

## ~ACHAN (175)

(A'chan) [related through a play on words to Achar, meaning Bringer of Ostracism or Trouble]

- The son of Carmi of the household of Zabdi of the family of Zerah of the tribe of Judah, also called **Achar**.
- And the sons of Carmi were **Achar** the bringer of ostracism upon Israel, who committed an act of unfaithfulness respecting the thing devoted to destruction. (1 Chronicles 2:7)
- When the Israelites crossed the Jordan, Yehowah explicitly commanded that the firstfruits of the conquest, the city of Jericho, must become a thing devoted to destruction, it belongs to Yehowah. Its silver and gold were to be given to the treasury of Yehowah.
- And the city must become a thing devoted to destruction, it with everything that is in it belongs to Yehowah. Only Rahab the prostitute may keep on living, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers whom we sent out. (Joshua 6:17)
- But all the silver and the gold and the articles of copper and iron are something holy to Yehowah. Into the treasure of Yehowah it should go. (Joshua 6:19)
- **Achan**, however, upon finding a costly garment from Shinar and a 50-shekel gold bar, worth some \$6,400, and 200 silver shekels (\$440), secretly buried them beneath his tent.
- When I got to see among the spoil an official garment from Shinar, a good-looking one, and two hundred shekels of silver and one gold bar, fifty shekels being its weight, then I wanted them, and I took them, and, look! They are hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent with the money underneath it. (Joshua 7:21)
- Actually he had robbed God! Because of this violation of Yehowah's explicit instructions, when the next city, Ai, was attacked Yehowah withheld his blessing, and Israel was put to flight.

- **Who was guilty? No one confessed. All Israel was then put on trial. Tribe by tribe, then family by family of the tribe of Judah, and finally, man by man of the house of Zabdi, they passed before Yehowah until **Achan** got to be picked.**
- **So about three thousand men of the people went up there, but they took to flight before the men of Ai. (**Joshua 7:4**)**
- **And the men of Ai got to strike down about thirty-six men of them, and they went pursuing them from before the gate as far as Shebarim and continued striking them down on the descent. Consequently the heart of the people began to melt and became as water. (**Joshua 7:5**)**
- **At this Joshua ripped his mantles and fell upon his face to the earth before the ark of Yehowah until the evening, he and the older men of Israel, and they kept putting dust upon their heads. (**Joshua 7:6**)**
- **And Joshua went on to say; Alas, Sovereign Lord Yehowah, why did you bring this people all the way across the Jordan, just to give us into the hand of the Amorites for them to destroy us? And if only we had taken it upon ourselves and continued dwelling on the other side of the Jordan! (**Joshua 7:7**)**
- **Excuse me, O Yehowah, but what can I say after Israel has turned his back before his enemies? (**Joshua 7:8**)**
- **And the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and they will certainly surround us and cut our name off from the earth, and what will you do for your great name? (**Joshua 7:9**)**
- **In turn Yehowah said to Joshua; Get up, you! Why is it that you are falling upon your face? (**Joshua 7:10**)**
- **Israel has sinned, and they have also overstepped my covenant that I laid as a command upon them, and they have also taken some of the thing devoted to destruction and have also stolen and also kept it secret and have also put it among their own articles. (**Joshua 7:11**)**
- **And the sons of Israel will not be able to rise up against their enemies. The back is what they will turn before their enemies,**

because they have become a thing devoted to destruction. I shall not prove to be with you again unless you annihilate the thing devoted to destruction out of your midst. (Joshua 7:12)

- Get up! Sanctify the people, and you must say; Sanctify yourselves tomorrow, for this is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; **A thing devoted to destruction is in your midst, O Israel.** You will not be able to rise up against your enemies until you people have removed the thing devoted to destruction from your midst. (Joshua 7:13)
- And you must present yourselves in the morning, tribe by tribe, and it must occur that the tribe that Yehowah will pick will come near, family by family, and the family that Yehowah will pick will come near, household by household, and the household that Yehowah will pick will come near, able-bodied man by able-bodied man. (Joshua 7:14)
- And it must occur that the one picked with the thing devoted to destruction will be burned with fire, he and all that belongs to him, **because he has overstepped the covenant of Yehowah and because he has committed a disgraceful folly in Israel.** (Joshua 7:15)
- Then Joshua rose early in the morning and had Israel come near, tribe by tribe of it, and the tribe of Judah got to be picked. (Joshua 7:16)
- Next he had the families of Judah come near and picked the family of the Zerahites, after which he had the family of the Zerahites come near, able-bodied man by able-bodied man, and Zabdi got to be picked. (Joshua 7:17)
- Finally he had his household come near, able-bodied man by able-bodied man, and **Achan** the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, got to be picked. (Joshua 7:18)
- Only then did he admit his sin. Execution quickly followed. **Achan**, his family, who could hardly have been ignorant of what he had done, and his livestock were first stoned to death, and then burned with fire, together with all his possessions, in the Valley of **Achor**, meaning Ostracism, Trouble.

- Then Joshua said to **Achan**; My son, render, please, glory to Yehowah the God of Israel and make confession to him, and tell me, please; What have you done? Do not hide it from me. (**Joshua 7:19**)
- At this **Achan** answered Joshua and said; For a fact I, I have sinned against Yehowah the God of Israel, and this way and that way I have done. (**Joshua 7:20**)
- When I got to see among the spoil an official garment from Shinar, a good-looking one, and two hundred shekels of silver and one gold bar, fifty shekels being its weight, then I wanted them, and I took them, and, look! They are hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent with the money underneath it. (**Joshua 7:21**)
- At once Joshua sent messengers, and they went running to the tent, and, look! It was hidden in his tent with the money underneath it. (**Joshua 7:22**)
- So they took them from the midst of the tent and brought them to Joshua and all the sons of Israel and poured them out before Yehowah. (**Joshua 7:23**)
- Joshua, and all Israel with him, now took **Achan** the son of Zerah and the silver and the official garment and the bar of gold and his sons and his daughters and his bull and his ass and his flock and his tent and everything that was his and they brought them up to the low plain of **Achor**. (**Joshua 7:24**)
- Then Joshua said; Why have you brought ostracism upon us? Yehowah will bring ostracism upon you on this day. With that all Israel went pelting him with stones, after which they burned them with fire. Thus they stoned them with stones. (**Joshua 7:25**)
- And they proceeded to raise up over him a big pile of stones, down to this day. At this Yehowah turned away from his hot anger. That is why the name of that place has been called Low Plain of **Achor**, down to this day. (**Joshua 7:26**)