

# THE VALLEY OF TROUBLE

## Joshua 6 & 7

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. In chapter six we see Israel taking the great fortified city of Jericho
- B. But in chapter seven we see a humiliating defeat by a small insignificant city called Ai
- C. What caused this humiliating defeat? The same thing that caused this valley to be known as the valley of trouble
- E. In the cause of this defeat (that is the story of Achan) we see three different aspects of the sin which caused this defeat and from these we can learn about sin as it relates to us today.

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. THE CONCEPTION OF SIN Josh 7:21

- A. I saw Psa 119:37
  - 1. We begin to sin when we look at things we shouldn't
  - 2. Abstain from all appearance of evil 1Thess 5:22
- B. I coveted (Such an overpowering desire for what belongs to another that the laws of right and justice are violated to obtain it)
  - 1. Beware of covetousness Lk 12:15
  - 2. Put to death covetousness Col 3:5
- C. I took Jas 1:13-15
  - 1. Sin is progressive
  - 2. We are enticed by our own lusts
  - 3. And sin is the final result
- D. These three steps lead ultimately to the valley of trouble

#### II. THE CONCEALMENT OF SIN Josh 7:21

- A. Achan thought he had covered up his sin
- B. Ananias and Sapphira thought they had covered their sins Acts 5:1-11
- C. David thought he had covered his sins 2Sam 11 & 12
- D. God knows all
  - 1. No creature hid, all thing open Heb 4:13
  - 2. Sins will find us out Num 32:23
  - 3. God knows the secrets of the heart Psa 44:20,21
- E. We may be able to hide our sins from man but if we try, we then must face that valley of trouble 1Tim 5:24,25

#### III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

- A. Humiliation Josh 7:6-9

- 1. God risk his reputation to teach Israelites a lesson
  - a. Something parents are many times unwilling to do today in the training of their children
  - b. To train children we must sometimes allow ourselves to become vulnerable to the scrutiny of others
- 2. Sin caused Christ to suffer the humiliation of the cross
- B. Defeat Josh 7:13
- C. Ultimately the consequences of sin is death Jas 1:15; Josh 7:24-26
  - 1. The final result of sin even today is death
  - 2. If not physical death, certainly spiritual death
- D. Three things sin does
  - 1. Insults God
  - 2. Hurts others
  - 3. Destroys self
- E. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life Rom 6:23

### CONCLUSION:

- A. Sin will invariably bring us to the Valley of Trouble as it did in the case of Achan and the Israelites, unless it is put away from us
- B. Christ bore our sins so that we do not have to face the consequences of those sins. However, we need to do all we can to keep from falling into sins trap or else the sacrifice of Christ will be to no avail
- C. Christ became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him Heb 5:8,9
- D. Obedience the only way to avoid the "Valley of Trouble" which for us is eternal destruction in a devil's hell
- E. Have you obeyed God?