

# THE ENEMY WITHIN

## JOSHUA 7

Text:

Introduction:

Recap the miracles that the Lord had done for the children of Israel.

- Being freed from Egypt
- Crossing the Red Sea
- Daily food from Heaven
- The Crossing of the Jordan
- The conquering of Jericho

What an amazing miracle it was as the walls of Jericho fell.

Notice:

### **1. ISRAEL'S COMMANDS (6:17-19)**

(Joshua 6:17-19) "And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. {18} And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the

accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. {19} But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

A. We too need to leave the accursed things alone.

## **2. ISRAEL'S COMPROMISE (VSS 1-5)**

(Joshua 7:1-5) "But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel. {2} And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east side of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai. {3} And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few. {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."

A. When Achan sinned Israel sinned.

1. This shows why it is important for us to deal with sin in our own lives.

2. Sin affects more than just us.

### **3. ISRAEL'S CURSE (7:1)**

(Joshua 6:18-19) "And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. {19} But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

(Joshua 7:1) "But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel."

A. God expects obedience

(1 Samuel 15:22) "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in

obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

B. Achan disobeyed, and because of disobedience a curse resulted.

1. Often we preach concerning the world and its affect on the church and society, but too often the enemy is not without but rather the enemy is within.

2. People inside of the walls of the church need to get right before God will bless the effort outside the walls.

C. Israel was not aware of the curse.

1. Too often spiritual things are entered into unaware of a cures, resulting in discouragement & defeat.

### **3. ISRAEL'S CONFIDENCE (7:3)**

A. Success often has a negative result.

1. They had just destroyed Jericho without lifting a weapon, and losing a warrior.

B. Joshua did not consult with the Lord nor was the ark taken to battle.

1. We must realize apart from God we can know no success.

#### **4. ISRAEL'S CALAMITY (7:5)**

(Joshua 7:5) "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."

A. Sin unforgiven will certainly result in defeat.

B. Pride in one's ability will certainly result in destruction.

C. The results of this calamity

1. Peoples hearts became soft

2. Joshua got on his face before the Lord

- a. Wasn't sincere, but felt sorry for himself and Israel

- b. God said get up Joshua and quit acting like a baby

## 5. ISRAEL'S COMPLAINT (VSS 6-9)

(Joshua 7:6-9) "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. {7} And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! {8} O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! {9} For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?"

- A. Tried to blame God for the defeat.
- B. Backslid to the point of even wishing that they would have stayed in Egypt.
- C. Forgot the past blessings of God, and the promises of God.

## 6. ISRAEL'S CLEANSING

- A. Sin was dealt with.
  - 1. The intensity of God's hatred for sin is seen

a. Stoned Achan

b. Burned him and his family  
to death.

B. God cannot look upon sin, and God cannot  
overlook sin.

(Proverbs 6:16-19) "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: {17} A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, {18} An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, {19} A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

(Romans 1:18) "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"

(Nahum 1:2) "God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies."

(Nahum 1:6) "Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him."

1. We need to be reminded that often those around us must pay for the sins that we commit.

(Numbers 14:18) "The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation."

## **7. ISRAEL'S COMMISSION**

(Joshua 8:1) "And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:"

A. We must all go to war.

1. There is no time to set or stand idly by.
  - a. Idleness often leads to dissatisfaction and quarrelsomeness.
  - b. When was the time when David fell in regards to Bathsheba? A time of idleness.

- c. When was it that Samson was captured? It was a time of idleness
  
- d. Many churches are suffering from unsound teaching, but many more are suffering from idleness.
  
- e. We have many today who are not inconsistent in moral character, but are cumberers of the ground.