

## “UH-OH AT AI”

### I. Joshua 7:1-26

A. We have spent several weeks in the book of Joshua--exploring what?

- 1) Israel's crossing of the Jordan River on dry ground...
- 2) Israel's memorial at Gilgal built with stones collected when they crossed.
- 3) Israel's consecration at Gilgal... (Circumcision and Passover)...
- 4) Joshua's encounter with the *Commander of the Army of the Lord*...
- 5) Israel's conquering of Jericho via God's direct intervention...
- 6) Israel's sparing of *Rahab the Harlot* and how she became the ancestress to King David and Jesus the Messiah, plus a member of the *Hall of Faith* in Hebrews 11...

B. Today the story shifts in an unfortunate direction... We've read about the favor of God the last few weeks; today we encounter His severity and Divine judgment...

C. Joshua 7:1-26 begins with the word *BUT*. *Not a good way to start a chapter!*

- 1) During the conquest of Jericho, one Israelite, a man named Achan, secretly took items designated as '*devoted things*' set apart by God for destruction...
- 2) As a result, the Israelites next battle against the small city of Ai (much smaller than the formidable Jericho) became a humiliating defeat for God's people...
- 3) Despite the fact just one man sinned, God held the whole Nation accountable. God instructed Joshua how to discover the culprit and what to do with him.
- 4) Achan was singled out. And despite the fact he confessed, he and his family were stoned to death, burned, and covered up with stones--*an infamous memorial*.
- 5) God's fierce anger then subsided but the *Canaanization* of Israel, as some scholars have coined it, had begun by the sin of one selfish man... In Genesis 3:6 we read how Eve saw the forbidden fruit, coveted it, and took it for herself. Achan, in like manner, saw the forbidden plunder, coveted it, and took it for himself... One man's sin!

D. The story of Rahab and her family demonstrated the undeserved mercy and amazing grace of God Almighty in the midst of His Divine judgment. The story of Achan and His family demonstrates God's holy nature being fiercely guarded by the outpouring of His wrath on those He only wanted to Bless... God's love and severity fully juxtaposed! Which would you rather be under: Under God's Grace or Under His wrath?

E. And what about God's wrath? (*His Holy and completely righteous anger and hostility against evil...*) We were born under it... So what has turned God from His fierce anger toward us? Isaiah 53 has the answer... Oh what wrath Jesus would bear for us!

- 1) He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...
- 2) We esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted...
- 3) He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities...
- 4) The chastisement for our peace was upon Him...
- 5) By His stripes we are healed...
- 6) The LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all...
- 7) He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth...
- 8) He was led as a lamb to the slaughter...
- 9) For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of God's people He was stricken...
- 10) Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; God has put Him to grief...
- 11) My righteous Servant shall justify many--He shall bear their iniquities...
- 12) He poured out His soul unto death... He was numbered with the transgressors... He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors....

F. Out of great mercy and undeserved love, Jesus took on our sins, absorbed the wrath of God on a torturous cross, so that we might be granted His righteousness and abundant life, forevermore, in the blissful presence of Almighty God!

\* Close with Romans 5:9-11 and Prayer...

### Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

#### Joshua 7:1-26 (NIV)

1 But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel. 2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and spy out the region." So

the men went up and spied out Ai. **3** When they returned to Joshua, they said, "Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there." **4** So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, **5** who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water. **6** Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. **7** And Joshua said, "Alas, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan!" **8** Pardon your servant, LORD. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? **9** The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?" **10** The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? **11** Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. **12** That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction. **13** "Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them. **14** "In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe the LORD chooses shall come forward clan by clan; the clan the LORD chooses shall come forward family by family; and the family the LORD chooses shall come forward man by man. **15** Whoever is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the LORD and has done an outrageous thing in Israel!" **16** Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was chosen. **17** The clans of Judah came forward, and the Zerahites were chosen. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was chosen. **18** Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen. **19** Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me." **20** Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: **21** When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath." **22** So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath. **23** They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the LORD. **24** Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold bar, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor. **25** Joshua said, "Why have you brought this trouble on us? The LORD will bring trouble on you today." Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them. **26** Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor ever since.

### **Isaiah 53:1-12 (NKJV)**

**1** Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? **2** For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. **3** He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. **4** Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. **5** But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. **6** All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. **7** He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. **8** He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. **9** And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. **10** Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. **11** He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. **12** Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

### **Romans 5:9-11 (ESV)**

**9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **11** More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## Some Excellent Video Clips

The Wrath of God - John Piper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6urllaQMqec>

Jesus Absorbed The Wrath of God - David Platt

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5Rbo3\\_TpK8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5Rbo3_TpK8)

The Wrath of God - Matt Chandler

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8ty5EVPsw4>

"How Great Is Our God" - Chris Tomlin (*Thanks Doug Price!*)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKLQ1td3MbE>

"God's Chisel" by The Skit Guys :- ) (*Thanks Perry!*)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhfUzodLRvk>

"Blessed Be The Name" - Tree63 (*Thanks Doug Price!*)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mZH9T9XNVU&list=FLT5G7VFUynZMcoVHVDgIQfA&feature=mh\\_lolz](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mZH9T9XNVU&list=FLT5G7VFUynZMcoVHVDgIQfA&feature=mh_lolz)

## Bonus Stuff

### Spurgeon on Achan

<http://www.spurgeon.org/sermons/0113.htm>

"But I find in the Mishna, an old Jewish exposition of the Bible, these words, *Joshua said to Achan, the Lord shall trouble thee this day.*" And the note upon it is—He said *this* day, implying that he was only to be troubled in this life, by being stoned to death, but that God would have mercy on his soul, seeing that he had made a full confession of his sin. And I, too, am inclined, from reading the chapter, to concur in the idea of my venerable and now glorified predecessor, Dr. Gill, in believing that Achan really was saved, although he was put to death for the crime, as an example. For you will observe how kindly Joshua spoke to him. He said, *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.*" And you find Achan making a very full confession. .. It seems so full a confession, that if I might be allowed to judge, I should say, *"I hope to meet Achan the sinner, before the throne of God."*

- Sermon Excerpt by Charles H. Spurgeon, Sermon #113, "Confession of A Sin-A Sermon With Seven Texts," Delivered on Sabbath Morning, January 18, 1857, at the Music Hall, Royal Surrey Gardens.

### In Christ Alone

Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

<http://www.gettymusic.com/hymns-inchistalone.aspx>

In Christ alone my hope is found;  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all—  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,

Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine—  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home—  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

- "In Christ Alone" Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, Copyright © 2001, Kingsway Thankyou Music

### **Auto Mechanic vs Heart Surgeon**

#### **Author Unknown**

Morris, the loudmouth mechanic, was removing the cylinder heads from the motor of a car when he spotted a famous heart surgeon who was standing off to the side, waiting for the service manager to come take a look at his Mercedes. Morris shouted across the garage, "*Hey Doc! Is that you? Come on over here a minute.*" The famous surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to where Morris the mechanic was working on the car. Morris straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag, and asked argumentatively, "*So, Mr. Fancy Doctor, look at this here work. I ALSO open hearts, take valves out, grind 'em, put in new parts; and when I finish, this baby will purr like a kitten. So how come you get the big bucks, when you and I are doing basically the same work?*" The surgeon leaned over and whispered to Morris the loudmouth mechanic, "*Try doing it with the engine running.*"