

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 or heard the story 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, then the walls fell down and the Lord gave them victory over their enemy. We also covered this in yesterday’s devotional on Joshua 6:10

But then after this victory, the children of Israel were to go against a town called Ai, it was smaller than Jericho and the children of Israel were so confident that they could take this smaller town, 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!***” (with the emphasis being on “*why have You*”)

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 that a guy named Achan took a few things after the battle with Jericho, even though God had said that all of the spoil was to go to the Lord. I would encourage you to read the entire story in chapter 7 of the book of Joshua.

So people really need to stop and look at what's really going on and stop blaming God for all the bad things that have happened in their own 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 on 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 saying, **“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)

† **Psalm 115:3** *But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.*

† **Deuteronomy 10:12 (NLT2)** *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the LORD your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul.*