

Joshua 7:7

And Joshua said, “Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all--to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!”

You have probably read the story or heard of Joshua and the walls of Jericho where the children of Israel marched around the city walls one time each day for six days. Then on the seventh day they marched seven times around the city walls, the walls fell down and the Lord gave them victory over their enemy. Every time I read this I always wondered how long it took them to march around it. So I did a search and it seems it was about a mile around the city and took around 30 minutes to walk around it. (That’s a little bonus for today’s devotional)

But then after this victory, the children of Israel were to go against a town called Ai, it was smaller and the children of Israel were so confident, that they told Joshua, that they only needed about three thousand men to take this city, piece of cake, so they thought.

† ***Joshua 7:4-5 So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai. And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water.***

And the result is today’s devotional verse.

† ***Joshua 7:6-7 Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. And Joshua said, “Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all--to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!”***

But if you didn’t know the entire story, you may feel like Joshua too, ***Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all--to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!***

(underlined for emphasis)

Yet people even now are so quick to blame God when it’s not His fault. But all they see is something is going wrong, and if God created everything, then it must be His fault for the bad things that are happening. It’s like blaming a gun for murder, when the fault is the person who shot the gun.

The truth of what was happening in this case is a guy named Achan took a few things when God had said that the spoil was to go to the Lord. You need to read the entire story here in chapter 7.

So people really need to stop and look at what's really going on and stop blaming God for all the bad things that happen in their lives and what's happening on the earth. Remember when God created the earth and all things on it, including the stars in the sky that He said,

† **Genesis 1:31** *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

Man took what God created as **very good**, and corrupted it into what it is today. How? By turning our backs on God and by not living the way He tells us to in His word, and not teaching our children to follow His direction as well.

† **Leviticus 10:11** *and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them by the hand of Moses.*

God does not need me or anyone else to defend Him. But whatever bad thing is going in your life right now, in the past or in the future, this is a reminder not to blame God. Yes, cry out to Him for help, but let's not do it like Joshua or the Israelites did when they were wandering the wilderness for 40 years **Lord GOD, why have You**

Instead let's proclaim; ***But you, O LORD, are a shield around me; you are my glory, the one who holds my head high. I cried out to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy mountain. Interlude***

I lay down and slept, yet I woke up in safety, for the LORD was watching over me.

Psalm 3:3-5 (NLT2)