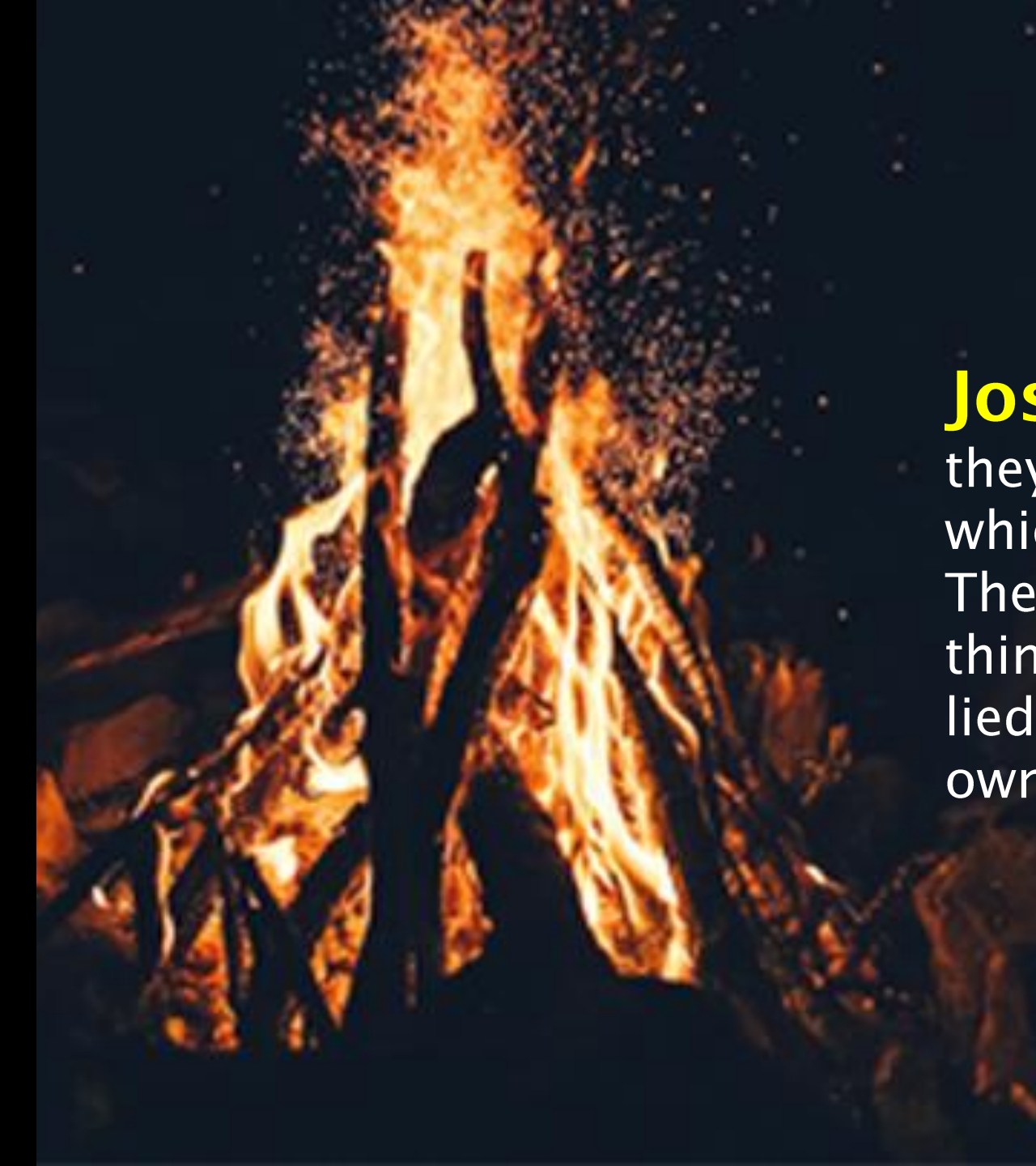


A large, intense bonfire of logs and branches is burning brightly against a dark, night sky. The fire is the central focus, with bright orange and yellow flames and a shower of sparks rising from the top. To the right of the fire, the title text is displayed in a white, serif font.

THE SPIRIT OF ACHAN



Joshua 7:11 Israel has sinned;
they have violated my covenant,
which I commanded them to keep.
They have taken some of the devoted
things; they have stolen, they have
lied, they have put them with their
own possessions.



Joshua 7:1–26

Joshua 7:1–26

1 But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, 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. **2** 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. **3** When they returned to Joshua, they said, "Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there."



Joshua 7:1–26

4 So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, **5** 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 in fear and became like water. **6** 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. **7** And Joshua said, “Alas, 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!



Joshua 7:1–26

8 Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? **9** 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?" **10** The Lord said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? **11** Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.



Joshua 7:1–26

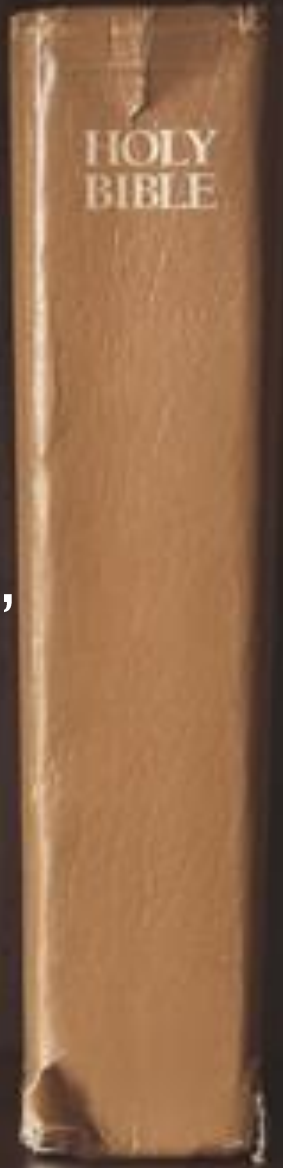
12 That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction. **13** “Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them. **14** “In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe the Lord chooses shall come forward clan by clan; the clan the Lord chooses shall come forward family by family; and the family the Lord chooses shall come forward man by man.



Joshua 7:1–26

15 Whoever is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the Lord and has done an outrageous thing in Israel!”

16 Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was chosen. **17** The clans of Judah came forward, and the Zerahites were chosen. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was chosen. **18** Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen. **19** Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me.”



Joshua 7:1–26

20 Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: **21** When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.” **22** So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath. **23** They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the Lord.



Joshua 7:1–26

24 Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold bar, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor. **25** Joshua said, “Why have you brought this trouble on us? The Lord will bring trouble on you today.” Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them. **26** Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor[f] ever since.





Outline

A. Achan's Sin

B. Disobedience

C. Obedience vs Sacrifice



A. Achan's Sin

Joshua 6:17–19

17 The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. **18** But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.

19 All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury.”



A. Achan's Sin

Joshua 7:1 But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, 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.



A. Achan's Sin

- the battles at Jericho and at Ai.
- the victory and the defeat
- the roles of Achan
- the investigation
- the consequences



A. Achan's Sin

Jericho 7:10–11

10 The Lord said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? **11** Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.



A. Achan's Sin

- Covetousness?
- Theft?
- Disobedience?



B. Disobedience

- Wilful Disobedience
 - Achan [Joshua 7]
 - Lot's Wife [Genesis 19]



B. Disobedience

- Prideful Disobedience
 - King David [1 Chronicles 21]



B. Disobedience

- Reluctant Obedience
 - Jonah



B. Disobedience

- Delayed obedience

Psalms 119:60 I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.



Mark 1:16–20

16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

17 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” **18 At once** they left their nets and followed him. **19** When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. **20 Without delay** he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.



Have we been disobedient in:

- Honouring our parents **[Ephesians 6:1]**.
- Meeting together, encouraging one another **[Hebrews 10:25]**.
- Working wholeheartedly **[Colossians 3:3]**.
- Tithing faithfully **[Malachi 3:8]**.
- Forgiving one another **[Luke 17:3–4]**.



C. Obedience vs Sacrifice

- **1 Samuel 15**

King Saul disobeyed the Lord

- Brought back the best of the livestock.
- Brought back the defeated King Agag.
- But tried to justify his actions.



C. Obedience vs Sacrifice

1 Samuel 15:22 But Samuel replied:
“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord?
To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.



C. Obedience vs Sacrifice

- **Shama** to hear and obey or take action with a joyful attitude as in **Deuteronomy 6:4**:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God,
the Lord is one.



C. Obedience vs Sacrifice

Matthew 5:27–28

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ **28** But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.



C. Obedience vs Sacrifice

Matthew 6:3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.

- Fasting, Praying and Giving to the Poor are good but there is no need to broadcast them.



C. Obedience vs Sacrifice

Proverbs 21:3 To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

CONCLUSION

- There are consequences to disobedience.
- Disobedience may be hidden from men, but not from God.
- Confess our sins.
- Repent to the Lord for He is Merciful.



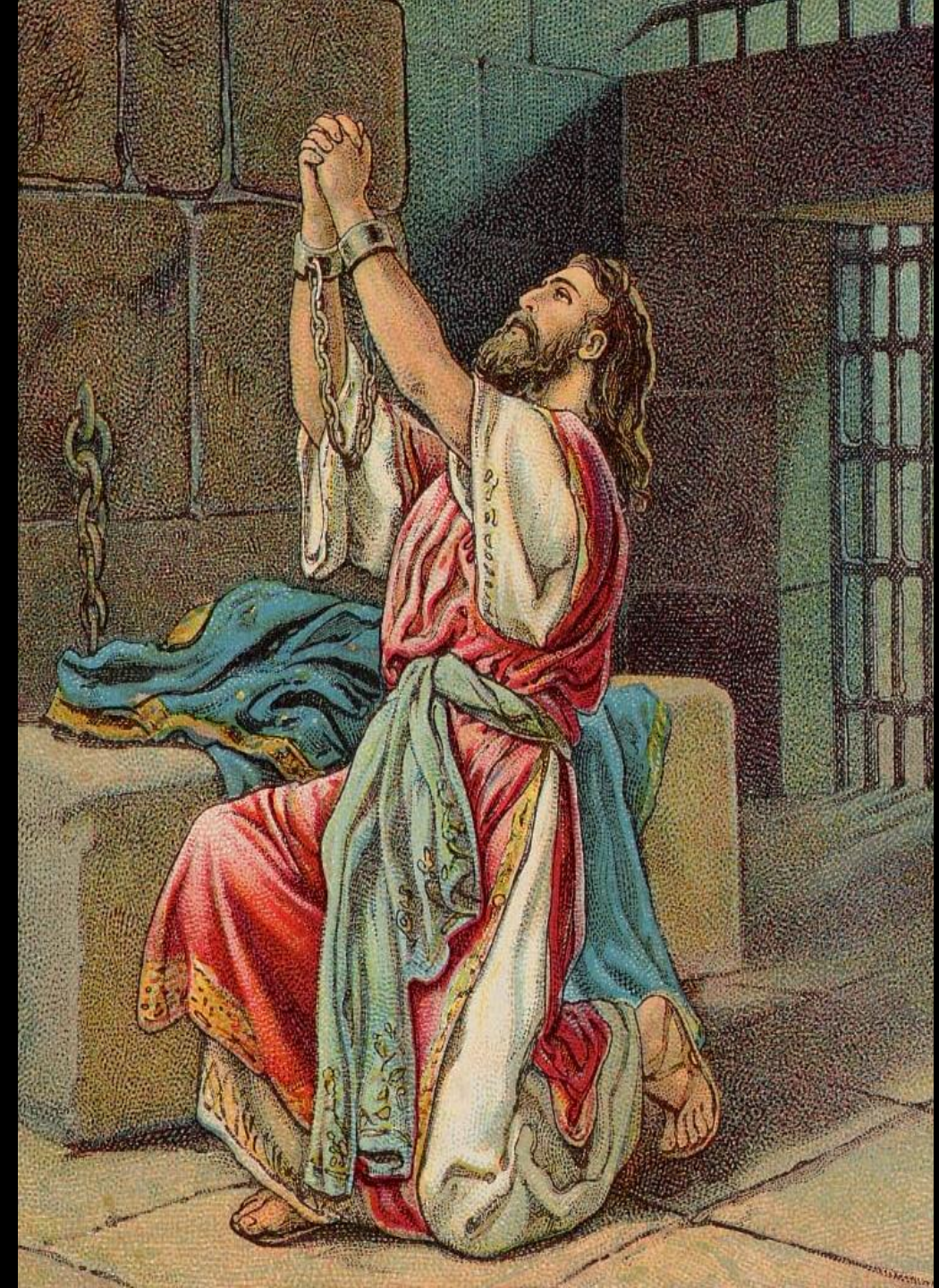
CONCLUSION

King Manasseh

2 Chronicles 33:12–13

12 In his distress he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors.

13 And when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God.



CONCLUSION

Acts 9:6a (NKJV) So he [Paul], trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?”

