### Joshua

## Chapter 7

1However, the children of IsraEl committed a serious sin by taking some of the things that had been cursed. It was Achar (son of CharMi, son of ZamBri, and grandson of ZaRa) of the tribe of Judah that took the cursed things, which made Jehovah very angry with the children of IsraEl.  
  
2Well, [after JeriCho had been destroyed], JoShua had sent men as spies to Well, [after JeriCho had been destroyed], JoShua had sent men as spies to <span class="placename">GaiWell, [after JeriCho had been destroyed], JoShua had sent men as spies to <span class="placename">Gai</span> (which was close to Well, [after JeriCho had been destroyed], JoShua had sent men as spies to <span class="placename">Gai</span> (which was close to <span class="placename">BethElWell, [after JeriCho had been destroyed], JoShua had sent men as spies to <span class="placename">Gai</span> (which was close to <span class="placename">BethEl</span>). 3And when they returned, they told him:  
  
 ‘We won’t need the whole army. All we’ll need is two or three thousand men to take the city, because not many of our enemies are there.’  
  
4Therefore, they sent about 3,000 there to fight…  
  
But these had to turn and run from the people of Gai, 5and the [people there] killed 36 of their men as they chased them away from their [city] gate, destroying them as they were running down the steep hill.  
  
Of course, this upset the [IsraElites], and it caused their hearts to become as [weak as] water. 6So, JoShua started ripping his clothes, and he and the elders of IsraEl threw dust on their heads and fell with their faces to the ground before Jehovah, [just lying there] until the evening.  
  
7Then JoShua prayed:  
  
 ‘O Lord,  
  
 ‘Why did You have Your servant bring these people across the JorDan and then allow the Amorites to destroy us? We would’ve been better off if we’d stayed on the other side of the JorDan and settled there!  
  
 8‘What can I tell them now that IsraEl has [been forced to] flee from our enemies? 9And when the CanaAnites and all the other inhabitants of the land hear about this, they’ll surround us and wipe us out of their land…  
  
 ‘And then, what will You do for Your great Name?’  
  
10But the Lord said to JoShua:  
  
 ‘Why have you fallen to your face? Get up!  
  
 11‘[I allowed this because] the people have sinned and broken the agreement that I made with them by stealing things that are cursed and hiding them among their possessions.  
  
 12‘Because of this, the children of IsraEl won’t be able to stand before their enemies… They’ll have to run from them, because they’ve brought a curse upon themselves. So, I won’t be with you anymore until you remove those cursed things from among yourselves!  
  
 13‘Now, get up and make the people holy… Yes, tell them to make themselves holy! Then explain to them that Jehovah the God of IsraEl says that there are cursed things among them and that they won’t be able to stand before their enemies until they’ve removed these cursed things.  
  
 14‘You must gather all the tribes in the morning, and Jehovah will indicate which tribe, which family line, which household, and which man [is guilty] of doing this. 15Then, those to whom He points must be burned with fire for breaking the agreement with Jehovah and bringing wickedness upon all IsraEl!’  
  
  
16So JoShua got up early [the next morning] and he assembled the people by their tribes.  
  
Well, the tribe of Judah was the first to be indicated; 17so, all of their families [were set aside].  
  
Next the family of the Zaraites was indicated; 18and all of their people were set aside.  
  
[And finally], Achar (son of ZamBri and grandson of ZaRa) was indicated.  
  
19So JoShua said to Achar:  
  
 ‘Give glory to Jehovah the God of IsraEl today and confess.  
  
 ‘Tell me what you’ve done… Don’t [try to] hide it from me!’  
  
20And at that, Achar said to JoShua:  
  
 ‘Yes, I have sinned against Jehovah the God of IsraEl… This is what I did:  
  
 21‘I noticed an embroidered shawl, 200 silver coins, and a piece of gold among the treasures. So because I wanted them, I took them and hid them inside my tent [under the shawl].’  
  
22Well at that, JoShua sent messengers who ran to his tent in the camp, and they found those things hidden under the shawl. 23Then they brought them to JoShua and the elders of IsraEl and laid them before Jehovah.  
  
24As a result, JoShua took Achar (son of ZaRa), along with his sons, daughters, calves, burros, sheep, tent, all his belongings, and all the people who lived with him, and he brought them to the Valley of Achar at Emec.  
  
25There, JoShua said to Achar:  
  
 ‘You’ve destroyed us, so today Jehovah is going to destroy you!’  
  
Then all IsraEl stoned him along with all who were with him with rocks, and they burned [their bodies] in a fire, 26after which they covered [their bones] with a huge pile of rocks… Which are still there today.  
  
This brought an end to Jehovah’s rage, and it’s why that place is still called This brought an end to Jehovah’s rage, and it’s why that place is still called <span class="placename">The Valley of AcharThis brought an end to Jehovah’s rage, and it’s why that place is still called <span class="placename">The Valley of Achar</span> (the Troublemaker) to this day.