

III. The Only Remedy for Committed Trespasses or Sins – the wages of sin had to be paid in full; God’s righteous and holy justice demanded it, Josh.7:12, 13

- A. Once the guilty person had been dealt with in the manner that God declared (See 7:12; 6:18), the Bible states in 7:26b, “...So *the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger...*”
- B. Achan’s stoning to death and being burned, satisfied God’s judicial justice, 7:26. Note that there is a difference between forgiveness and being freed from all consequences of sin.
- C. God’s moral justice can only be satisfied when the eternal wages of that person’s sins are paid in full. (Rom.6:23)
 1. Either by that person spending all eternity in hell – Gal.6:7; Matt.13:40-42; Revel.21:8
 2. Or by the Lord Jesus Christ paying in full the wages of that person’s sins by His death, burial and resurrection – Heb.9:28a; 2 Cor.5:21; Rom.8:2-4; I Jn.4:10; Rom.5:8.
 3. There are NO OTHER alternatives!

IV. Applications

- A. To Believers: Can you see the need of diligently pursuing holiness in every aspect of your earthly life?
 - Can you see the seriousness of sinning against your God?
 - It angers God! It sets God Himself against you so that you do not enjoy the blessings of your relationship with Him. (Isa.59:1, 2)
 - It affects others – possibly discouraging them in their endeavors to glorify God and enjoy their relationship with Him.
 - It disrupts your personal communion with God so that you lose the enjoyment of your relationship with God and the joy of your salvation.
 - Sin is your disturbing and disrupting enemy!!
 - Remember what is stated in I Pet.1:15,16 > “*but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy for I am holy.’*”
 - “*Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.*” Eph.5:1
- B. To Unbelievers: Can you see the seriousness of sin and what is most assuredly waiting for all those who do not repent of their sin against God and their trespass of His law? It is the second death. (Revel.21:8)
 - “...unless your repent you will all likewise perish.” Lk. 13:3
 - “...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...” Acts 16:31

The Seriousness of Sin

Joshua 7:1-26
PBC Sun. AM, July 10, 2022

Introduction: Rom.15:4 and the historical setting of this sin, Josh.1-6

I. The Sin Committed, Josh.7:1, 21

- A. One man, Achan, took what God had forbidden him to take for himself and withheld that which God had commanded him to give exclusively to the Lord.
 1. Generally described – “*took of the accursed things...*” 7:1
 2. Particularly described by the offender – 3 things, 7:21
 3. Rationally evaluated: these items are not intrinsically evil.
- B. Note what made these things accursed in this situation: It was God’s command regarding these items on this occasion.
- C. Sin IS any lack of conformity unto or transgression of the law of God (Shorter Catechism def.)

II. The Seriousness of Sin, Josh.7:1-26

- A. How it affected God – it turned God against Israel
 1. Stated in Scripture:
 - “...so *the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel.*” 7:1
 - “*So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger.*” 7:26
 - The God of the Bible is righteously jealous of the worship and honor that belongs exclusively to Him.
 2. Manifested:
 - By what God did: God made known what was unknown to Joshua and the rest of the Israel – the sin committed against Him (and His word), Achan’s sin
 - The unexpected and demoralizing defeat by Ai
 - The LORD revealing the particular individual who committed the trespass – note the phrase “*the LORD takes*” used 3 times in 7:14, implied in 7:15
 - No sin ever escapes that notice of the all-knowing (omniscient) God of the Bible!! Never!
 - By what God said:
 - “*Neither will I be with you anymore, UNLESS you destroy the accursed from among you.*” 7:12

- “...*you cannot stand before your enemies UNTIL you take away the accursed thing from among you.*” 7:13
3. Explained – Because God is holy!! God repeatedly declares that He is holy! (I Pet.1:15, 16 > Lev.11:44,45; 19:2; 20:7). Holiness IS love for all that is righteous and a hatred for all that is sinful.
 - “*You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness.*” Hab.1:13 (ex. Duet.31:16-18 – Isa.59:1,2)
 - “*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap.*” Gal.6:7
 - “*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*” Heb.10:31 “*For our God is a consuming fire.*” Heb.12:29
 - Application: It is no light matter (thing) to sin against the God of the Bible and disobey God’s revealed will!
- B. How it affected the people of Israel in general
1. 7:5 “...*therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water.*” Jn. Gill: “...they perceived God had forsaken them, and what the issue of this would be they dreaded.”
 2. Because God had promised Joshua (1:5a) that “*No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life...*” And that is exactly what happened at Ai.
- C. How it affected Joshua and the elders of Israel (leaders)
1. Joshua was greatly grieved – 7:6 “...*tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until evening...they put dust on their heads.*”
 2. Joshua cried out to God in prayer, 7:7-9 (I Pet.5:7)
 - Joshua’s mind and heart was filled with questions.
 - WHY the questions? Because the defeat at Ai went against everything God had promised Joshua and it went against everything Joshua had come to expect from God. And Joshua could not explain why this sudden change in God toward Israel!
 - Things God promised to Joshua – See Josh.1:3, 5, 6b, 9b. Here we see Joshua: weak, discourage, afraid and worried. Just the opposite of what God had promised. This was upsetting and devastating to Joshua and the elders!
- Things God had caused to happen that exalted Joshua (3:7) in the eyes of Israel – See Josh.1:10-4:24; 5:1-9, 10, 13-16; 6:1-27
 - Jn. Gill: Joshua’s words reveal “...much weakness, diffidence and distrust. Joshua speaks as a man confounded, and at the utmost loss how to account for the power, the providence and the promises of God.”
- D. How it affected the offender, Achan, and his household
1. Achan’s private and secret sin was not only known by the all-knowing God; it was also made known publicly by God. Keep in mind that Israel was a theocracy.
 2. When confronted with his sin and kindly (calling Achan “*my son*” in 7:19) exhorted to give glory to God and make confession (7:19), Achan did so.
 - a. Achan’s confession seems to be sincere and genuine.
 - Achan acknowledged that his sin was against the LORD God of Israel, 7:20. In other words, he owned his sin, not seeking to blame anyone else nor claiming that he was a victim of circumstances.
 - Achan gave an accurate account of how he came to commit this trespass against God. He acknowledged that he was drawn into this sin by his own desires and was enticed with lust for what he saw.
 - Achan truthfully told Joshua where he had hidden the accursed things (7:21b)
 - b. Question: Was Achan’s confession of his sin against God forgiven by God? It certainly sounds like it was coming from a broken heart as we read it in Josh.7:20, 21. Jn. Gill: “It may be hoped that from the ingenuous confession that he made, that he had true repentance of it, and forgiveness of it.” (see David in 2 Sam.12:7-13)
 3. Achan was stoned to death and then his dead body was burned along with all that he possessed.
 4. Achan’s household (his sons and daughters) suffered at least the loss of everything their father possessed. Some commentators think that they were also stoned to death and burned with fire. Josh.7:25 (the “*them*”; the same can be said of what is recorded in Josh.22:20)
- E. The Seriousness of Sinning is seen in the sad and devastating effects it had on the one committing the trespass (sin) and upon those associated with that sinner. Most importantly, remember that God’s anger against that trespass was fierce and burning!

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- Remember that “*Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved...*” Rom.10:13
- Remember that “*...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” Rom.10:17
- Remember that Jesus said, “*...the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*” Come today!!

Further Scriptures to be considered and possibly used

Revel.21:8 “*But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murders, sexually impure, sorcerers, idolators and all liars, shall have their part in the lake of fire which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*”

Jn.3:36 “*He that believes in Me has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*”

Heb.9:27 *And it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,* 9:28 *so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him he will appear the second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*”

Matt.13:40-43 “*Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. **T**he Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, **and** will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. **T**hen shall the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the*

kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear; let him hear.!”

I Cor. 5:21

Further thoughts on this sermon subject

Rom.15:4 “*For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*”

1. as an explanation for giving serious consideration to this O.T. passage of Scripture, recording an event in history that took place 1000s of years ago
2. The Need to see (realize, learn) the exceeding sinfulness of sin (the reason for the law of God, ref. Rom.3?)
 - Its deceiving power: a little thing (think too lightly), a overwhelming thing (think too morosely)
 - Taken captive at his (devil’s) will; 2 Tim.?
 - Its heavy burden – Matt.11:28-30 “*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*” That is rest for your souls.
 - This is why the law of God was given. That sin might be seen to exceedingly sinful – Rom.7:13 > “*Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.*”
3. The Need to see (realize, learn) the amazing grace of God in providing “the only” answer for man’s sin dilemma > I Jn.4:10 “*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*”
 - Rom.3:23-26 “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 3:25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrated His righteousness, because in His forbearance God passed over the sins that were previously committed, 3:26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*”

4. Knowing Who a person should wisely fear – He who is able to cast both body and soul into everlasting hell (need ref.)
 - Lk.12:5 *“But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; ye, I say to you, fear Him!”*

T#257 (new Trinity hymnal), T#192 (old Trinity hymnal) –

[Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted](#) – all 4 stanzas

1. Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see him dying on the tree!
 ‘Tis the Christ by man rejected; Yes, my soul, ‘tis he, ‘tis he!
 ‘Tis the long expected Prophet, David’s Son, yet David’s Lord;
 By His Son God now has spoken: ‘Tis the true and faithful Word.
2. Tell me, ye who hear him groaning, was there ever grief like his?
 Friends thro’ fear his cause disowning, Foes insulting his distress;
 Many hand were raised to wound him, None would interpose to
 save:
 But he deepest stroke that pierced him Was the stroke that justice
 gave.
3. Ye who think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great
 Here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.
 Mark the Sacrifice appointed, See who bears the awful load;
 ‘Tis the Word, the Lord’s Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.
4. Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost;
 Christ’s the Rock of our salvation, His the name of which we
 boast.
 Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
 None shall ever be confounded Who on him their hope have built.

I Jn.1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

[The Need to love God supremely to have daily victory over sin’s powerful temptations transgress God’s law](#) (word)

- As seen in Joseph, when tempted by Potiphar’s wife – *“How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”*
- Need to see God’s loving kindness, mercy and grace

- Need to joyfully live for His glory and to enjoy a personal relationship with God

God’s holy and righteous justice WILL BE upheld (satisfied). He cannot ignore your sin and just pretend that it does not exist

- Ps.7:11b *“...God is angry with the wicked every day.”*
- Rom.3:23-26

God has graciously and wonderfully provided “the way” to escape the eternal wages of sin, its power and eventually its presence > it is His beloved Son, Christ Jesus. This way to escape only comes by faith in Christ alone! That is why He came to earth as a sinless man. He came that we (believers) might have life and have more abundantly

- Jn.10:10b *“...I am come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.”*
- Jn.14:6 *“Jesus said to him (Thomas). ‘I am the way the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.’ “*