

Joshua 7:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it.

Analysis

Joshua immediately sends messengers who run to the tent—urgency in verifying Achan's confession. The verb 'run' (ruts, צַר) indicates haste, appropriate given the gravity. They find the items 'hid in his tent, and the silver under it'—exactly as Achan described. This public verification serves multiple purposes: confirms the confession, validates God's judgment process, and demonstrates that leaders don't rely solely on confessions but verify facts. The discovery 'in the midst of his tent' meant the contraband lay at the center of Achan's domestic life—polluting his household's very heart. Every time he entered his tent, he encountered his hidden sin. The specificity 'silver under it' matches Achan's confession precisely, showing he told the full truth once confronted. The messengers' finding exactly what was described establishes beyond doubt that Achan is guilty and that his confession was accurate. This leaves no room for later claims of mistaken identity or false confession.

Historical Context

Ancient jurisprudence required evidence verification, not merely confessions. The messengers' rapid response showed the urgency—every moment the contraband remained in the camp prolonged Israel's jeopardy under God's judgment. Finding the items 'in the midst of the tent' created maximum shame—not hidden in some peripheral storage but at the very center of family life. This suggests Achan looked at his treasure frequently, deriving pleasure from his secret wealth. The verification also protected against false confession (someone accepting blame to

shield another). The discovery process was public—messengers, then broader leadership, then likely many Israelites saw the recovered items. This transparency ensured justice was not merely done but seen to be done. The items would have been distinctive—Babylonian garments were recognizably foreign, and the quantity of silver and gold was substantial. Their discovery confirmed that significant wealth had been stolen from God's treasury.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why does biblical justice require evidence and verification, not merely confession?
2. What does hiding sin 'in the midst of your tent' (center of life) teach about sin's corrupting influence?
3. How does transparency in addressing sin protect both justice and the accused?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲשֵׂה יְהוָה בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְשָׁלַח כְּנָזְבֵּן
sent So Joshua messengers and they ran in his tent H2009
H7971 H3091 H4397 H7323 H168

וְשָׁמַר הַבְּאֹהֶל וְתָמֹן הַטְּמֹן
and behold it was hid in his tent and the silver H8478
H2934 H168 H3701