

CONQUER IN CHRIST

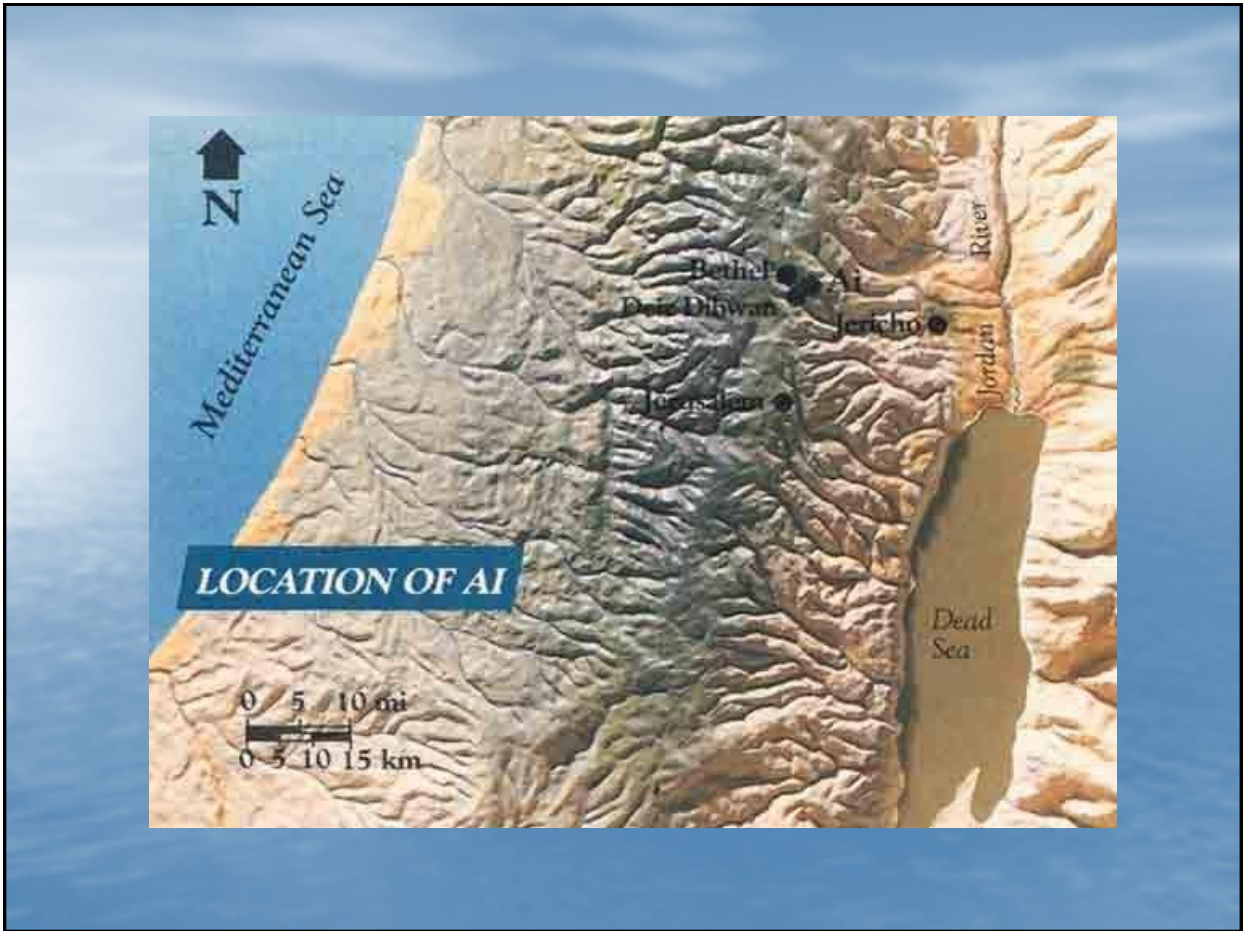
Refiner's Fire











1. ACHAN'S SIN

THE PROBLEM

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 6:27** So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land. **7:1** But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully in regard to the things under the ban, for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, took some of the things under the ban, therefore the anger of the LORD burned against the sons of Israel.
- ^{NAS} **Joshua 6:18** "But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things under the ban, lest you covet *them* and take some of the things under the ban, so you would make the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it. ¹⁹ "But all the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD."

THE SIN

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 7:20** So Achan answered Joshua and said, "Truly, I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel, and this is what I did: ²¹ when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it."
 - 50 shekels = 0.57 kg or 1.26 lbs (\$23,831)
 - 200 shekels = 2.28 kg or 5.03 lbs (\$1234)

THE SOLUTION

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 7:25** And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." And all Israel stoned them with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. ²⁶ And they raised over him a great heap of stones that stands to this day, and the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the valley of Achor to this day.

➤ Achor – lit., *trouble*

THE OBJECT LESSON

- ^{NAS} **Numbers 32:23** ... behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.
- ^{NAS} **Galatians 6:7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.
- ^{NAS} **1 John 2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

2. ISRAEL'S SUDDEN ADVERSITY

THE PROBLEM

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 7:2** Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." So the men went up and spied out Ai. ³ And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up; *only* about two or three thousand men need go up to Ai; do not make all the people toil up there, for they are few." ⁴ So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai. ⁵ And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of their men, and pursued them from the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent, ...

ISRAEL'S REACTION

- ^{ESV} **Joshua 7:5** ...And the hearts of the people melted and became as water. ⁶ Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until the evening, he and the elders of Israel. And they put dust on their heads. ⁷ And Joshua said, "Alas, O Lord GOD, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan! ⁸ O Lord, what can I say, when Israel has turned their backs before their enemies! ⁹ For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will you do for your great name?"

THE LORD'S RESPONSE

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 7:10** So the LORD said to Joshua, "Rise up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face? ¹¹ "Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them... ¹² "Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn *their* backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst. ¹³ "Rise up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for thus the LORD, the God of Israel, has said, "There are things under the ban in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you have removed the things under the ban from your midst."

THE OBJECT LESSON

- ^{ESV} **Hebrews 12:5** And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?... ¹⁰ ... he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

APPLICATION

ADVERSITY IN PERSPECTIVE

- ^{NAS} **Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
- ^{ESV} **2 Corinthians 1:9** Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.
- ^{NAS} **Philippians 1:29** For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,
- ^{NAS} **Romans 8:28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

CONCLUSIONS

TAKE HEED

- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 10:11** Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

REFINER'S FIRE

- ^{NAS} **James 1:2** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- ^{NAS} **1 Peter 1:6** In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷ that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

IT IS WELL

•When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

•Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.