

# 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

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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, עֵמֶק אֶכּוֹר—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

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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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וְקָח	וְהוֹשֵׁעַ	אֶת	עָכָב	בְּנֵי יוֹ	זֶרַח	וְאֶת
with him took	And Joshua	H853	Achan	and his sons	of Zerah	H853
H3947	H3091		H5912	H1121	H2226	
וְהַכֶּסֶף	וְאֶת	הַבִּגְדֵי כֹתָן	וְאֶת	לֶשֶׁן	וְהַזָּהָב	וְאֶת
and the silver	H853	and the garment	H853	and the wedge	of gold	H853
H3701		H155		H3956	H2091	
וְבְנֵי יוֹ	וְאֶת	בָּנוֹת יוֹ	וְאֶת	שׁוֹרוֹ	וְאֶת	חֲמֹר יוֹ
and his sons	H853	and his daughters	H853	and his oxen	H853	and his asses
H1121		H1323		H7794		H2543
וְאֶת	צֹאנוֹ	וְאֶת	אֹהֶלוֹ	וְאֶת	אֲשֶׁר כָּל	לֹא
H853	and his sheep	H853	and his tent	H853	H3605	H0
	H6629		H168		H834	H3605
וְיִשְׂרָאֵל כָּל	עַם יוֹ	וְכָל	אֲשֶׁר	אֶת	אֶת	אֶת
and all Israel	H5973	and all that he had	and they brought	H853		
H3478		H5927				
וְהָיָה	עַד	עַד	עַד	עַד	עַד	עַד
them unto the valley	H6010	of Achor				
		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.

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