

## **Lesson 15, Day 2: To Read**

### **The Sin of Achan**

God commanded the Israelites to destroy Jericho; and all the gold, silver, and other riches found there were to be devoted to the Lord. If any disobeyed this command then a curse was to rest upon all, and they were not to prosper.

The Israelites were to conquer the Canaanites, and drive them out of the land. So Joshua prepared to attack a city named Ai. Three thousand of his men went to capture it, but the inhabitants came out and drove them back, killing some of them. Joshua was greatly grieved. He knew that unless God made the Israelites victorious, the Canaanites would be able to overcome them, and God had appeared to fail them this time. He did not understand why God had not made them to prosper. But he told God the trouble, and God showed him the cause of it.

One of the Israelites, named Achan, saw among the spoils of Jericho, a handsome Babylonian garment, some silver, and a bar of gold, and he coveted them. He stole these things and hid them away in his tent, thinking that no one saw him; but God knew it all.

Achan's sin was the cause of Israel's defeat! Yes, one man's sin and disobedience to God not only affected him, but his entire people.

God showed Joshua how the man who had done the wickedness was to be discovered. Each tribe was to be brought before God, then each family of the tribe He chose, then each household of the family taken, and lastly each man of the family chosen. Finally, Achan was pointed out by God. Finally, Achan confessed what he had done.

Messengers were sent to Achan's tent, who brought what he had hidden there; and he, with his sons and daughters, his cattle, and all that he had, and the garment, silver, and gold, were taken to a valley near by, where the people stoned them, and burned them with fire; and then raised over all a great heap of stones, which remained as a memorial to warn others against sinning as Achan had done.

This sad end did not have to be. Achan knew what God had said would happen if anyone disobeyed, but he let his desire for the things of this world overtake his desire to follow God. The result was disastrous, not just for Achan himself, but for

his family, and ultimately, for all of the Israelites, who lost the battle that day, all because of Achan's choice to be ruled by covetousness.

What can this teach us?

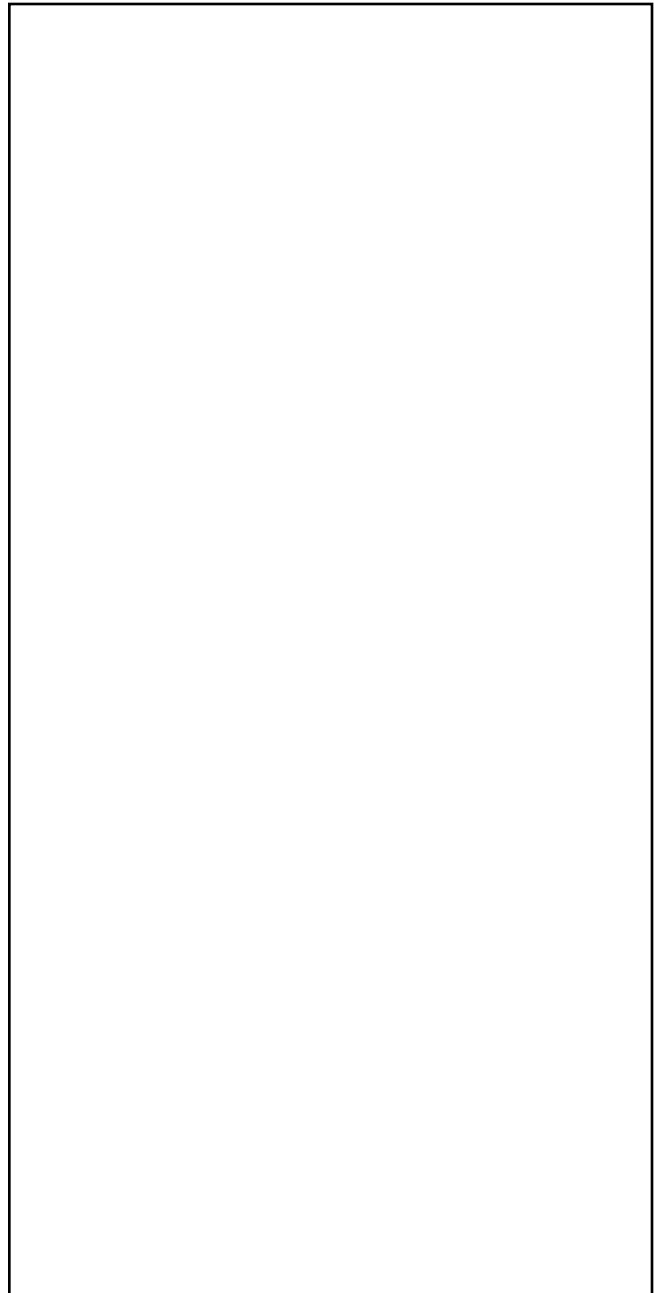
God has a plan for how He wants us to live. His Word, the Bible, clearly tells us not only how we should live, but what the choice not to obey him will cost us.

When we sin, it is not only us who are affected. All those who love us are harmed by our choices to sin, just as all those who love us are blessed when we choose to do right and follow God's will for our lives. The Bible tells us that the wages of sin is death, and nowhere do we see that illustrated more vividly than in the story of Achan. Though Achan lived during this entire time of the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land, it is only the story of his sin, which cost him his life, that we remember him by. How sad.

Be that young person who chooses to bless those who love us by making the choice to obey God.

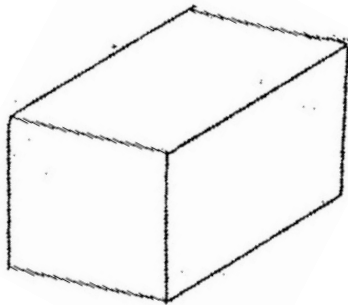
### Lesson 15, Day 3: To Draw

Copy the drawing below of the Babylonian man.



### Lesson 15, Day 4: To Color

In the Bible, Proverbs 10:2 tells us that “Treasures of wickedness profit nothing.” We can see that clearly when we look at what Achan’s “treasures” cost him. Color this picture of Achan’s treasures, which cost him and his family their lives.



## Lesson 15, Day 5: Timeline of Events

The event mentioned in this week's story also happened in approximately the very busy year of 1406 BC. Add this event to your timeline as shown.



Moses Holds Up  
Brazen Serpent  
on a Pole  
Approx. 1407 BC



Joshua Leads the  
Israelites Across  
the Jordan River  
Approx. 1406 BC



The Walls  
of Jericho Fall  
Approx. 1406 BC



Achan's Sin  
and Death  
Approx. 1406 BC

Here is the picture to add to your timeline.

