

# Joshua 7:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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After judgment, 'the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger.' God's wrath, righteous and holy, is not capricious but responsive to sin's presence or removal. Once sin was purged, anger ceased. This illustrates God's justice: anger directed at sin, not sadistic pleasure in punishment. The valley's naming—"The Valley of Achor, unto this day"—creates permanent reminder. The phrase 'unto this day' (repeated throughout Joshua) indicates eyewitness testimony and lasting impact. Future generations would pass Valley of Achor and remember covenant faithfulness's importance. This memorial served both warning (sin brings judgment) and assurance (purged sin restores fellowship). Prophets later reinterpret Achor: Hosea 2:15 promises God will make Valley of Achor 'a door of hope.' What marked judgment becomes entry point to restoration. This foreshadows gospel: Christ bore judgment on the cross so believers enter hope through the place of divine wrath.

## Historical Context

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The cessation of God's anger immediately upon sin's purging shows the direct relationship between covenant violation and divine blessing. Israel could now proceed with conquest, having restored fellowship with God. The naming of geographic locations after significant events was common in ancient Israel—Bethel

(house of God), Peniel (face of God), etc. These served as mnemonic devices, embedding theology into geography. Every time Israelites mentioned or passed Achor Valley, they remembered this lesson. The phrase 'unto this day' appears frequently in Joshua, suggesting composition within living memory of the conquest or based on reliable eyewitness traditions. The theological principle remains constant: unconfessed sin separates from God; confessed and purged sin restores fellowship. The sudden shift from fierce anger to restored relationship demonstrates God's mercy—judgment is His 'strange work' (Isaiah 28:21), necessary but not His delight.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does God's anger ceasing immediately after judgment teach about His character?
2. How can places or experiences of judgment become 'doors of hope' through God's redemption?
3. What memorials or reminders help you remember God's faithfulness and sin's consequences?

## Interlinear Text

|                       |                    |                 |                     |                  |          |               |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|----------|---------------|
| פִּי יָמִים           | עַד                | גָּדָל          | אָבִן יָמִים        | גָּל             | עַל      | וְיָמִים      |
| And they raised       | H5921              | heap            | of stones           | over him a great | H5704    | unto this day |
| H6965                 |                    | H1530           | H68                 | H1419            |          | H3117         |
| בָּהִיא שָׁב בְּהִיא  | בְּהִיא            | מִפְּרָעָה      | אֲפָאָה             | עַל              | בְּהִיא  | בְּהִיא       |
| H2088                 | turned             | So the LORD     | from the fierceness | of his anger     | H5921    | H3651         |
| H7725                 |                    | H3068           | H2740               | H639             |          |               |
| אָכָר עַמְקָה בְּהִיא | בְּהִיא            | וּמָמָק בְּהִיא | וּמָמָק בְּהִיא     | עַמְקָה בְּהִיא  | אָכָר    | אָכָר         |
| was called            | Wherefore the name | of that place   | H1931               | The valley       | of Achor |               |
| H7121                 | H8034              | H4725           |                     | H6010            |          | H5911         |
| עַד יְמִים            | פְּזַחַת           | פְּזַחַת        |                     |                  |          |               |
| unto this day         | H2088              |                 |                     |                  |          |               |
| H5704                 | H3117              |                 |                     |                  |          |               |

## Additional Cross-References

**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.

**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.

**Deuteronomy 13:17** (References Lord): And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers;

**Joshua 7:24** (Parallel theme): 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.

**Joshua 8:29** (Resurrection): And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until eventide: and as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his carcase down from the tree, and cast it at the entering of the gate of the city, and raise thereon a great heap of stones, that remaineth unto this day.

**Lamentations 3:53** (Parallel theme): They have cut off my life in the dungeon, and cast a stone upon me.

**2 Samuel 18:17** (Parallel theme): And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him: and all Israel fled every one to his tent.

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