

FASCINATING STORIES OF FORGOTTEN LIVES  
REDISCOVERING SOME OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS  
ACHAN: THE MAN WHOSE SIN BROUGHT CALAMITY  
JOSHUA 7



### The Heart of the Matter

Some of the stories in Scripture bring us great joy as we enter into the triumphs and delights of those whose lives we have cause to celebrate. On other occasions we are gripped by agony as we read accounts where some go through times of tragedy, especially when the tragedy is self-inflicted. The story of Achan falls into the latter category. Two things make Achan's story especially sad. First, it occurred so suddenly on the heels of an incredible victory—the miraculous invasion of Jericho—and second, it resulted in such a devastating toll on so many others. If ever Hosea's words regarding “sow the wind and reap the whirlwind” were ever enacted, it was in the Hebrews' defeat at Ai. One man—a single, isolated individual—deliberately chose to disobey, yet numerous innocent victims fell in the wake of his sin, bringing calamity to a nation. As James later wrote: “See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire” (James 3:5).



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Some Sins Are Silent . . . Others Shout (1 John 1:5–9)

Some sins impact others. All sin damages our relationship with God.

#### 2. Some Days Are Glorious . . . Others, Grim (Joshua 6:15–21; Joshua 7:1–15)

Following their glorious success at Jericho, Joshua's army fell at Ai.

#### 3. Some Lessons Are Clear . . . Others, Confusing

How could one man's sin affect an army of righteous men?

#### 4. Some Consequences Are Personal . . . Others, Public (Joshua 7:22–25)

Many sins are private, but sometimes one act brings about scandalous consequences.

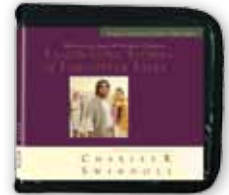


### Starting Your Journey

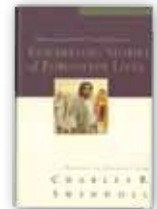
Several lessons linger: there is a unique stench connected with suspicion; an absence of peace accompanies hidden sin; when wrong is uncovered, God honors swift and thorough action.



### Tools for Digging Deeper



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