[The Sin Of Achan](http://savedbygrace.com/salvation/israel/sin-achan)

[Israel](http://savedbygrace.com/category/salvation/israel)

**The City:** AI is a city located two miles from Bethel.  Ai means “ruin” (or possibly “heap”) in the Hebrew language. The city was almost the ruin of Joshua’s leadership and it was the ruin of Achan and his family as we shall see.  Several hundred years before Joshua, Abram built an altar on a hill just west of Ai which was also near Bethel (Gen. 12:8).

He then returned to the location after visiting Egypt (Gen. 13:3). The prophets later referred to Ai as a symbol of the power of God who provided victory for his obedient people.

**Introduction**: **Josh** 7:1  But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.

**The Story**: Josh 7:2   And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east side of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai.  3  And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few.

**The Opps!** Josh 7:4  So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai.  5  And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto

**Shebarim** The Breaking Points, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.

**The Lament Of Joshua No.. Accusation**:  Josh 7:6  And Joshua rent his clothes1, and fell to the earth upon his face2 before the ark of the LORD until the eventide3, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads4.

Rending the clothes, beating the breast, tearing the hair, throwing dust upon the head, and falling prostrate, were usual signs of deep affliction and distress among the ancient Israelites.  1 Sa 4:12, 2 Sa 13:19, Ne 9:1,Es 4:1, and Job 2:12, where his friends abased themselves to comfort him; refer also to Eze 27:30. Jon 3:6. Mic 1:10.  In each of these instances it is worthy of remark, that putting dust on the head generally follows rending of the clothes, and was the usual mode of evincing poignant sorrow.

Josh 7:7  And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan!

Josh 7:8  O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies!  9  For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ surround us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?

**What’s The Matter For You?** Joshua should have known something was up!!

The physical blessings of God were conditioned up Israel’s obedience.

Josh 7:10  And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?   11  Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even 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 were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

Josh 7:13  Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.

Josh 7:14  In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which the LORD taketh shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which the LORD shall take shall come by households; and the household which the LORD shall take shall come man by man.

Josh 7:15  And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel.

Josh 7:16  So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken:  17  And he brought the family 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  And 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.   Josh 7:19  And Joshua said unto Achan troublesome, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me.

**The Sin Of Achan Had Affected The Whole Nation**

It has a way of doing that!

1 Cor 4:18  Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you.   19  But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.  20  For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.  21  What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?

1 Cor 5:1  It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father’s wife.   2  And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

1 Cor 5:3  For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

1 Cor 5:4  In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,  5  To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1 Cor 5:6  Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?  7  Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:   8  Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Cor 5:9  I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:  10  Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.  11  But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

2 Th 3:6  Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.  7  For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

2 Th 3:14  And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.  15  Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

**The Sin Of Achan:** Josh 7:20  And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:  21  When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

Josh 7:22  So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it. — If you have to hide it….????

Josh 7:23  And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.

Josh 7:24  And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor.

Josh 7:25  And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

Josh 7:26  And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor trouble, unto this day.

**Conclusions…**

**1.  God wanted obedience from Israel**

**2.  God wanted Israel to behave in a special and certain manner**

**3.  There comes a time when sin within an assembly or group must be dealt with…**