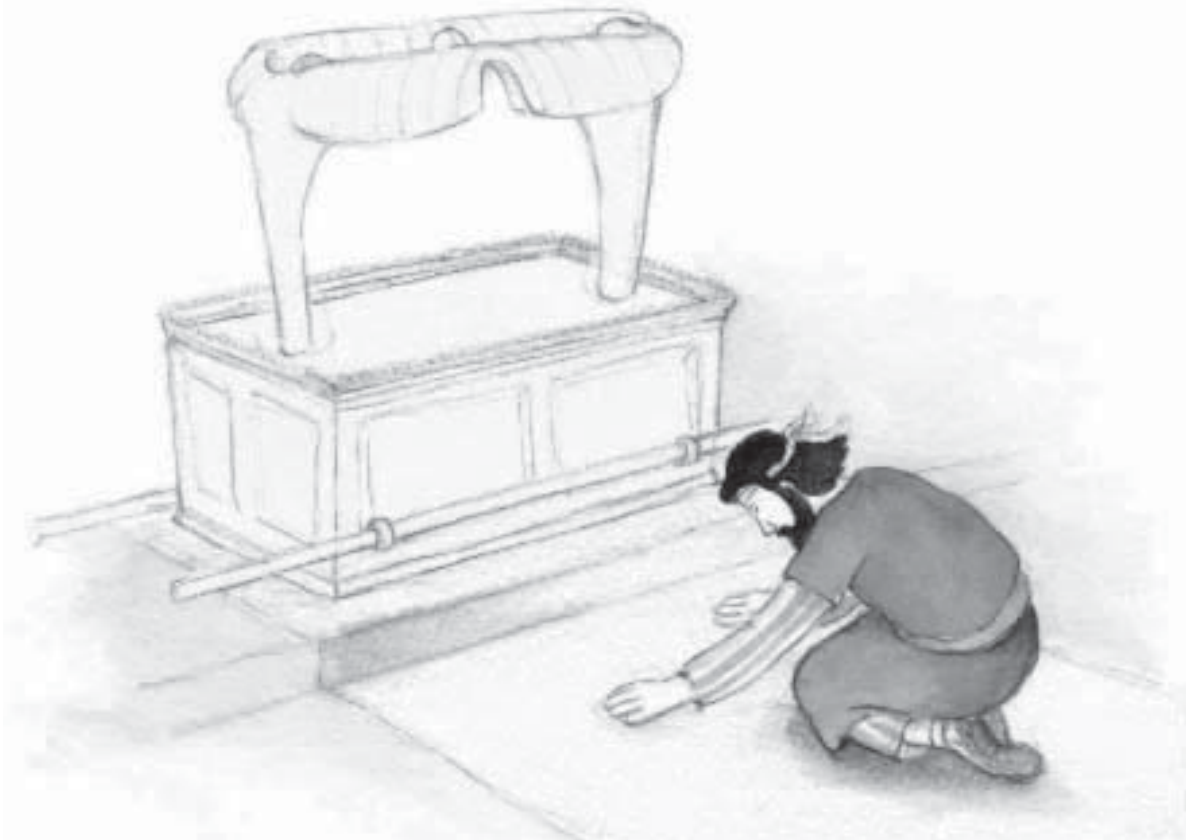


The Sin of Achan

Joshua 7

The Israelites faced another obstacle: the Wall of Jericho. This, like the previous obstacles before, was seen as another big problem to them, but they received a way to get past it from God. After walking around it according to the commandment of God, Jericho fell into a ruined pile of stones. The Wall of Jericho was completely destroyed. Now, the Israelites had to advance past it to enter the land of Canaan. So the Israelites sent spies to the land of Ai. When they returned, the spies gave a report to the Israelites saying the people of Ai would be no match for them and that it would be easy for them to take over the land. Only a small number of people would need to fight them to take over their land, because the people of Ai were small in number. The Israelites were happy to hear such good news from them, so they sent off the necessary number of men to fight. But it was the Israelites who were defeated.



He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

Proverbs 28:13



34

Joshua and all the people of Israel fell facedown to the ground and cried to God.

"O Lord, why did we lose this battle? Were we not supposed to win?" God said to Joshua, "Israel has sinned against me by breaking My covenant which I commanded them. They have stolen some of the accursed things that are under the ban from Jericho. So therefore, I will not fight with Israel and they will not get past Ai, unless you destroy the accursed things that are under the ban."

So on the next day, Joshua brought all the tribes of Israel forward, as the LORD had commanded, and had them cast lots. The tribe of Judah was taken, so then the families of Judah came forward. Among them, they narrowed down to the family of Zerahites, and among the family members of Zerahites, Zabdi was taken. At last, among Zabdi's household, Achan was taken. So Joshua went up and talked to Achan. He said,

"Achan, give glory and praise to the LORD God. Do not hide what you have done and tell me."

So Achan confessed and said,

"Indeed, I have sinned against the LORD! I have taken and hidden a beautiful garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and fifty shekels of gold. And they are now hidden in my tent."

So Joshua sent for men to find it all and bring it. After bring it, they took Achan, his family, all he possessed, and the items that he stole to the valley of Achor. Then Joshua said,

"Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day."

Because he was defiling Israel, the rest of the Israelites stoned him and his family, and burned them afterwards. Then they covered them with a great heap of stones. Only after the sin was removed from the midst of Israel were the Israelites able to progress towards God's promise, which, right now, was by defeating Ai.





Today's Study

1. Israel's Defeat and Victory

Why were the Israelites defeated by Ai at first? ()

- ① Because Achan stole some things under the ban when he went out to spy.
- ② Because the Israelites were too tired after getting through Jericho.
- ③ Because the men of Ai were so strong.

What happened to Achan and his family?



What were the results of Israel's attack after getting rid of their sin?

2. Beg for Forgiveness

How was Achan's sin revealed? ()

- ① He confessed what he did and begged for forgiveness just after Israel lost the battle against Ai.
- ② He begged for forgiveness for his sin before he was taken by the lots.
- ③ He hid his sin to the very end and finally confessed when he was taken.

Why was Achan stoned to death?

Achan hid his sin to the end until it was revealed. God already knew everything he had done and revealed it to all of Israel.

"He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have _____." (Proverbs 28:13)



Today's Lesson

Because of My Fault..

Like how Israel lost the battle against Ai because of one person's sin, the people around us might be losing their precious chances to know God because of our own sins. Read the story below and answer the following questions.

One time, there was a Children's Bible Seminar at church. One of Roy's friends, Paul, was not saved yet, so he came to church to the Bible Seminar to learn a bit about the Bible. He came the first day, but the next day, Paul said he didn't want to go to church anymore because of another friend named Joseph. Joseph was a friend of theirs who also went to Roy's church, but apparently he was causing some problems for Paul.



Paul: Hey Roy, I don't really want to go to your church with you anymore. I talked to Joseph today and he told me he goes to your church too, but he's such a trouble maker and doesn't behave himself well. And he swears! I don't think a church with people like that will be any good for me. Sorry, Roy.

Hearing this, Roy became very heartbroken. This could've been the best chance for Paul, but because of another friend who goes to the same church, Paul ended up changing his mind. This is an incredibly sad thing for all people, even God!

Do you think you could have made things worse for people before, like how Joseph did for Paul?

If you see another brother or sisters from my church trying to preach to another person, what would be the best for you to do?

We need to keep praying for ourselves to remove and fix ourselves from our errors and sins.

"Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults." (Psalms 19:12)

Let's Find out



* We Don't Have to Commit Sins

Martin Luther once said, "We can't help it if birds fly over our heads, but we can keep them from making a nest on our heads."

What he means is that it is possible that ideas of sins may enter our heads, but we do not have to go ahead and commit them. We can stop ourselves from doing them. We are able to keep ourselves from committing sins if we depend on God and fight against the temptations that face us.

parents

Teacher