. (26) For Joshua did not draw back his hand, with which he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai. (27) Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as booty for themselves, according to the word of the LORD which He had commanded Joshua. (28) So Joshua burned Ai and made

it a heap forever, a desolation to this day.

(29) And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until evening. And as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his corpse down from the tree, cast it at the entrance of the gate of the city, and raise over it a great heap of stones that remains to this day.