

# Joshua 7:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor.

## Analysis

Joshua and all Israel take Achan, the stolen items, his family, livestock, tent, and possessions to the Valley of Achor. The comprehensive list—'his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had'—emphasizes totality. Everything connected to Achan comes under judgment. This raises difficult questions about corporate guilt and family punishment. Ancient Near Eastern practice often included family in covenant violations, viewing households as corporate units. Whether Achan's family knew of his sin or benefited from it remains unstated, but they shared his fate. The location—Valley of Achor (Emek Akor, עמק אкор—Valley of Trouble)—gains its name from this event (verse 26). The valley becomes a memorial to sin's consequences. The participation of 'all Israel' emphasizes corporate responsibility in maintaining covenant purity. The community must actively purge sin, not merely condemn it passively.

## Historical Context

The Valley of Achor was located near Jericho, visible to the entire camp. Public execution served as communal catharsis and educational object lesson. Ancient covenant communities understood that tolerating known sin threatened divine blessing on the entire group. Archaeological evidence from ancient Near East

confirms that family members were sometimes included in punishment for covenant violations, though this varied by culture and offense. The comprehensive destruction of Achan's possessions—including animals and tent—illustrates cherem principle: everything associated with the violation must be purged. The public nature of the judgment—all Israel present—created collective memory. Future generations would point to Valley of Achor as warning against covenant violation. This event became proverbial—'Achan, the troubler of Israel' (1 Chronicles 2:7).

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How do you understand family consequences of sin in light of individual responsibility (Ezekiel 18)?
2. What does the comprehensive destruction teach about sin's pervasive effects?
3. How should communities balance compassion with maintaining corporate holiness?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיָקָרְנָה עִזּוֹשׁ אֶת בְּנֵי זֶרַח אֶת  
with him took And Joshua H853 Achan and his sons of Zerah H853  
H3947 H3091 H5912 H1121 H2226

וְאֶת מַזְבֵּחַ וְאֶת כְּסֵף וְאֶת כְּתָן  
and the silver and the garment and the wedge of gold H853 H155 H3956 H2091  
H3701

וְאֶת בָּנָתָיו וְאֶת שׂוֹרָיו וְאֶת סְמָרָיו  
and his sons and his daughters and his oxen and his asses H853 H7794 H853 H2543  
H1121 H1323

וְאֶת צָאן וְאֶת אֶהָלָיו וְאֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר  
and his sheep and his tent and all that he had H853 H168 H3605 H834 H0 H3605  
H6629

וְאֶת כָּל  
and all that he had and they brought H5927 H853  
H3478 H5973

עַל מִקְרָב  
unto the valley of Achor  
them unto the valley of Achor H6010 H5911

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 15:27** (Parallel theme): He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

**Isaiah 65:10** (Parallel theme): And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me.

**Exodus 20:5** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

**Joshua 7:26** (Parallel theme): And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.

**Joshua 15:7** (Parallel theme): And the border went up toward Debir from the valley of Achor, and so northward, looking toward Gilgal, that is before the going up to Adummim, which is on the south side of the river: and the border passed toward the waters of En-shemesh, and the goings out thereof were at En-rogel:

**Hosea 2:15** (Parallel theme): And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.