

Joshua 6:18

“But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things designated for destruction, so that you do not covet them and take some of the designated things, and turn the camp of Israel into something designated for destruction and bring disaster [trouble—*akar*] on it.”

Banned, Accursed, Devoted

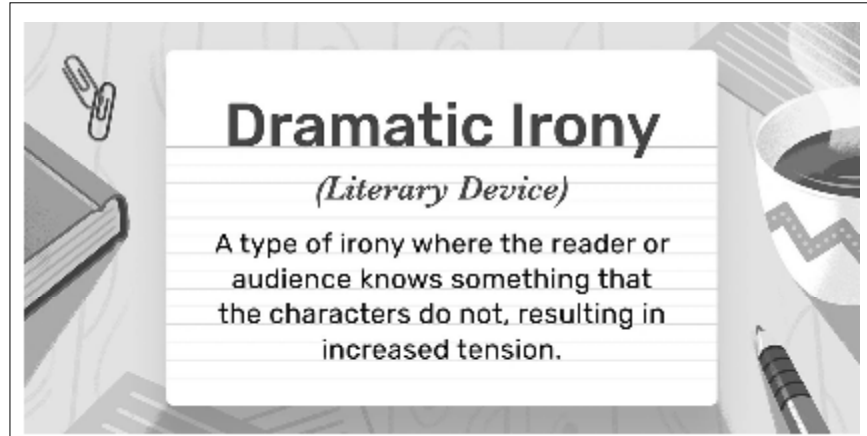
- *haram* (verb: ban, devote, destroy utterly)
- Related to an Arabic root meaning “to prohibit, especially for ordinary use.”
- The word has this meaning with reference to the gold, silver, bronze, & iron from Jericho that were to go to God’s treasury (6:19).
- The word *harem*, meaning the special quarters for Muslim wives, comes from this word.

Banned, Accursed, Devoted

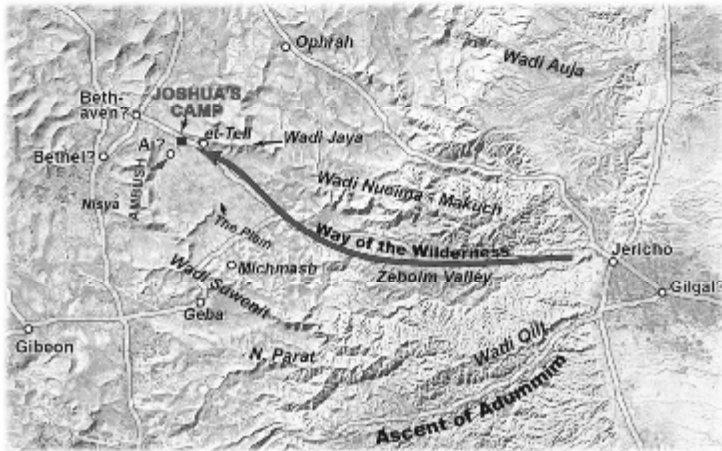
- *haram* (verb)—Usually means the dedication for utter destruction of something or someone that impedes or resists God’s work, which is considered to be accursed before God & offensive to Him
- Different from something or someone that is holy (*qadas*) and is set apart or devoted to God because it is pleasing and useful to Him (cf. 7:13—“Consecrate yourselves.”)

Banned, Accursed, Devoted

- *herem* (noun: devoted thing, something set apart for destruction)
- Referred to the whole city of Jericho and all within it (6:17)
- Referred to the nation of Israel (7:12)
- Referred to Achan (7:13, 15)
- Referred to the things Achan took (7:1, 11-13, 15)



About 15 miles UPHILL from Jericho to Ai



Mourning
over
Defeat

Two Great Concerns (7:9)

- The peril of Israel
- The honor of God



God's Words

- Stand up! (7:10)
- Israel has sinned—violated God's covenant, taken accursed things (*herem*)—stolen from God & been deceitful (7:11).
- Israel has become devoted for destruction (*herem*).
- Israel must consecrate (*qadas*) themselves.
- Israel must remove the accursed things (*herem*).

Collective Guilt (7:1,11)

- God has made each of us part of a family, part of a church, part of a country.
- Our country faces collective guilt for such sins as abortion, sexual immorality & sexual perversion, and deliberate rejection of God.
- Our churches face collective guilt—especially when we know about sin or could know & fail to discipline (1 Cor. 5:6).

Collective Guilt (7:1,11)

- You as an individual face collective guilt. You are a member of the human race.
- 1 Cor 15:22—"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive."
- We are born sinners in need of a Savior. Christ made it possible for each one to be saved.
- Each of us needs her own personal relationship with Christ.



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Why did they execute Achan's children?

- God was destroying Achan's name. He would have no descendants.
- Deut. 24:16 says that children shall not be put to death for their father's sin, so they must have been involved in Achan's sin.
- God has the right to end our lives whenever He chooses. He gives life, and He takes it in His time.

Lessons:

1. God is holy and just as well as loving and merciful. He feels anger toward sin (7:1; 7:26).
2. God sees and knows everything we do and think. What you do in the privacy of your home matters.
3. Coveting is a serious sin. It begins in the mind as we allow ourselves to feel discontented and to desire what we don't have. Coveting breeds sins such as envy, theft, adultery, and murder.

Want to cut down on coveting?

1. Don't shop till you drop.
2. Don't be obsessed with the latest styles.
3. Don't search the Internet for fancy homes.
4. Don't spend excessive time on social media comparing yourself to others' seemingly ideal lives.
5. Practice thanking God for the things that you do have.

Chiastic Structure of Joshua 7

Yahweh's wrath (burning) (1)

Disaster for Israel—defeat (2-5)

Leaders before Yahweh—perplexity (6-9)

Divine revelation of problem (10-12a)

Midpoint (12b)—Loss of God's presence

Divine instruction for solution (13-15)

Israel before Yahweh—clarity (16-23)

Disaster for Achan—execution (24-26a)

Yahweh's wrath (turned away) (26b)