



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Joshua 7-8
- II Corinthians 10:1-6
- John 15:11-17

## Et tu, Joshua?

- A Friend's Betrayal
- Sin in the Camp
- Loyal Friendship

*Friends don't do that. It's one of those labels that has been used and abused, like love. I love my car; I love my job; I love my house; I love my dog; I love football, etc. And, I have a friend; I know a friend; I can introduce you to a friend; my friend online, etc. Every acquaintance in your social circle is your friend? And every contact in your device is a friend? And every social media follower or followed... are friends? Guess what? They are NOT your friends.*

*Friendship is so deep, so intimate, so binding, that it alone sits next to love on our journey to divine-likeness. God is love; Y'shua said that. And here we have the path to that love. To your faith add virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, and brotherly kindness. Only then do we arrive at love, His divine nature. Did you catch it? Brotherly kindness is friendship; and you*

*must add friendship to godliness before you can love! Friends know one another, understand one another, trust one another, believe in one another, and are faithful to one another. Friendship describes a closeness so close that it would surrender itself for another.*

*As such, you might now agree that you don't have any friends on your social media platforms; you aren't following actual friends in your "friend list." Neither are you being followed by friends! Maybe you have a friend or two in your thousands of device contacts, maybe, but that's about it.*

*All this, and yet Y'shua calls us friends. Abraham was called God's friend; Moses too was a friend of God. That is some pretty exclusive company. Y'shua kept Peter, James and John in His inner circle. That is why they alone were on the mountain with Him when He revealed what the future held for mankind; very exclusive company! All such deep intimacy, and still Y'shua includes us in His inner circle; He calls us friends.*

*And if friendship is such an exclusive binding relationship, how much does it hurt when a friend betrays you? How painful is it when the one who should know you best forgets who you are, has a lapse in memory about your history together, loses trust in you, or purposely separates from you? It's an awful thing to slip into the endless list of those "friended" online, those who don't really know you—those who NEVER knew you.*

*Joshua had an extensive history with Yahweh. He was there for it all. He stood by Moses' side. He spied out the land and returned with the good report. He witnessed every indescribable miracle during Israel's deliverance from Egypt, and every supernatural provision in the wilderness. He was the single man anointed to carry the torch into the promised land, and through him God orchestrated holding back the flood waters of the Jordan, so His people could pass over on dry ground. Joshua certainly had a victorious entry! The walls of Jericho had fallen and he was on the way to Israel's next conquest.*

*Then, there was one small setback and Joshua goes completely sideways! He sinks right to the bottom and joins the faceless list of those who have no history with God; he goes utterly blank. It feels like an absolute betrayal and Yahweh will have NO part of it. "Get up Joshua, and stop your sniveling! Of all people, you should know better. We have an extensive history together! How can you forget My personal guarantee? 'Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for Yahweh your God is with you wherever you go.' Plus, you know very well how much I hate whining. Grumbling and complaining will get you nothing but a giant slap down. Get up, pull up your pants and be a big boy. Figure out what went wrong and fix it, or I will. Oh, and if I have to do it, it will be much, much worse for everyone!"*

## PROPHETIC SEED:

“And Joshua said, “Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? **Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!** O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name? So the Lord said to Joshua: **“Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?”** Joshua 7:7-10 NKJV

## PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.**” John 15:15 NKJV

# Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

## Introduction

In our last portion we saw that because those born in the wilderness had never been circumcised, all males had to now be circumcised to eat the Passover that was coming four days after they

entered the promised land. We learned that God was calling a new breed of warriors to become part of the army of God. And we watched the fall of Jericho as these new warriors followed very specific instructions in order to witness the walls come down. You can see that teaching here: [Spiritual Violence](#).

The people are ordered that they can take the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron from Jericho and bring it into the treasury of the Lord, but that everything else is accursed and should be destroyed by fire.

This week we see how Israel's first mission, post-Jericho, to take the city of Ai, is unsuccessful because someone has taken "accursed things" from Jericho. The guilty party must be exposed and eliminated.

Then, Israel is given a second chance to take Ai, is instructed precisely how to do so, and they are successful. The portion ends as the people are reminded of every word in the Book of the Law of Moses.

## **Joshua 7**

### **Attack on the city of Ai—right back to their old ways!**

1. **A trespass regarding the accursed things:** Achan takes the accursed things and Yahweh burns with anger.

- (a) Remember—God specifically warned... “By all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed.” (Joshua 6:18) And anything they take from Jericho, apart from the precious metals, is considered off limits.
- 2. **Joshua advances to take Ai:** He sends spies in advance and they return with a simple report. The people of Ai are few so don’t trouble the masses. You only need to send two to three thousand men to take Ai.
- 3. **The plan DOES NOT initially work:** The men of Ai chase about three thousand men and ultimately kill thirty-six of them.
  - (a) Please read that correctly—sure, any loss of life is tragic, but only 36 men die, while on the blown mission! (In comparison, we read many bible stories in which thousands upon thousands die.)
  - (b) Ands how do the Israelites react? Their hearts melt with fear.
  - (c) After all they just witnessed, the miracle crossing of the Jordan and the massive walls of a fortified city crumble to the sound of a trumpet blast and a shout, they retreat in their faith.
- 4. **Joshua’s ridiculous reaction:**
  - (a) He tears his cloths and falls on his face before Yahweh
  - (b) He too succumbs to unsubstantiated fear.

- (c) **Paraphrase of his words:** “Yahweh, why did You bring us over the Jordan at all, just to be destroyed by our enemies? Oh, that we had been content to stay in the wilderness! O Lord, whoa is me and boo hoo! Our enemies will hear what happened and be emboldened to eliminate us. And when they kill us all, what will happen to YOUR reputation?”

### **Why was the mission unsuccessful? The Sin of Achan**

#### **5. Yahweh to Joshua:**

- (a) Get up off your face! Why are you laying there? Instead of all the drama, don't you think that you should figure out what went wrong?
- (b) Someone took something accursed from Jericho, something I strictly forbade.
- (c) He stole them and deceived you and hid them among his own stuff.
- (d) That is why Israel could not stand up to their enemies.
- (e) I will not be on your side under these conditions
- (f) Here is the ONLY REMEDY: Find and destroy the accursed from among you.

#### **6. Action plan:**

- (a) Sanctify the people
- (b) Tell them that there is an accursed thing in their midst.

- (c) Tell them that as long as the accursed thing is among them, they stand no chance against any enemy.
- (d) Then, examine every family tribe-by-tribe.
- (e) Whoever took the accursed thing shall be burned with fire.

**7. Joshua's Action:**

- (a) Judah is up first.
- (b) He goes through each family until he gets to Achan.

**8. Joshua confronts Achan:**

- (a) Glorify the Lord and confess; tell me what you have done; do not hide it.
- (b) Achan admits he sinned and how he coveted a few things.
- (c) He took a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a fifty-shekel wedge of gold.
- (d) He reveals that he hid them by burying them under his tent.

**9. The Consequences:**

- (a) Joshua sends men to verify and gather the stolen items.
- (b) The proof is laid out before Joshua, the people and Yahweh.
- (c) Then Joshua, as all of Israel watches, takes Achan, the stolen items, his family, animals and all his belongings, and he stones the people to death and then burns everything afterwards.
- (d) Then they cover everything with a great pile of stones.
- (e) The fierceness of the Lord's anger is halted that day.



## **Joshua 8**

### **Victory over Ai—after the sin in the camp is eliminated...**

#### **10. Let's try it again:**

- (a) Do not be afraid.
- (b) Go with your people of war and take the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land.
- (c) Do to Ai as you did to Jericho.
- (d) But, this time you can take the spoils and cattle as booty for yourselves.

#### **11. The Attack:**

- (a) Joshua takes thirty thousand (NOT 3000) mighty men of valor as an ambush for the city.
- (b) He tells the bulk of them to hide close behind the city.
- (c) He then goes before the city with a smaller contingency, so he can draw out the men of Ai who will think they can defeat them as they did the first time.
- (d) Joshua plans to run when the men of Ai come out after them. And as the men of Ai chase them away from the city, the bulk of Israel's army will go in behind them and defeat the city.
- (e) Then burn down the city!

#### **12. Joshua institutes the battle strategy and victory:**

- (a) The bulk of the army (the rear guard) waits on the west side of Ai.

- (b) Joshua draws near to the city on north side with about five thousand men.
- (c) When the king of Ai sees Joshua's small army, he goes out against Israel.
- (d) Joshua acts beaten and flees.
- (e) The men of Ai pursue and are drawn away from the city.
- (f) Every man leaves the city and it is completely exposed.
- (g) Joshua gives the signal and the men laying in wait take the city and begin to burn it.
- (h) As the smoke of the city rises, the men of Ai turn back to defend it and are struck down.
- (i) Others come out of the city to fight and are all struck down as well.
- (j) The king of Ai is taken alive and brought to Joshua.
- (k) All the inhabitants of Ai fall by the edge of the sword that day (twelve thousand people).
- (l) The livestock and the spoil are taken as booty, as permitted.
- (m) Joshua burns Ai and the king is hanged on a tree.
- (n) That evening his corpse is placed at the entrance of the city gate and covered with a pile of stones.

### **Joshua re-orientes the people about Yahweh's Covenant**

13. Joshua builds an altar as per the Book of the Law of Moses.

14. They offer burnt offerings and peace offerings.

15. In the presence of the children of Israel, Joshua writes on the stones a copy of the law of Moses.
16. Then, every person present gathers around and Joshua reads every word of the Book of the Law to the people, both the blessings and the curses!
17. Another reset—No more excuses!

## A FRIEND'S BETRAYAL

### 1. Et tu, Brute?

#### A. Missing the obvious!

##### (1) First Mistake

##### (a) You let sin in the camp!

1. “But the **children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things**, for Achan ...of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the Lord burned against the children of Israel.” Joshua 7:1 NKJV
  - a) Accursed things from Jericho got into the camp and Yahweh is very angry!
  - b) The portion starts with this as the backdrop and should have us thinking about it, as we move to the next scene.

- c) It's almost like the setting in a movie that gives us context for what comes next.
  - d) Sure, behind the scenes in our movie we, as the audience, are informed that Achan is "guilty party."
  - e) But, also we must realize that everything comes down to leadership, and Joshua was well aware of the rules of the spoils from Jericho.
- (b) No Plausible Deniability—Joshua knew!
1. "And you, **by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse,** and trouble it. But all **the silver** and **gold**, and vessels of **bronze** and **iron**, are consecrated to the Lord; they **shall come into the treasury of the Lord.**"  
Joshua 6:18-19 NKJV
  2. "But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire *[or did they?]*. **Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord.**" Joshua 6:24 NKJV
    - a) There were rules for what was permitted to be taken from Jericho.
    - b) What you could take and what you must do with it was clear!

(c) God hates refuse in the camp...

1. “...**therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you**, and turn away from you.” Deuteronomy 23:14 NKJV
  - a) You are NEVER permitted to bring unclean things into the camp! (See [Seeker Friendly](#))

(2) Second Mistake

(a) For some reason, Joshua is too busy making up his own strategy of what to do next to have noticed there was “sin in the camp.”

1. “Now **Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai**, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, **and spoke to them, saying, “Go up and spy** out the country.” So the men went up and spied out Ai.” Joshua 7:3 NKJV

- a) Who said to send out spies?
- b) Was it Joshua? Was it God?
- c) It seems that Joshua decided to sends spies!
- d) He gets back a report...and does what THEY say!

(b) Pause: Previous Spy Experience

1. “And **the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Send men to spy** out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you

shall send a man, every one a leader among them.””

Numbers 13:1-2 NKJV

- a) Notice the OBVIOUS difference!
- b) In the original spy narrative Yahweh told Moses to send spies into the land!
- c) And Joshua was actually one of those 12 spies!  
(Read Numbers 13)

(c) The New Spy Report:

1. “And they returned to Joshua and said to him, “**Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up** and attack Ai. **Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few.**”” Joshua 7:3 NKJV

a) The Unauthorized Spy report:

- 1) Do not let all the people fight.
- 2) You only need 2000-3000 men.
- 3) Don’t bother the people with this little mission.
- 4) There are not that many “Aians,” so this should be a quick work.

(d) The Results:

1. “So about **three thousand men went up** there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai. And **the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men**, for

they **chased them** from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore **the hearts of the people melted** and became like water.” Joshua 7:4-5 NKJV

a) Outcome:

- 1) Joshua never consults with God and follows man’s recommendation. (\*See Jeremiah 17:5-9)
- 2) Israel is chased away like an annoying insect and 36 men die.
- 3) The Israelites looking on become like frightened children!

b) Why?

- 1) \*“Thus says the Lord: “**Cursed is the man who trusts in man** And makes flesh his strength, ... “**Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord**, And whose hope is the Lord. ...”**The heart is deceitful** above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:5-9 NKJV

(3) Third Mistake

- (a) God hates when leaders don’t take responsibility...  
Some Background—Aaron and his earrings...

1. “Now **when the people** saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, “**Come, make us gods** that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” And **Aaron said to them, “Break off the golden earrings** which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And **he received** the gold from their hand, and **he fashioned** it with an engraving tool, and **made a molded calf**. Then they **said**, “**This is your god**, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!””

Exodus 32:1-4 NKJV

- a) The people are struggling and look to their leader.
- b) The leader gives them some very bad advice.
- c) He is specifically involved in the bad choice.

(b) When you are in trouble...blame others!

1. “And **Moses said to Aaron**, “What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?” So Aaron said, “Do not let the anger of my



Lord become hot. **You know the people, that they are set on evil.** For **they said to me, ‘Make us gods** that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ **And I said to them, ‘Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out.**””Exodus 32:21-24 NKJV

- a) You see Moses, it was those people who were dead-set on doing what was wrong.
  - b) I’m the victim here.
  - c) All I did was throw some gold earrings in a fire and this perfectly fashioned golden calf popped out.
  - d) You can’t blame me; I had nothing to do with it!
- (c) Important information... Joshua was there and witnessed the whole thing.
1. “And **when Joshua heard the noise** of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “There is a noise of war in the camp.” But he [Moses] said: “**It is not the noise of the shout of victory, Nor the noise of the cry of defeat, But the sound of singing** I hear.””  
Exodus 32:17-18 NKJV

- a) As Moses descended from the mountain, he hears the celebration going on in the camp.
  - b) Joshua is at his side at this moment and Moses informs him that the noise he hears is not a battle, but instead a worship service!
  - c) Note to self: Joshua get's to witness Aaron's BAD LEADERSHIP in action.
- (d) Another perfect example of neglected leadership...Saul and his bleating sheep...
1. "Now [Saul] go and attack Amalek, **and utterly destroy all that they have**, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' "" I Samuel 15:3 NKJV
    - a) Saul is the king.
    - b) Saul is given specific instructions.
    - c) Utterly destroy... [utterly: completely and without qualification; totally, absolutely, entirely...]
  2. "Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the Lord! **I have performed the commandment of the Lord.**" But Samuel said, "**What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?**" And Saul said,

**“They** have brought them from the Amalekites; for **the people** spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, **to sacrifice to the Lord your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.”** I Samuel 15:13-15 NKJV

a) Now, I want you to get this. It is the worst type of leadership possible. (Self-deception; deflection; rationalization; gaslighting)

1) First there is *self-deception*: “I have performed the commandment of the Lord.” NO YOU DID NOT!

2) Second there is *deflection*: The people did it!

3) Third there is *rationalization*: We did it for God! Notice the “your” God, not “my” God!

4) Fourth there is *gaslighting*: “I did utterly destroy everything that was left over after I utterly destroyed some of the things I was supposed to utterly destroy.”

3. **“Why then did you not obey** the voice of the Lord? **Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil** in the sight of the Lord?” And Saul said to Samuel, **“But I have obeyed** the voice of the Lord, **and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me,** and brought back Agag king of Amalek; **I have utterly**

**destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things **which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God** in Gilgal.”” I Samuel 15:19-21 NKJV**

- a) And it just keeps getting worse. As Saul is given the final opportunity to take responsibility... Why did you not obey God? Saul defends his every choice!
  - 1) “I did; I actually went on a mission for Him!”
  - 2) “I did utterly destroyed; but the people took the best stuff that should have been utterly destroyed.”
  - 3) “Listen Samual, the bottom line here is that the people are the problem, not me!”
- b) It’s a horrible thing when leaders don’t take responsibility, and that is what Joshua did!
- (e) Joshua goes into some religious showing instead of recognizing what happened. It looks holy and righteous and authentic, but we know from God’s reaction, it is anything but that!
  - 1. “Then **Joshua tore his clothes**, and **fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening**, he and the elders of Israel; and they **put dust on their**

**heads. And Joshua said, “Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?”**” Joshua 7:6-9 NKJV

- a) Joshua does everything he possibly can, but look in the mirror (to see the truth)!
- 1) Tears his close, throws himself on the ground, and covers his head with ashes...what a display!
- 2) Oh, Lord...why did You part the river?
- 3) Oh, Lord...why did You bring us over the Jordan?
- 4) Oh, Lord... did You bring us here to die?
- 5) Oh, Lord... we should have been content to stay in the wilderness? ARE YOU KIDDING ME!
- 6) Oh, Lord... what shall I say when the people tuck tail and run?
- 7) Oh, Lord... our enemies will kill us all!

8) Oh, Lord... what will You do when Your reputation gets damaged?

b) Is this a spirit-led response...or drama?

**B. Yahweh will have NONE of it...**

(1) Of all people, Joshua should know better!

(a) The Slap Down: Get up and take responsibility. Stop this ridiculous display.

1. "So the Lord said to Joshua: "**Get up!** Why do you lie thus on your face?" Joshua 7:10 NKJV

a) **Slap down:** to prohibit or restrain usually abruptly and with censure from acting in a specified way; squelch; to put an abrupt stop to; to suppress!

b) Yahweh's slap down of Joshua:

1) *"Get up Joshua, and stop your sniveling! Of all people, you should know better. We have an extensive history together! How can you forget My personal guarantee? 'Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for Yahweh your God is with you wherever you go.' Plus, you know very well how much I hate whining. Grumbling and complaining will get you nothing but a giant slap down. Get up, pull up your pants and be a big boy. Figure out what*

*went wrong and fix it, or I will. Oh, and if I have to do it, it will be much, much worse for everyone!” DJV (Dr. Jeff Version 😊)*

(2) Joshua’s calling. He was THE ONE man called to continue the work of Moses! (*Excerpts: I recommend you read the full accounts.*)

(a) Moses’ right hand man...

1. “So Joshua the son of Nun, **Moses’ assistant, one of his choice men...**” Numbers 11:28-29 NKJV

(b) Joshua is anointed to take over...

1. “And the Lord said to Moses: “**Take Joshua** the son of Nun with you, a man **in whom is the Spirit**, and **lay your hand on him; ...and inaugurate him** in their sight. And you shall **give some of your authority** to him, ...And **he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him**, just as the Lord commanded by the hand of Moses.” Numbers 27:18-23 NKJV

(c) Moses tells the people that Joshua is the one who will take you into the promised land.

1. “Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. And he said to them: “I am one hundred and twenty years old today. I can no longer go out and

come in. ... **Joshua himself crosses over before you,**  
just as the Lord has said.” Deuteronomy 31:1-3 NKJV

(d) Joshua, God is going with you, so don't have a single worry. And you'd think he was solid, being *“full of the spirit of wisdom.”*

1. **“Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land ...the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed. Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him...”** Deuteronomy 31:7-9 NKJV

(e) Yahweh to Joshua: Go over—*“Every place that the sole of your foot will tread is yours!”*

1. “After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that **the Lord spoke to Joshua** the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, **arise, go over this Jordan,** you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. **Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.”** Joshua 1:1-3 NKJV



(f) Yahweh to Joshua—more details!

1. **“No man shall be able to stand before** you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. **Be strong and of good courage,** for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. **Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law** which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. **This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.** For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”**” Joshua 1:5-9

NKJV

- a) No one will be able to stand up to you!
- b) Be strong and courageous.
- c) Do this critical thing!

- 1) Obey Me and My laws.
- 2) Consider them day and night.
- 3) That is the only way to be successful (meaning that is the only way no one will be able to defeat you!)

(3) Joshua's LONG history as WITNESS for it all! (A History of Complaining)

(a) At the Red Sea Crossing—"we would have been better off in Egypt!" (Joshua was there!)

1. "...**"Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."**" Exodus 14:10-12 NKJV

(b) Three days into the wilderness—no water!

1. "So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; ...they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ... **And the people complained** against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" ...There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He

tested them, and said, **“If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes,** I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.”” Exodus 15:22-26 NKJV

- a) They instantly complain—and God provides water.
- b) Then He affirms; all you have to do is obey Me and all will go well! (Joshua was there!)
- (c) They just continue to complain. And later on—no water, again!

1. **“Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron ... “Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”” Exodus 16:2-3 NKJV**

2. **“...camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people contended with Moses, ... “Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”... Exodus 17:1-4 NKJV**

- a) The people have some bizarre memory that they had the good life in Egypt!
- b) The people complain and blame Moses, and God gives them Water from a Rock. (Joshua was there!)
- (d) We already looked at the Golden Calf incident in Exodus 32. (Joshua was there!)
  - 1. “And when **Joshua heard the noise...**” Exodus 32:17-18 NKJV
- (e) After they leave Sinai—the people complain, and God hates complaining! (Joshua was there!)
  - 1. “**Now when the people complained, it displeased the Lord;** for the Lord heard it, **and His anger was aroused.** So the fire of the Lord burned among them, and **consumed some in the outskirts** of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the Lord, the fire was quenched.” Numbers 11:1-2 NKJV
- (f) No Meat to eat and they complained again!
  - 1. “Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: “**Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the**

**onions, and the garlic;** but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!”” Numbers 11:4-6 NKJV

- a) The fire scorching the outskirts of the camp is not enough—they complain again for meat—where’s the beef!
- b) Oh, and we had it so good in Egypt with all that gourmet food, and now all we got is this bread! (Joshua was there!)
- (g) Moses is ready to quit over the whole complaining thing...
  - 1. “Then **Moses heard the people weeping...** So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have You afflicted Your servant? ... Did I conceive all these people? ... **Where am I to get meat ... I am not able to bear all these people alone... If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now—...**” Numbers 11:10-15 NKJV
    - a) I can’t take one more day of these people complaining.
    - b) If it’s not going to stop, just KILL ME NOW!
    - c) God gives them so much meat that... “...while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, **the wrath of the Lord was aroused**

**against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague.”** Numbers 11:31-33

NKJV (Joshua was there!)

(h) At the first opportunity they have to enter the promised land (God’s promise), they choose to believe the bad spy report instead of the good one! (See Numbers 13)

1. “So all the congregation **lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses** and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “**If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!** Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children **should become victims?** Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” So they said to one another, “**Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.**”” Numbers 14:1-4 NKJV

a) This is ABSOLUTELY critical:

1) The people get two reports, one that says the land is good and that it is theirs for the taking. And one that says there are giants in the land and if they go in they will be crushed like bugs.

- 2) Of course, the people choose to believe the bad report. THAT IS WHAT a history of complaining will do!
  - 3) The negative spirit gets in your DNA and it becomes who you are. (Note to self: the way to get that out of your DNA is to reprogram your DNA with the word of God.)
  - 4) But, don't miss the MOST IMPORTANT piece here. Not only was Joshua there, he was one of the two spies who brought the GOOD REPORT (Caleb was the other).
  - 5) Joshua, of all people, should have been prepared for some adversity when they crossed the Jordan.
  - 6) His eyes should have been wide open for indiscretion.
  - 7) But, it seems he thought the spy thing a second time was a greater priority than keeping sin out of the camp.
- b) Moses did something similar when he depended on his first experience of striking the rock to get water (in Exodus 17:6). And when God told him the second time, almost forty years later, to speak

to the rock to get water (Numbers 20:7-13), he instead strikes the rock, this time twice. That level of disobedience cost him entrance to promised land.

- c) Joshua was there for all of it, which makes this reaction all the worse! *“Then **Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. And Joshua said, “Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?””*** Joshua 7:6-9 NKJV

### C. Et tu, Joshua?

- (1) Disobedience and loss of faith is worse when it's a friend!  
(a) Friend of God...Abraham!



1. ""But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham **My friend.**"  
Isaiah 41:8 NKJV
  2. "Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of **Abraham Your friend forever?**" II Chronicles 20:7 NKJV
  3. "And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "**Abraham** believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness [*Genesis 15:6*]." And **he was called the friend of God** [*Isaiah 41:8; II Chronicles 20:7*]." James 2:23 NKJV
- (b) Friend of God...Moses! (Joshua was there!)
1. "So **the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.** And he would return to the camp, but **his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.**"  
Exodus 33:11 NKJV
- (c) Friend of God...You!
1. ""These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this,

than to lay down one's life **for his friends**. **You are My friends** if you do whatever I command you. {15} **No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.** You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another. John 15:11-17 NKJV

- a) The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend...
- b) The Lord speaks to you face to face, as a man speaks to his friend...
- c) No longer does He call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but He has called us friends!
- d) We should KNOW what His is doing!

(2) Et tu? (The unexpected betrayal by a friend!)

(a) Et tu, Brutus? (The worse betrayal is by a friend!)

1. ...a Latin phrase literally meaning "and you, Brutus?" or "also you, Brutus?", often translated as "You as

well, Brutus?", "You too, Brutus?", or "Even you, Brutus?". The quote appears in Act 3 Scene 1 of William Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*, where it is spoken by the Roman dictator Julius Caesar, at the moment of his assassination, to his friend Marcus Junius Brutus, upon recognizing him as one of the assassins. The phrase is often used apart from the plays to signify an **unexpected betrayal by a friend**.

(3) Judas

(a) With "friends" like this, who needs enemies? "*Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?*" (Luke 22:48)

1. "And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now **His betrayer** had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him." Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" **and kissed Him**. But Jesus said to him, "**Friend, why have you come?**" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him." Matthew 26:47-50 NKJV

(b) Peter denies Christ! (Luke 22:54-62)

1. “And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “**Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.**” So Peter went out and wept bitterly.”

Luke 22:61-62 NKJV

- (c) Anyone Faking it... “Depart from me I never knew you!”  
Who? Those who disobey!

1. ““Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**’” Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV

- (d) Joshua, your faith has betrayed you...

1. “So the Lord said to Joshua: “**Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?**” Joshua 7:10 NKJV
- a) Why? Because there is sin in the camp!

## SIN IN THE CAMP

### 2. Spoiled Spoils

#### A. Joshua, you fix it, or I (Yahweh) will!

(1) And if I have to do it, it will be much worse!

(a) Why was the mission unsuccessful?

1. **“Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.”** Joshua 7:11-12 NKJV

- a) We (the audience) already had the scene set for us in Joshua 7:1 and we know Achan is guilty.
- b) But, now (in real time) Joshua must stop his sniveling, man up, and get to the bottom of what went wrong!
- c) All good leaders take responsibility for the problems at hand.
- d) Someone has sinned and brought accursed things into the camp.
- e) They have both stolen and deceived.

- f) If you (Joshua) don't fix this, I (Yahweh) will not be with you anymore and you will be doomed to destruction.
- g) The Remedy: *"Destroy the accursed from among you."*

(2) Here is what you must do...

(a) Search out the problem...

1. "Get up, sanctify the people, and say, 'Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the Lord God of Israel: **"There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you."** In the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the Lord takes shall come according to families; and the family which the Lord takes shall come by households; and the household which the Lord takes shall come man by man. **Then it shall be that he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant** of the Lord, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.' ""

Joshua 7:13-15 NKJV

- a) Find the accursed things...
- b) Burn the accursed things!
- c) Why? *"because he has transgressed the covenant."*
- d) Remember: the people had to destroy  
EVERYTHING, except the precious metals, which  
must be brought into the treasury of God. (Joshua  
6:18-19)
- e) So look for any other items or metals (not given to  
the treasury).

## **B. Exposed and Found Wanting**

(1) This what was Joshua found out...

(a) Achan (the tribe of Judah)

1. "So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought  
Israel by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken.  
...and Achan ...was taken." Joshua 7:16-18 NKJV

a) It seems the first tribe Joshua checks is Judah, and  
as he drills down he gets to Achan...

(b) It's the moment of truth...

1. "Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, **I beg you, give  
glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession  
to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not  
hide** it from me."" Joshua 7:19 NKJV

a) Joshua clearly has some prophetic insight here.

- b) He is so certain Achan is guilty that he implores him to glorify God by confessing!

(c) Confession...

1. "And Achan answered Joshua and said, "**Indeed I have sinned** against the Lord God of Israel, and **this is what I have done**: When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, **I coveted** them and took them. And there **they are, hidden** in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."" Joshua 7:20-21 NKJV

- a) Achan confesses to everything.
- b) I took some stuff and some silver and gold (and I kept the silver and gold for myself).
- c) I hid them in the ground beneath my tent!
- d) "**Confess your trespasses to one another**, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**" James 5:16 NKJV

(d) Confirmed...

1. "So Joshua **sent messengers**, and they ran to the tent; and there **it was, hidden in his tent**, with the silver under it. And they took them from the midst of the



tent, **brought them to Joshua** and to all the children of Israel, and **laid them out before the Lord.**" Joshua 7:22-23 NKJV

a) Joshua gathers the evidence and lays it out before the people and God!

(e) "Covequences": the consequences of coveting!

1. "Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan ... the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, *[and his family, animals, belongings]* to the Valley of Achor [trouble]. And Joshua said, **"Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day."** So all Israel **stoned him** with stones; and they **burned them** with fire after they had stoned them with stones. Then they raised over him **a great heap of stones**, still there to this day. **So the Lord turned from the fierceness of His anger.** Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day." Joshua 7:24-26 NKJV

a) All things Achan (accursed) are destroyed to remove the sin from the camp!

b) The Lord relents from His warning... You are **"doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with**

**you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.” Joshua 7:12**

(2) Definitive Judgement for abusing God’s treasure...

(a) The Writing is on the Wall

1. “Then the fingers of the hand were sent from Him, and this writing was written. “And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; TEKEL: **You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting;** PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”” Daniel 5:24-28 NKJV

a) King Belshazzar—“*You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting.*” You never want to hear this from the Lord.

b) It’s kind of what Achan must have heard! “*Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day.*” (Joshua 7:25)

c) Belshazzar used the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple, which had been in Jerusalem, and had a drinking party with them. (Daniel 5:2-4)

(3) You are God's vessel—His treasure (His personal possession)—do not abuse it by using yourself for your own covetous purposes! Do not be, *"Weighed in the balances, and found wanting."* Do not be asked, *"Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day."*

(a) You are his treasure in earthen vessels...

1. "But we have this **treasure in earthen vessels**, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us." II Corinthians 4:7 NKJV

a) We are God's treasure meant to be the vessel of His power!

(b) You are His personal possession...

1. "And the Lord has today declared you to be His people, **His personal possession** [*special people, treasured possession*], just as He promised you, and that **you are to keep all His commandments;**"  
Deuteronomy 26:18 NASB2020

2. "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **a people for God's own possession**, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has **called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**" 1 Peter 2:9 NASB2020

a) We are God's personal possession, His treasure.

b) We are called out of the darkness of disobeying God (like Achan) and into the marvelous light of God's obedient vessels of honor—*sanctified and useful for the Master!*

1) “But in a great house **there are not only vessels of gold and silver**, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

Therefore **if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work**. Flee also youthful lusts; but **pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace** with those who call on the Lord out of **a pure heart.**” II Timothy 2:20-22 NKJV

(c) You do not belong to yourself anymore!

1. “I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20 NKJV

a) Your life is no longer your life—you must bring it all into the treasury of Yahweh!

(d) Lay aside everything that will hinder you!

1. “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,” Hebrews 12:1 NKJV
  - a) How? Do not bring sin into the camp!
  - b) Run from sin and fix your eyes on God!
- (e) Let God’s word purify you!
  1. “For **the word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and **is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart**. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but **all things are naked and open** to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV
    - a) God’s word will purify every thought and intention!
- (f) Finally, about treasure! Don’t bury yours...(see Matthew 25:14-30)
  1. **Matthew 25:24-30 (the One talent):** ““Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, **reaping where you have**

**not sown**, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And **I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground.** Look, there you have what is yours.’ “But his Lord answered and said to him, ‘**You wicked and lazy servant**, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. **Therefore take the talent from him**, and give it to him who has ten talents. ‘For to **everyone who has, more will be given**, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. **And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness.** There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

a) If you take what is God’s and hide it in the earth under your tent (like Achan did), bad things happen!

1) “*When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, **I coveted them and took them.** And*

***there they are, hidden in the earth** in the midst  
of my tent, with the silver under it.”” Joshua  
7:21 NKJV*

b) Why? “***For the gifts and the calling of God are  
irrevocable.***” Romans 11:29 NKJV

## LOYAL FRIENDSHIP

### 3. You are My friends if...

#### A. You obey!

(1) Friends don't betray (disobey) friends!

(a) Stay close to Him and He will make all things known!

1. “**You are My friends** if you **do whatever I command** you. No longer do I call you servants, for **a servant does not know what his master is doing**; but I have called you friends, for **all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.**” John 15:14-15  
NKJV

a) Time and again we see these “if then” stipulations.

b) If you do what I command, you are My friend.

c) If you love Me then you would obey Me (John  
14:15; I John 5:1-5).

2. “But also for this very reason, **giving all diligence,  
add to** your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to

knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, **to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.** For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in **the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *[all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you—Jn 15:15]*” II Peter 1:5-8 NKJV

- a) Brotherly kindness (friendship) is the secret to love!
- b) Friends stick closer than brothers: “A man **who has friends** must himself be friendly, But **there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**” Proverbs 18:24 NKJV
- c) Obedience is the secret to love! (John 14:15; I John 5:1-5)

## **B. The permanent fix: Obedience**

(1) By the Book (The Law: everywhere you want it to be)

- (a) Then Moses called Joshua and instructed him.

(Deuteronomy 31:3-8) ...And then he set Joshua up for success in the land.

- 1. “So Moses wrote this law and delivered it to the priests, ...commanded them, saying: “At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year



of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles, ...read this law before all Israel in their hearing. ... **that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the Lord your God and carefully observe all the words of this law,** and that their children, who have not known it, may **hear and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land** which you cross the Jordan to possess.”” Deuteronomy 31:9-13 NKJV

2. “So **Moses came with Joshua** the son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people. Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel, and he said to them: “**Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe—all the words of this law.** For it is not a futile thing for you, because **it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan** to possess.”” Deuteronomy 32:44-47 NKJV

- a) Moses wrote the law, gave it to the priests and commanded the entirety of it be read to all the people at the Feast of Tabernacles every seven years.

- b) Why? So that they would hear, learn to fear, and to obey Yahweh!
- c) Set your hearts on God's law Joshua—make the people know, *"it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess."*

(b) Joshua continued the tradition...

1. "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you **shall meditate in it day and night**, that you **may observe to do according to all that is written in it**. For then you will **make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**"

Joshua 1:8 NKJV

- a) Meditate on the law continuously. (*"Pray without ceasing."* I Thessalonians 5:17)
- b) Obey it and you will prosper!
- c) Something he knew but neglected with Achan.

(c) Joshua Renews his resolve to get it right!

1. "And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. **There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel**, with the

women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.” Joshua 8:34-35 NKJV

(d) We must have the same resolve with the Achans in our lives!

1. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, **and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**, that the man of God may be **complete, thoroughly equipped** for every good work.” II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

a) The scriptures will do what they promise if we do what we are told with them.

### C. Brainwashed

(1) Think Bible!

(a) Reprogram your DNA (see: [Post Mortem Imperative](#))

1. Prophetic Progress

a) What could be so important to designate as a moral imperative that does not expire upon death? Here it is: “That you may hear, that you may learn to fear, and that you may carefully obey.” These are so imperative for life and death that I call heaven and earth to witness against you regarding such matters. Now, if that warning does not move these priorities to the lofty top in your succession and

legacy plan, I think we ought to check your pulse.  
You might be dead already!

**D. Restore Factory Settings (a second chance to defeat Ai)**

(1) Practice makes ~~Perfect~~ Better (Try again!) After the sin in the camp is eliminated, Joshua gets a second chance to make it right! (Victory over Ai)

(a) Let's try it again (Joshua 8:1-2): *"Now the Lord said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land."* Joshua 8:1 NKJV

1. Do not be afraid.
2. Go with your people of war and take the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land.
3. Do to Ai as you did to Jericho.
4. But, this time you can take the spoils and cattle as booty for yourselves.

(b) The Attack (Joshua 8:3-8):

1. Joshua takes thirty thousand (NOT 3000) mighty men of valor as an ambush for the city.
2. He tells the bulk of them to hide close behind the city.

3. He then goes before the city with a smaller contingency, so he can draw out the men of Ai who will think they can defeat them as they did the first time.
  4. Joshua plans to run when the men of Ai come out after them. And as the men of Ai chase them away from the city, the bulk of Israel's army will go in behind them and defeat the city.
  5. Then burn down the city!
- (c) Joshua institutes the battle strategy and victory: (Joshua 8:9-29)
1. The bulk of the army (the rear guard) waits on the west side of Ai.
  2. Joshua draws near to the city on north side with about five thousand men.
  3. When the king of Ai sees Joshua's small army, he goes out against Israel.
  4. Joshua acts beaten and flees.
  5. The men of Ai pursue and are drawn away from the city.
  6. Every man leaves the city and it is completely exposed.

7. Joshua gives the signal and the men laying in wait take the city and begin to burn it.
8. As the smoke of the city rises, the man of Ai turn back to defend it and are struck down.
9. Others come out of the city to fight and are all struck down as well.
10. The king of Ai is taken alive and brought to Joshua.
11. All the inhabitants of Ai fall by the edge of the sword that day (twelve thousand people).
12. The livestock and the spoil are taken as booty, as permitted.
13. Joshua burns Ai and the king is hanged on a tree.
14. That evening his corpse is placed at the entrance of the city gate and covered with a pile of stones.

## (2) Second Chances

(a) God says...Get up and take responsibility. Stop this ridiculous display. Fix what's in your camp or I will!

1. "So the Lord said to Joshua: "**Get up!** Why do you lie thus on your face?" Joshua 7:10 NKJV

(b) You say...Lord, I am ready to be obedient, and I am ready to punish Achan!

1. "Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—who in presence

am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,** casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,** and being **ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”** II Corinthians 10:1-6 NKJV

(c) Now say...Lord, I am ready to stop doing my own thing and to be completely obedient to You! (II Corinthians 10:1-6 paraphrased as a prayer)

1. *“I am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—as one among you who is most lowly. I beg you, this is not coming from me as if we are supposed to operate like physical beings. Sure we are living in physical bodies, but that is not the real battlefield. Our real weapons of warfare do not come*

*from our physical strength, but instead they come from the power of God working through us. It is ONLY with God's grace that we can pull down every humanistic stronghold, dismantle every frivolous argument, and defeat every enemy who exalts himself against the knowledge of God. This will happen ONLY if we do our part first. We MUST bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. The ONLY way we will ever be ready to punish all disobedience in the earth is when we are living in complete obedience to God." (DJV)*

## **Summary: A FRIEND'S BETRAYAL**

### **1. Et tu, Brute?**

#### **A. Missing the obvious!**

##### **(1) First Mistake**

##### **(a) You let sin in the camp!**

1. Accursed things from Jericho got into the camp and Yahweh is very angry!
2. The portion starts with this as the backdrop and should have us thinking about it, as we move to the next scene.



3. It's almost like the setting in a movie that gives us context for what comes next.
4. Sure, behind the scenes in our movie we, as the audience, are informed that Achan is "guilty party."
5. But, also we must realize that everything comes down to leadership, and Joshua was well aware of the rules of the spoils from Jericho.

(b) No Plausible Deniability—Joshua knew!

1. There were rules for what was permitted to be taken from Jericho.
2. What you could take and what you must do with it was clear!

(c) God hates refuse in the camp...

1. You are NEVER permitted to bring unclean things into the camp! (See [Seeker Friendly](#))

(2) Second Mistake

(a) For some reason, Joshua is too busy making up his own strategy of what to do next to have noticed there was "sin in the camp."

1. Who said to send out spies?
2. Was it Joshua? Was it God?
3. It seems that Joshua decided to sends spies!
4. He gets back a report...and does what THEY say!

(b) Pause: Previous Spy Experience

1. Notice the OBVIOUS difference!
2. In the original spy narrative Yahweh told Moses to send spies into the land!
3. And Joshua was actually one of those 12 spies! (Read Numbers 13)

(c) The New Spy Report:

1. The Unauthorized Spy report:
  - 1) Do not let all the people fight.
  - 2) You only need 2000-3000 men.
  - 3) Don't bother the people with this little mission.
  - 4) There are not that many "Aians," so this should be a quick work.

(d) The Results:

1. Outcome:
  - 1) Joshua never consults with God and follows man's recommendation.
  - 2) Israel is chased away like an annoying insect and 36 men die.
  - 3) The Israelites looking on become like frightened children!
- d) Why? Cursed is the man who trusts in man...  
Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord...

### (3) Third Mistake

#### (a) God hates when leaders don't take responsibility...

Some Background—Aaron and his earrings...

1. The people are struggling and look to their leader.
2. The leader gives them some very bad advice.
3. He is specifically involved in the bad choice.

#### (b) When you are in trouble...blame others!

1. You see Moses, it was those people who were dead-set on doing what was wrong.
2. I'm the victim here.
3. All I did was throw some gold earrings in a fire and this perfectly fashioned golden calf popped out.
4. You can't blame me; I had nothing to do with it!

#### (c) Important information... Joshua was there and witnessed the whole thing.

1. As Moses descended from the mountain, he hears the celebration going on in the camp.
2. Joshua is at his side at this moment and Moses informs him that the noise he hears is not a battle, but instead a worship service!
3. Note to self: Joshua get's to witness Aaron's BAD LEADERSHIP in action.

(d) Another perfect example of neglected leadership...Saul and his bleating sheep...

1. Saul is the king.
2. Saul is given specific instructions.
3. Utterly destroy... [utterly: completely and without qualification; totally, absolutely, entirely...]
4. Now, I want you to get this. It is the worst type of leadership possible. (Self-deception; deflection; rationalization; gaslighting)
  - 1) First there is *self-deception*: "I have performed the commandment of the Lord." NO YOU DID NOT!
  - 2) Second there is *deflection*: The people did it!
  - 3) Third there is *rationalization*: We did it for God! Notice the "your" God, not "my" God!
  - 4) Fourth there is *gaslighting*: "I did utterly destroy everything that was left over after I utterly destroyed some of the things I was supposed to utterly destroy."
5. And it just keeps getting worse. As Saul is given the final opportunity to take responsibility... Why did you not obey God? Saul defends his every choice!
  - 1) "I did; I actually went on a mission for Him!"

- 2) "I did utterly destroyed; but the people took the best stuff that should have been utterly destroyed."
  - 3) "Listen Samual, the bottom line here is that the people are the problem, not me!"
  - 4) It's a horrible thing when leaders don't take responsibility, and that is what Joshua did!
- (e) Joshua goes into some religious showing instead of recognizing what happened. It looks holy and righteous and authentic, but we know from God's reaction, it is anything but that!
1. Joshua does everything he possibly can, but look in the mirror (to see the truth)!
  - 1) Tears his close, throws himself on the ground, and covers his head with ashes...what a display!
  - 2) Oh, Lord...why did You part the river?
  - 3) Oh, Lord...why did You bring us over the Jordan?
  - 4) Oh, Lord... did You bring us here to die?
  - 5) Oh, Lord... we should have been content to stay in the wilderness? ARE YOU KIDDING ME!
  - 6) Oh, Lord... what shall I say when the people tuck tail and run?
  - 7) Oh, Lord... our enemies will kill us all!

8) Oh, Lord... what will You do when Your reputation gets damaged?

i) Is this a spirit-led response...or drama?

**B. Yahweh will have NONE of it...**

(1) Of all people, Joshua should know better!

(a) The Slap Down: Get up and take responsibility. Stop this ridiculous display.

1. **Slap down:** to prohibit or restrain usually abruptly and with censure from acting in a specified way; squelch; to put an abrupt stop to; to suppress!

2. Yahweh's slap down of Joshua:

1) *"Get up Joshua, and stop your sniveling! Of all people, you should know better. We have an extensive history together! How can you forget My personal guarantee? 'Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for Yahweh your God is with you wherever you go.'* Plus, you know very well how much I hate whining. Grumbling and complaining will get you nothing but a giant slap down. Get up, pull up your pants and be a big boy. Figure out what went wrong and fix it, or I will. Oh, and if I have to do it,

*it will be much, much worse for everyone!” DJV*

*(Dr. Jeff Version 😊)*

- (2) Joshua’s calling. He was THE ONE man called to continue the work of Moses! *(Excerpts: I recommend you read the full accounts.)*
- (a) Moses’ right hand man...
  - (b) Joshua is anointed to take over...
  - (c) Moses tells the people that Joshua is the one who will take you into the promised land.
  - (d) Joshua, God is going with you, so don’t have a single worry. And you’d think he was solid, being “*full of the spirit of wisdom.*”
  - (e) Yahweh to Joshua: Go over—“*Every place that the sole of your foot will tread is yours!*”
  - (f) Yahweh to Joshua—more details!
    - 1. No one will be able to stand up to you!
    - 2. Be strong and courageous.
    - 3. Do this critical thing!
      - 1) Obey Me and My laws.
      - 2) Consider them day and night.
      - 3) That is the only way to be successful (meaning that is the only way no one will be able to defeat you!)

- (3) Joshua's LONG history as WITNESS for it all! (A History of Complaining)
- (a) At the Red Sea Crossing—"we would have been better off in Egypt!" (Joshua was there!)
  - (b) Three days into the wilderness—no water!
    - 1. They instantly complain—and God provides water.
    - 2. Then He affirms; all you have to do is obey Me and all will go well! (Joshua was there!)
  - (c) They just continue to complain. And later on—no water, again!
    - 1. The people have some bizarre memory that they had the good life in Egypt!
    - 2. The people complain and blame Moses, and God gives them Water from a Rock. (Joshua was there!)
  - (d) We already looked at the Golden Calf incident in Exodus 32. (Joshua was there!)
  - (e) After they leave Sinai—the people complain, and God hates complaining! (Joshua was there!)
  - (f) No Meat to eat and they complained again!
  - (g) The fire scorching the outskirts of the camp is not enough—they complain again for meat—where's the beef!



- (h) Oh, and we had it so good in Egypt with all that gourmet food, and now all we got is this bread! (Joshua was there!)
- (i) Moses is ready to quit over the whole complaining thing...
  - 1. I can't take one more day of these people complaining.
  - 2. If it's not going to stop, just KILL ME NOW!
- (j) At the first opportunity they have to enter the promised land (God's promise), they choose to believe the bad spy report instead of the good one! (See Numbers 13)
  - 1. This is ABSOLUTELY critical:
    - 1) The people get two reports, one that says the land is good and that it is theirs for the taking. And one that says there are giants in the land and if they go in they will be crushed like bugs.
    - 2) Of course, the people choose to believe the bad report. THAT IS WHAT a history of complaining will do!
    - 3) The negative spirit gets in your DNA and it becomes who you are. (Note to self: the way to get that out of your DNA is to reprogram your DNA with the word of God.)

- 4) But, don't miss the MOST IMPORTANT piece here. Not only was Joshua there, he was one of the two spies who brought the GOOD REPORT (Caleb was the other).
  - 5) Joshua, of all people, should have been prepared for some adversity when they crossed the Jordan.
  - 6) His eyes should have been wide open for indiscretion.
  - 7) But, it seems he thought the spy thing a second time was a greater priority than keeping sin out of the camp.
2. Moses did something similar when he depended on his first experience of striking the rock to get water (in Exodus 17:6). And when God told him the second time, almost forty years later, to speak to the rock to get water (Numbers 20:7-13), he instead strikes the rock, this time twice. That level of disobedience cost him entrance to promised land.

**C. Et tu, Joshua?**

- (1) Disobedience and loss of faith is worse when it's a friend!
  - (a) Friend of God...Abraham!
  - (b) Friend of God...Moses! (Joshua was there!)
  - (c) Friend of God...You!

1. The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend...
2. The Lord speaks to you face to face, as a man speaks to his friend...
3. No longer does He call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but He has called us friends!
4. We should KNOW what His is doing!

(2) Et tu? (The unexpected betrayal by a friend!)

(a) Et tu, Brutus? (The worse betrayal is by a friend!)

1. ...a Latin phrase literally meaning “and you, Brutus?” or “also you, Brutus?”, often translated as “You as well, Brutus?”, “You too, Brutus?”, or “Even you, Brutus?”. The quote appears in Act 3 Scene 1 of William Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*, where it is spoken by the Roman dictator Julius Caesar, at the moment of his assassination, to his friend Marcus Junius Brutus, upon recognizing him as one of the assassins. The phrase is often used apart from the plays to signify an **unexpected betrayal by a friend.**

(3) Judas

(a) With “friends” like this, who needs enemies? “*Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?*” (Luke 22:48)

- (b) Peter denies Christ! (Luke 22:54-62)
- (c) Anyone Faking it... "Depart from me I never knew you!"  
Who? Those who disobey!
- (d) Joshua, your faith has betrayed you... Why? Because  
there is sin in the camp!

## **Summary: SIN IN THE CAMP**

### **2. Spoiled Spoils**

#### **A. Joshua, you fix it, or I (Yahweh) will!**

- (1) And if I have to do it, it will be much worse!
  - (a) Why was the mission unsuccessful?
    1. We (the audience) already had the scene set for us in Joshua 7:1 and we know Achan is guilty.
    2. But, now (in real time) Joshua must stop his sniveling, man up, and get to the bottom of what went wrong!
    3. All good leaders take responsibility for the problems at hand.
    4. Someone has sinned and brought accursed things into the camp.
    5. They have both stolen and deceived.
    6. If you (Joshua) don't fix this, I (Yahweh) will not be with you anymore and you will be doomed to destruction.

7. The Remedy: *“Destroy the accursed from among you.”*

(2) Here is what you must do...

(a) Search out the problem...

1. Find the accursed things...
2. Burn the accursed things!
3. Why? *“because he has transgressed the covenant.”*
4. Remember: the people had to destroy EVERYTHING, except the precious metals, which must be brought into the treasury of God. (Joshua 6:18-19)
5. So look for any other items or metals (not given to the treasury).

## **B. Exposed and Found Wanting**

(1) This what was Joshua found out...

(a) Achan (the tribe of Judah)

1. It seems the first tribe Joshua checks is Judah, and as he drills down he gets to Achan...

(b) It's the moment of truth...

1. Joshua clearly has some prophetic insight here.
2. He is so certain Achan is guilty that he implores him to glorify God by confessing!

(c) Confession...

1. Achan confesses to everything.

2. I took some stuff and some silver and gold (and I kept the silver and gold for myself).

3. I hid them in the ground beneath my tent!

(d) Confirmed...

1. Joshua gathers the evidence and lays it out before the people and God!

(e) “Consequences”: the consequences of coveting!

1. All things Achan (accursed) are destroyed to remove the sin from the camp!

(2) Definitive Judgement for abusing God’s treasure...

(a) The Writing is on the Wall

1. King Belshazzar—*“You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting.”* You never want to hear this from the Lord.

2. It’s kind of what Achan must have heard! *“Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day.”* (Joshua 7:25)

3. Belshazzar used the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple, which had been in Jerusalem, and had a drinking party with them. (Daniel 5:2-4)

(3) You are God’s vessel—His treasure (His personal possession)—do not abuse it by using yourself for your

own covetous purposes! Do not be, *“Weighed in the balances, and found wanting.”* Do not be asked, *“Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day.”*

(a) You are his treasure in earthen vessels...

1. We are God’s treasure meant to be the vessel of His power!

(b) You are His personal possession...

1. We are God’s personal possession, His treasure.
2. We are called out of the darkness of disobeying God (like Achan) and into the marvelous light of God’s obedient vessels of honor—*sanctified and useful for the Master!*

(c) You do not belong to yourself anymore!

1. Your life is no longer your life—you must bring it all into the treasury of Yahweh!

(d) Lay aside everything that will hinder you!

1. How? Do not bring sin into the camp!
2. Run from sin and fix your eyes on God!

(e) Let God’s word purify you!

1. God’s word will purify every thought and intention!

(f) Finally, about treasure! Don’t bury yours...(see Matthew 25:14-30)

1. If you take what is God's and hide it in the earth under your tent (like Achan did), bad things happen!

**Summary:** LOYAL FRIENDSHIP

### **3. You are My friends if...**

#### **A. You obey!**

- (1) Friends don't betray (disobey) friends!
  - (a) Stay close to Him and He will make all things known!
    1. Time and again we see these "if then" stipulations.
    2. If you do what I command, you are My friend.
    3. If you love Me then you would obey Me.
    4. Brotherly kindness (friendship) is the secret to love!
    5. Obedience is the secret to love!

#### **B. The permanent fix: Obedience**

- (1) By the Book (The Law: everywhere you want it to be)
  - (a) Then Moses called Joshua and instructed him.  
(Deuteronomy 31:3-8) ...And then he set Joshua up for success in the land.
    1. Moses wrote the law, gave it to the priests and commanded the entirety of it be read to all the people at the Feast of Tabernacles every seven years.
    2. Why? So that they would hear, learn to fear, and to obey Yahweh!



3. Set your hearts on God's law Joshua—make the people know, *"it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess."*
- (b) Joshua continued the tradition...
  1. Mediate on the law continuously. (*"Pray without ceasing."* I Thessalonians 5:17)
  2. Obey it and you will prosper!
  3. Something he knew but neglected with Achan.
- (c) Joshua Renews his resolve to get it right!
- (d) We must have the same resolve with the Achans in our lives!
  1. The scriptures will do what they promise if we do what we are told with them.

### **C. Brainwashed**

- (1) Think Bible!
  - (a) Reprogram your DNA (see: [Post Mortem Imperative](#))
    1. Prophetic Progress
      - a) What could be so important to designate as a moral imperative that does not expire upon death? Here it is: "That you may hear, that you may learn to fear, and that you may carefully obey." These are so imperative for life and death that I call heaven

and earth to witness against you regarding such matters. Now, if that warning does not move these priorities to the lofty top in your succession and legacy plan, I think we ought to check your pulse. You might be dead already!

**D. Restore Factory Settings (a second chance to defeat Ai)**

(1) Practice makes ~~Perfect~~ Better (Try again!) After the sin in the camp is eliminated, Joshua gets a second chance to make it right! (Victory over Ai)

(a) Let's try it again

1. Do not be afraid.
2. Go with your people of war and take the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land.
3. Do to Ai as you did to Jericho.
4. But, this time you can take the spoils and cattle as booty for yourselves.

(b) The Attack (Joshua 8:3-8):

1. Joshua takes thirty thousand (NOT 3000) mighty men of valor as an ambush for the city.
2. He tells the bulk of them to hide close behind the city.
3. He then goes before the city with a smaller contingency, so he can draw out the men of Ai who

will think they can defeat them as they did the first time.

4. Joshua plans to run when the men of Ai come out after them. And as the men of Ai chase them away from the city, the bulk of Israel's army will go in behind them and defeat the city.

5. Then burn down the city!

(c) Joshua institutes the battle strategy and victory: (Joshua 8:9-29)

1. The bulk of the army (the rear guard) waits on the west side of Ai.
2. Joshua draws near to the city on north side with about five thousand men.
3. When the king of Ai sees Joshua's small army, he goes out against Israel.
4. Joshua acts beaten and flees.
5. The men of Ai pursue and are drawn away from the city.
6. Every man leaves the city and it is completely exposed.
7. Joshua gives the signal and the men laying in wait take the city and begin to burn it.

8. As the smoke of the city rises, the man of Ai turn back to defend it and are struck down.
9. Others come out of the city to fight and are all struck down as well.
10. The king of Ai is taken alive and brought to Joshua.
11. All the inhabitants of Ai fall by the edge of the sword that day (twelve thousand people).
12. The livestock and the spoil are taken as booty, as permitted.
13. Joshua burns Ai and the king is hanged on a tree.
14. That evening his corpse is placed at the entrance of the city gate and covered with a pile of stones.

## (2) Second Chances

- (a) God says...Get up and take responsibility. Stop this ridiculous display. Fix what's in your camp or I will!
- (b) You say...Lord, I am ready to be obedient, and I am ready to punish Achan!
- (c) Now say...Lord, I am ready to stop doing my own thing and to be completely obedient to You! (II Corinthians 10:1-6 paraphrased as a prayer)
  1. *"I am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—as one among you who is most lowly. I beg you, this is not coming from me as if we*

*are supposed to operate like physical beings. Sure we are living in physical bodies, but that is not the real battlefield. Our real weapons of warfare do not come from our physical strength, but instead they come from the power of God working through us. It is ONLY with God's grace that we can pull down every humanistic stronghold, dismantle every frivolous argument, and defeat every enemy who exalts himself against the knowledge of God. This will happen ONLY if we do our part first. We MUST bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. The ONLY way we will ever be ready to punish all disobedience in the earth is when we are living in complete obedience to God." (DJV)*

## **QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**

### **1. In Joshua 7, Israel faces a shocking defeat...**

- A. Why were they defeated? (Hint: Jeremiah 17:5-9)
- B. How did Joshua prepare for the battle? (See Joshua 7:2-3)
- C. What was different about his preparation and Moses' preparation in Numbers 13:1-2?
- D. What did the spy report reveal? (See Joshua 7:3)

E. How did Joshua use the spy report and what was the outcome? (See Joshua 7:4-5)

**2. How did Achan violate what was ordered in Joshua 6:18-24?**

A. How was Joshua told to handle it and what was the outcome? (See Joshua 7:11-26).

B. How and why did King Belshazzar face a similar end in Daniel 5:1-28?

**3. King Belshazzar abused the holy vessels of the Lord...**

A. How might you consider that an admonition about yourself? Use II Corinthians 4:7; Deuteronomy 26:18; 1 Peter 2:9; II Timothy 2:20-22; and Galatians 2:20 to craft a statement.

B. How can you guard yourself from becoming an impure vessel? (See: Hebrews 12:1; 4:12-13)

**4. How did Joshua react to the defeat at first? (See Joshua 7:6-9)**

A. How does God respond to his antics?

B. What dire warnings does he get from God?

C. Why, of all people, should we NOT have expected this type of behavior from Joshua? (See: Numbers 27:18-23; Deuteronomy 31:1-9; Joshua 1:1-9)

**5. Joshua had a LONG history of witnessing Israel's complaining...**

- A. Craft a short essay describing Israel's History of Complaining.  
(Use: Exodus 14:10-12; 15:22-26; 16:2-3; 17:1-4; Numbers 11:1-33; 14:1-4)

**6. Y'shua tells us that we His friends:**

- A. What are some of the privileges of that relationship? (See John 15:11-17)
- B. Describe how Judas and Peter violated that friendship. (See: Matthew 26:47-50; Luke 22:54-62)

**7. How might Matthew 25:24-30 bring deeper insight into Joshua 7:21?**

- A. How might Romans 11:29 relate?

**8. How does John 15:11-17 give us a deeper understanding of friendship?**

- A. How does it help expand our insight into II Peter 1:5-8?

**9. There is one common denominator that will help you both avoid and correct the mistakes Achan and Joshua made.**

- A. Use the following scriptures to craft a statement describing that solution. (See: Deuteronomy 31:9-13; 32:44-47; Joshua 1:8; 8:34-35; II Timothy 3:16-17; John 14:15; I John 5:1-5)

**10. Right a narrative using Joshua 8 about the power of second chances!**

- A. How does Joshua's second chance relate to II Corinthians 10:1-6?