

- I) V1 INTRO: But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things
- II) KEY: God had made great promises to Israel concerning entering in and possessing the land
  - a) This promise was an ancient promise, first given to Abraham
    - 1) Gen 12:7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, To your offspring I will give this land
    - 2) Gen 15:18-21 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates - the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."
- III) THIS PROMISE: Began to be fulfilled when Joshua and his men took the city of Jericho
  - a) GOD HAD SAID: That He would be with them, and that He would give them victory
    - 1) Moses had given instructions to the people and the priest concerning this
    - 2) Dt 20:3-4 And he (the priest) shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them; for the LORD your God *is* He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'
- IV) KEY: As we have seen, they marched around the city, blew trumpets, and God tore the walls down
  - a) When this happened, the people went into the city and they took it
    - 1) This revealed that God's Word to Joshua and Israel could be trusted
    - 2) Josh 1:3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon *I have given you*, as I said to Moses
- V) KEY: After the victory over Jericho, Joshua made it clear that Jericho was *a cursed city* (V26)
  - a) This was literally fulfilled around 500 years later, when King Ahab ruled in the north
    - 1) 1 Ki 16:34 In his (Ahab's) days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest *son* Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.
- VI) IN THEIR VICTORY: God had made it clear that He would keep His word for their good
  - a) In this chapter, He will make it clear that He would also deal with them if they disobeyed
    - 1) KEY: They needed to learn that they would conquer only as long as they were faithful to Him
- VII) IN DEUT 28: God gave a list of blessings and curses that would fall on Israel
  - a) Dt 28:7 The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.
  - b) V25 The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.
- VIII) IN THIS CHAPTER: We see how disobedience put them in the position of chastisement
  - a) REMEMBER: God is a personal God who takes disobedience seriously and does not ignore it
- IX) FACT: Some believers actually seem surprised when things aren't going well for them
  - a) They wonder *why* they are not being blessed, but *sometimes* it is because they are in sin
    - 1) Dt 8:5 You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, *so* the LORD your God chastens you.
    - 2) Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.
- X) V1 BUT: The children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things
  - a) God had made clear what the Israelites were to do (6:17-19)
- I) INSTEAD OF OBEYING: Achan took of the accursed things and provoked the Lord to anger

- a) Though it was Achan who had sinned in this way, his sin affected the entire nation
  - 1) FACT: His impurity had affected the purity of the entire nation
  - 2) Gal 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump
  
- II) ISRAEL: Was to be one nation, together following and obeying God
  - a) Achan's sin therefore affected the entire nation, and God was angry with them
    - 1) Individual Christian's lives *most definitely* affect the entire witness of the church in the world
    - 2) The sin that individual Christians harbor and practice also affects the entire church
  
- III) V2-3 NOW: Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai which is beside Beth Aven on the east side of Bethel
  - a) Ai (heap, ruins) was a small town west of the Jordan River, close by Jericho (less than 10 miles)
    - 1) As stated, this was a small town and shouldn't have posed a problem to Israel (8:25-12,000)
  
- IV) KEY: The problem was that Israel obviously was still rejoicing in their victory at Jericho
  - a) Though the victory was God's, it didn't take long for them to think that it was their victory
    - 1) Their thought: if we took the fortified city, how difficult will it be to take this one?
    - 2) This will be very easy, so do not weary the people there
  
- V) V4-5 SO: About three thousand men went up there from the people but they fled before the men of Ai
  - a) It was not a complete slaughter, but they still lost 36 fighting men
    - 1) This defeat by such a small city staggered them, as they realized God's help was withdrawn
    - 2) They crossed the Jordan, ransacked Jericho and now this? How could this have happened?
    - 3) 1 Co 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
  
- VI) V6-7 THEN: Joshua *tore his clothes* and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD
  - a) The tearing of the clothes and dust on the head was a symbol of grief and mourning (Gen 37:29, 34)
    - 1) Job 1:20 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.
  
- VII) V7 NOTICE HIS PRAYER: Why did we come here in the first place
  - a) Not being aware of the secret sin in the camp, Joshua immediately blames God
    - 1) OR: Did we presume on You, that You were leading us here, resulting in judgement?
  
- VIII) V8-9 O LORD: What shall I say when Israel turns it back before its enemies
  - a) He is concerned with God's reputation and glory: the heathen will mock You and not fear You
    - 1) This is like Moses' prayer
    - 2) Dt 9:27-28 Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; do not look on the stubbornness of this people, or on their wickedness or their sin, lest the land from which You brought us should say, Because *the LORD was not able* to bring them to the land which He promised them, and because He hated them, He has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness.
  
- IX) V10-12 SO: The LORD said to Joshua *Get up!* Why do you lie thus on your face Israel has sinned
  - a) Stop whining and start acting: there is a reason this has happened and it needs to be dealt with
    - 1) POINT: God is saying "I have not changed, but the people have sinned"
    - 2) Through Achan they broke their vow, stole what was not theirs, acted deceitfully, and took for themselves what belonged to God
    - 3) This is why you fell before your enemies and will continue doing so until you deal with this
  
- I) V13 GET UP: Sanctify the people and say Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow because thus says
  - a) God reveals to Joshua the reason that they fell before their enemies: there is sin in the camp

- 1) Though Joshua and the leaders could not detect it, God still had
  - 2) Heb 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.
  - 3) Ps 90:8 You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.
- II) V14-15 IN THE MORNING: Therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes and it shall be
- a) God tells them to go through Israel house by house until the guilty party is discovered
  - 1) After he is discovered, he will suffer capital punishment
- III) V16-18 SO JOSHUA: Rose early in the morning and brought Israel by their tribes and the tribe of Judah
- a) Through a slow process of elimination, each tribe is dealt with until the tribe of Judah
  - 1) From the tribe of Judah, Achan is revealed as the perpetrator
- IV) V19 SO JOSHUA: Said to Achan My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and make
- a) Give glory to God, as the One Who has seen and has revealed your sin: openly confess your sin
  - 1) Justice is to be tempered with mercy and compassion: Joshua feels genuine sorrow over this
  - 2) Ezek 33:11 Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'
  - 3) Still, sin has to be dealt with and it has its repercussions
- V) V20-21 AND ACHAN: Answered Joshua and said Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel
- a) Notice his steps to failure: I saw, I coveted, I took, and I concealed
  - 1) Achan's sin was one of the flesh: he was provoked by desiring material goods
- VI) TODAY: He would be saying I went to Rodeo Drive and saw all the things in the shop windows
- a) I saw an incredible suit, and the cash register was open and nobody was around
  - 1) It didn't belong to anybody, so something inside of me just couldn't resist taking it
  - 2) I don't have anywhere to wear it, or anyplace to spend the money so it is in my tent
- VII) THE PROBLEM IS: Somebody was watching, and the One being robbed was God Himself
- a) The silver and gold to be consecrated to the Lord, and the garment destroyed
- VIII) V22-26 SO JOSHUA: Sent messengers and they ran to the tent; and there it was hidden in his tent
- a) Everything was destroyed, and the entire family paid the price for a covetous father
  - 1) There is no doubt that they knew what he had done, but said nothing: they were complicit
  - 2) 1 Pe 2:11 Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul