

JOSHUA 7:1-9 SIN
26 January 13
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Review

1. Joshua 1: *Strong in the Lord*
2. Joshua 2: *Spies*
3. Joshua 3: *Surge*
4. Joshua 4: *Stones*
5. Joshua 5: *Sacrament*
6. Joshua 5: *Supreme Commander*
7. Joshua 6: *Sound of the trumpet*
8. Joshua 7: **Sin**

Joshua 7:1

1. The covenant saves good: Who were saved?
 - a. Joshua 6:22 *Rahab, her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her;*
 - b. Joshua 6:25 *Rahab the prostitute, her family, and all who belonged to her*
2. The covenant punishes for evil. Read Joshua 7:1 slowly and carefully
 - a. Who acted unfaithfully? *The Israelites acted unfaithfully*
 - b. How many people sinned? *One-Achan*
 - c. With whom was the Lord angry? *All of Israel*
 - d. Did the Israelites know that Achan had sinned? *No*
 - e. How many innocent people are going to die? (See vs. 5). *36*
 - f. John Calvin: “The reason, however, why God charges a whole people with a secret theft is deeper and more abstruse [abstruse=difficult to comprehend].”
 - g. Possible reasons: God is a holy God and we must take care to obey Him fully, knowing that our sins affect others.
 - h. What is the American view? cf. Ezra 9:6-7 *There is no view of corporate guilt. Even if we have not personally sinned, we are still guilty. In Ezra’s prayer, I am too ashamed . . . our sins.*
 - i. I Cor. 12:26 *There is one body*
3. What was Achan’s sin? Was it theft? *No - it was violation of the devoted things.*
 - a. NIV - “But the Israelites acted unfaithfully in regard to the devoted things.”
 - b. KJV - “committed a trespass in the accursed thing” *Note that “the accursed thing is a very bad translation. They were not accursed, but holy! NIV has devoted things.”*
 - c. Same word as in Lev 5:15 “When a person commits a violation and sins unintentionally in regard to any of the Lord’s holy things. . .”
 - d. Why is this so serious that the entire nation is punished?

Practical Application: *What type of God do we serve?*

- a. *Omniscient*
 - b. *Holy*
4. What does the name Achan mean? *Trouble*

Joshua 7:2

5. Look up Genesis 12:8.
6. What does Ai mean? *Ruin*
Ai is about 12 miles north of Jerusalem, 15 miles uphill from Jericho.
7. What does Bethel mean?
House of God
8. What does Beth Aven mean?
House of Wickedness
9. What does Joshua do in this verse?
Send spies



Joshua 7:3

10. The spies describe Ai as **ONLY A FEW MEN ARE THERE.**
<http://www.israel-a-history-of.com/old-testament-bible-map-s.html> accessed on 24 January 13
11. What do the spies recommend to Joshua?
12. Archaeological evidence is that Ai is much smaller than Jericho. BUT Ai had a considerable population:
 - a. According to Joshua 8:25, how many people lived there? *12,000*
 - b. How many would be males? *6,000*
 - c. How many would be warriors? *2-3,000*
13. Pride - underestimating the enemy - the attacking force is equal to the defending force
14. Laziness - "Do not weary all the people"
15. Where was the ark when the people traveled in the wilderness for 40 years? *With the people; in front of the people crossing the Jordan; in front of the people around Jericho*
16. What was the one time that the ark did not go up with the people? *Numbers 14:44-45*
17. Unity of the people
 - a. How many people walked around Jericho? Joshua 6:7, 10, 20 *The people*
 - b. How many people celebrated the Passover? Joshua 5:10 *The Israelites*
 - c. How many people were circumcised? Joshua 5:2 *All the Israelite men*
 - d. How many people camped before crossing over? Joshua 3:1 *All the Israelites*

Joshua 7:4-5

18. What happens? *The men of Ai inflict a serious defeat on the Israelites. They run away, down the cliffs and the stone quarries.*
19. In a normal defeat, how many soldiers would be killed? *Only 36 people being killed shows the graciousness of the Lord. Normally hundreds should be killed.*
20. How serious is the defeat? *Although only 36 were killed, their hearts melted.*

21. Compare Joshua 2:9 & 11 and 5:1 with 7:5

*Practical application: Note the specific details in this chapter - Achan's lineage, 36 men, not an even number, but 36 men, the fact that the downs, the evil, the defeat are also recorded. In writing hagiography, the saint does not have a fault. It is said of Assyrian kings that their reigns were like telling time with a sun dial - the sun always shined. And when the sun did not shine, there is no information. Kim Il Sung, the Great Leader, never had to use the toilet. Joshua has made a major mistake and lost a battle. Here sin and defeat, are described in exact detail. This is true history - the accuracy and the good and bad are all discussed. **The Bible is trustworthy.***

Practical Application: "Pride goeth before the fall." The moon can only have an eclipse when it is full. Joshua had just won a great triumph and now is defeated by Ai. Give other Biblical examples of pride going before the fall.

1. Daniel 4:28 Nebuchadnezzar - becoming a beast
2. I Samuel 25 Nabal refusing to feed David's men
3. Elijah defeating 850 prophets of Baal and then when Jezebel accuses him, he runs away.
4. II Chronicles 26:16 Uzziah entering the temple
5. Luke 12:13-21 the parable of the rich fool

Joshua 7:6

22. What is the response by Joshua?
- a. Tears his clothes - we don't tear our clothes, and we have many more than he does
 - cf. Genesis 37:29, 34
 - b. Posture - falling face down
 - c. At the ark - the ark has the mercy seat!!
 - d. Stays there till evening - several hours!! Much like Job's three friends
 - e. Sprinkled dust on their heads

Thought question: Why don't we pray like this?

23. Joshua does not say "Peace, peace. It is a small defeat. We will beat them tomorrow."
24. Note that the leadership is in it together. It is not "Let us find the guilty party" because they are the guilty party!!
25. Like Job's three friends, they mourn before speaking. How long do you think they were face down before the altar? *Maybe three hours?*
26. When does Joshua begin speaking? Why does he wait so long? *It is time for the evening sacrifice - only then is he sanctified enough to pray.*

Joshua 7:7 Despair

27. Despair is so great that he sounds like *the Israelites - Numbers 14:2-3*
28. Whom does he accuse? Why did YOU ever bring this people across the Jordan

29. What is Joshua's contradiction in his prayer? *Ah SOVEREIGN LORD - yet his prayer is not one of belief*

Joshua 7:8 cf. Joshua 1:1-5. This is why the Canaanites are supposed to lose.

Joshua 7:9 The trump card!!

30. If the Canaanites are victorious and the Israelites have no courage, the Israelites will be wiped out.

31. Exodus 32:11-14

32. **Deuteronomy 9:28-29**

33. **Numbers 14:13-19**

34. Psalm 74:22

35. **Daniel 9:19**