

## When God is Angry at His People

### Joshua 7

Joshua 7 provides **three reminders** that every believer needs to hear about God's anger.

- **Reminder #1: GOD'S ANGER AT SIN HAS A CONSEQUENCE.**

*But the Israelites acted unfaithfully in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel. <sup>2</sup>Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and spy out the region." So the men went up and spied out Ai. <sup>3</sup>When they returned to Joshua, they said, "Not all the people will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary all the people, for only a few men are there." <sup>4</sup>So about three thousand men went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, <sup>5</sup>who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted and became like water. Joshua 7:1-5 (New International Version)*

*Then the Lord turned from his fierce anger. Joshua 7:26b (NIV)*

Definition: God's wrath or anger is an expression of His hatred for all sin.

*I have seen these people . . . . <sup>10</sup>Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them." Exodus 32:9-10 (NIV)*

*"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." John 3:36 (NIV)*

*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness . . . Romans 1:18 (NIV)*

See also Romans 1:18; cf. 2:5, 8, 5:9, 9:22; Colossians 3:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 2:16, 5:9; Hebrews 3:11; Revelation 6:16-17, 19:15.

*. . . we . . . were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. Ephesians 2:3 (English Standard Version)*

*. . . They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, who he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 (NIV)*

- **Reminder #2: BELIEVERS MUST NEVER IGNORE GOD'S ANGER TOWARD SIN.**

*Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. <sup>7</sup>And Joshua said, "Ah, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! <sup>8</sup>O Lord, what can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? <sup>9</sup>The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?" Joshua 7:6-9 (NIV)*

See Joshua 7:10-13.

*The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup>idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup>and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV)*

- **Reminder #3: THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN REQUIRES DRASTIC MEASURES.**

*Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and give him the praise. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me." <sup>20</sup>Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: <sup>21</sup>When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylon, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath." <sup>22</sup>So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath. Joshua 7:19-22 (NIV)*

*But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)*

### Sin's Deceitfulness

- Mistake #1: Take a second look.
- Mistake #2: Reclassify treasures.
- Mistake #3: Act, thinking you'll get away with disobedience.

See also Hebrews 4:13; Joshua 7:24-26; 2 Thessalonians 3:13-15.