



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few.

The children of Israel were brimming with confidence, or perhaps overconfidence. The spies came back and said, no problem it is a little city and we do not need many men to defeat it. This would have probably have been true if there had not been a problem on the home front.

Willmington's Guide to the Bible calls this, "arrogance knocked down." He goes on to say, "After Jericho, Israel became overconfident and determined to send out only a token fighting force to subdue the next enemy...."

One must wonder if they were over confident within themselves. Would you not agree that if this was so then they were claiming the victory of Jericho as something they did and not giving God the glory.

IV- The Rout is On:

These men of battle attack this little city without any doubt they were going to be victorious. ***Joshua 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, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.*** The rout was on. They had misunderstood the battle in which they were involved. They had underestimated the enemy.

One of the of used tactics of our enemy Satan, is to deny that he even exists. I remind us all of Christ opinion of him. ***John 8:44 ... He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.***

Peter also tells us that he is a formidable foe not to be underestimated. ***1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.***

Not to be missed is the two verses that precede these. ***1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.***

So, as we fight the spiritual battle of the Christian life we must remember to not underestimate the enemy and to rely on God in humility. God gives the victory. It is not obtained in our power.



**Coordinates:
Joshua 7:1-26**

Sights to See:

- 1- When God tells us something is off limits to us it is for our own good not because He is being mean to us.
- 2- When we become over confident in our ability because of what God accomplishes through us we have taken the glory from God.
- 3- We should not overestimate our strength, underestimate the enemy we face and not underestimate the power of God to give victory.
- 4- Sin hidden from others, and possibly not admitted even to ourselves, does not mean that God does not know.
- 5- God sees our heart as it truly is and not as we portray it to be.
- 6- We can be certain that our sins will find us out.
- 7- Confessing our sins does not negate the consequences.
- 8- Sin, when it runs its full courses bring forth death. By the way there are a lot of men who walk around dead because of sin in their life. They are dead to God.



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V- Revelation of Sin:

What happened, what caused the defeat, I'm sure Joshua asked. *Joshua 7:6 And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.*

Joshua pleads with God and states the enemies will be emboldened when they hear of this defeat. God replied in *Joshua 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.*

God revealed to Joshua that there was sin in the camp of Israel. You see God knew what was wrong because He saw everything that transpired. The psalmist said it this way in *Psalms 139:7-12 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*

Psa 44:21 Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Wow, what a humbling thought and truth. God, who knows the number of hairs on our head, also knows the very thoughts of our heart.

VI- Consequences of Sin:

Joshua 7:12 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.

Did you notice the result of sin in the camp of Israel. It was both a loss of power with God and presence of God in their life. By the way it is also clear that the sin in the camp affected those around the perpetrators who were not guilty nor even aware of the transgression.

Isaiah 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Joshua, recorded in *Joshua 7:13-15* is given instructions to follow that will lead to the revelation of the one guilty of the transgression.

VII- Revelation of Guilty:

The instruction was that God would first reveal the tribe, then the extended family within the tribe and finally the household before revealing the individual guilty.

Joshua 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.



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The one who had just had the big finger of God pointed toward him was a man named Achan.

VIII- Confession:

Achan, caught in the revelation, is asked to come clean with a confession.

Joshua 7:19 And Joshua said unto Achan, 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. 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. 22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it.

He had taken a robe, silver and a bar of gold. How many today would have done the same given the same circumstances?

IV- Sin Brings Forth Death:

James, talking about sin in the New Testament, gives us sins progression. *James 1:14-15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.* We see this sadly illustrated for us here.

Joshua 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. 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. 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. 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, unto this day.

The last point we need not miss that jumps out at us is that simply repenting of sin does not necessarily negate the penalty of the sin. Achan, admitted that he was the guilty party but the penalty ensued. We also need not miss the point that sin in the camp of a church fellowship also negated the power of God to work in its fullness.

Remember the words of Paul in *2 Timothy 3:1-5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

We can certainly see that we are living in these days and this calls us to make sure that our lives are being lived in righteousness.