

Achan's Tragedy

Deuteronomy 3:3-4 (NLT): “You saw for yourself what the LORD did to you at Baal-peor. There the LORD your God destroyed everyone who had worshiped Baal, the god of Peor. But all of you who were faithful to the LORD your God are still alive today—every one of you.”

Moses spoke those last words to the Israelis about to go into the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua. Sometime between 1407 and 1406 BC, the events at Peor & Jericho take place.

Israel's sin at Peor was monumental. Peor is where Israel sinned with the Moabites and against God in a horrific fashion. The Moabites, with guidance from Balaam, the enchanter, seduced Israel to sin through food, music, sexual perversion, and ultimately worship to Baal (Numbers 22-24); (Psalm 106:28); (Hosea 9:10). During the debauchery, God sent a plague that killed 24,000 Israelites.

Yet, God had those who remained faithful to him through that time. Achan was among the faithful!

Yet, a short time later, he and his family, because of their disobedient actions at Jericho {Judges 7}, are responsible for 36 souls being killed and Israel's defeat at Ai.

What a tragedy! Achan remained faithful to God, keeping right fellowship, moral purity, and refusing to worship external idols. However, the lure of money, clothing, and inheritance caused him to bring cursed things into his home, defiling his household and nation.

His children reaped the judgment of his sin when they were on track to inherit the promise land for his faithfulness.

We do not have to end in tragedy. Victory is certain - if we remain faithful.

Twice the Apostle Paul writes: “But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing” {2 Thessalonians 3:13} and “Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” {Galatians 6:9}.

In the first context, he addresses those who are lazy and won't work and then encourages the faithful. In the second, he has rebuked those who err spiritually and encouraged those who are faithful to remain so with the expectation of reward from Jesus Christ!

Remember:

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

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