

The Fear of God Part 17

The Judgment of God – The Door of Hope

“And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.” (Hosea 2:15 KJV)

God is so particular in His Word to recall painful events in the history of the life of His people, and He considers them events that bring blessings to them. **So when God send judgment you should not see the painful and destructive part of it, but also the good part of it and the good purpose of God from that particular event.** In the book of Joshua God dealt with the sin that Achan son of Carmi committed against God. Let us read the whole story:

“1 But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel. 2 And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east side of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai. 3 And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few. 4 So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai. 5 And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water. 6 And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. 7 And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! 8 O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! 9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name? 10 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? 11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. 12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you. 13 Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you. 14 In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which the LORD taketh shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which the LORD shall take shall come by households; and the household which the LORD shall take shall come man by man. 15 And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he hath wrought folly

in Israel. 16 So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken: 17 And he brought the family of Judah; and he took the family of the Zarahites: and he brought the family of the Zarahites man by man; and Zabdi was taken: 18 And he brought his household man by man; and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. 19 And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me. 20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: 21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it. 22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it. 23 And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD. 24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. 26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.” (Joshua 7:1-26 KJV)

From the way that God put His judgment on Achan and his family, and on the whole Israelites and judged the sin that was committed, we can conclude important warning lessons and as the following:-

1. God’s judgment is sudden: God kept silent for a time giving chance to Achan to confess his sin and renounce it and return what he stolen to the treasury of God. But when he failed to repent God acted and judged him. **Therefore, put in your mind, God may keep silent for a certain period of time on a certain sin that you are doing, waiting for you to repent and amend your ways. But when you will not repent, then God may act suddenly in a time that you are not expecting and exposed your sin and deal with you.**

2. God’s judgment is radical: Achan and his whole family affected by the judgment of God; for all of them were put to death. Why God put all of them to death? Because sure they knew what their father did, but they did not do their part to convince him to repent, neither they reported him. **Therefore, put in your mind, when you sin then those who are covering up with you your sin they will be affected by you. Also put in your mind that when you cover up and condone somebody else sin then sure when God will judge that person who committed such a sin, God’s judgment will reach to you also.**

3. God’s judgment is with justice: God would never give His people a victory over the wicked people of the land if His people keep sin in their lives and do wrong as the non believers do. **Therefore, put in your mind, that when you start to depart from God doing certain sins then you will loss the favor of God in your life and you will be put down and God will allow enemies to rise against you and will have victory over you.**

4. God's judgment is within the church context: Joshua and the whole Israelites were mobilized and forced to deal with sin. God failed their first trial to conquer the city of Ai, and causes them some losses. Such God allowed in order to direct their attention to a sin inside the church. Therefore, the whole church was mobilized to find out that particular person and the family that was working in contrary to God's will and commands. **Therefore, put in your mind, that when the church is exposed to certain defeat, then we need to work out to find out what the hidden sin and the culprit people who are responsible for such a sin and deal with them.**

5. God's judgment will expose the sin and the motive behind it: The covetousness of Achan and his greed was behind that sin. When God exposed that sin, showed also what was in the heart of Achan of covetousness, that he put aside the command of God and yielded to his sinful heart. Such sin justified the judgment of God in order to purge this sin from the midst of the camp of his church by putting to death the person who did it and those who kept silent to cover what he did. But God allowed the defeat of the Israelites in order to direct their attention to that sin in order for them to deal with it in obedience to God who required His people to stand with Him against sin.

It is a terrible way when sin is not repented off and God would finally intervene to clean His church and purge the evil from among His people as what we observed here to what God did in the sin of Achan. God spoke about *Joshua 7* the following through His prophet Hosea: **"15 And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt."** (Hosea 2:15 KJV) Here, **"the valley of Achor"**, is the same place that Achan and his family members were stoned and burned. The valley of Achor the meaning of it is the valley of trouble. God brought great trouble upon Achan and his family who troubled the whole Israelites by their sin and disobedience to God. When God said, **"and the valley of Achor for a door of hope:"** He means that what trouble had happened due to sin, and with the troubles that the judgment of God brought upon the sinners, then that was the door of hope and the beginning of the restoration for His church and His people. If sin was not dealt with then God's people are no better than the non believers. **That is why when God is dealing with you justly for certain sins in your life, then you will have trouble as a consequence of such, but later on there will be restoration, and so in God's judgment there is hope for when God judge He will bring discipline and correction and cleansing from evil, and lessons for sinners to depart totally from sins.**

Certain events in the life of the church are so painful and sorrowful when God's judgment inflicts losses on the life of His church and His people. But such kind of judgment is needed to bring correction, justice, sanctification, and the fear of God once again to be instituted in the life of His church.

The church should not be afraid to face sin and deal properly with those who trespass the laws of God and do evil. The church should work with God in this matter and comply with HIM when He is leading the church to deal with those who do wickedness and hide their sins. There is no hope for the church today if will not go with God to the valley of Achor and deal with those who worked wickedly against God.

There is hope and restoration when sin is dealt with and sinner judged as we can read here: **"And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope:**

and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt." (Hosea 2:15 KJV) Let us explain that verse and get further encouraged with the ways of God to deal justly with sin.

A. "I will give her her vineyards": Only after judgment God will restore and will give His people the good things that will fill their lives with God's provision and with refreshments and joy. **Therefore rejoice as God is chastising you, for after that you will be blessed by God.**

B. "and the valley of Achor for a door of hope": After dealing with sin and judging sinners, the despair that accompany God's wrath will be replaced with hope and confidence in God's goodness. **As you persevere in receiving the discipline of God and repent of your sins then your faith will be strengthened and will trust God that He is going to restore you.**

C. "And She shall sing, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt": The joy will be restored, and many testimonies will be uttered and spoken of the goodness of God, as what happened when God delivered out His people out of the land of Egypt from the hand of Pharaoh and the Egyptians. **In the same way, as your faith will increase as God start to restore you then you will start to praise God and testify about His goodness and faithfulness.**

The valley of Achor is also mentioned in the book of Isaiah, **"10 And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me."** (Isaiah 65:10 KJV) Here the valley of Achor, which is the valley of trouble, is a place for the herds to lie down. **"And the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in."** David says about God, **"2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still water."** (Psalm 23:2 KJV) When you comply with God and work with Him to deal with sin then that will be the way for you to seek God, and in this way, the valley of Achor would be a green pasture for you, and your lives will be refreshed and revived, and you will be renewed as it is said in *Hosea 2:15*, **"And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt."**

"And the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me": The way we seek God and draw near to Him is when we comply with Him to purge sin from the mid of us. The church that does not compromise and cleanse her members and ministries from sins is a God seeking church. True that discipline and dealing with sin most of the time bring temporarily troubles and losses upon the church as what had happened in *Joshua 7*, but finally as the church comply and stand with God the Lord shall restore His blessings back to the church and to His people.

When the church deals with sin some members will get upset and might leave the church. That might be painful, but the church would not progress in victory and move forward and advance into new places unless sin is dealt with.

The way that ministers and leaders would seek God is when they are standing at the gate of Hades dealing with sins and expelling demons and combating the power of darkness. Complacency and putting aside God's discipline, and compromising with sin, that will bring more bondage and troubles in the life of the church and His people.

In *Acts 5* we read that Peter dealt courageously with sin as Joshua dealt courageously with the sin of Achan in *Joshua 7*. Let us read the whole event of that:

“36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, 37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet. 1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. 7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. 10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. 11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.” (Acts 4:36-5:11 KJV) The judgment of God against Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, was as the following:

1. God's judgment was immediate: God immediately judged them and He gave not a long time for them to think about their sin to repent. **Therefore the judgment of God is coming and when it comes no one can stop or postponed.** Some time God give long space of time but in other occasion no space of time given. Therefore repentance from the side of the sinners and dealing with sin and sinners from the side of the church has no other alternative because sure the judgment of God is coming. Therefore repent immediately from any sin of yours because God's judgment may come at any time and even now.

2. God's judgment was Sudden: The exposure of that sin was with a sudden discernment that God gave to Peter to discover the sin of Ananias and Sapphira. **Therefore we need to be discerning and commit ourselves to God to be willingly dealing with sin and sinners as God exposes them.**

3. God's judgment was Radical: Ananias and Sapphira tried to hide their wrong motive, but God exposed them and dealt with them. Ananias and Sapphira brought some of the money to the church, but still God put them immediately to death in judgment to their wrong motive of giving. Holiness to God is more important to the life of the church than their finances. Ananias and Sapphira gave because they wanted their names to be known as givers, and to be similar to Barnabas, who gave wholeheartedly to God as we read here, *“36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, 37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.” (Acts 4:36-37 KJV)*

4. Sin and the motive behind it were exposed: The sin of Ananias and Sapphira was boasting and showing off. They wanted to say that even themselves they are givers as others before them gave. Lies and hypocrisy in God's presence brought such fierce judgment on them.

5. God's judgment was within the church context: The church witnessed entirely the judgment of God on the sin of Ananias and Sapphira. Peter and the rest of the young men did their part and stood with the Lord who was executing His judgment on sinners. **Therefore, and in the same way we need to stand wholeheartedly with God in dealing with sin and sinners.**

6. The fear of God seized the whole church: *“11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.” (Acts 5:11 KJV)* God's judgment imparted the fear of God on those who heard what God did to deal with sin and with those who trespassed against His sanctuary. We need to welcome the judgment of God on sinners because His fear will be imparted to the church and His people will be more motivated to repent and renounce their sins.

My dear and beloved: God can work miraculously through His church to deal with sin and with those who hide in practicing wickedness. When God is cleaning His church and dealing with sin and sinners is a blessing. Our hope will be restored when we seek God and stand and agree with Him of how He is dealing with wickedness.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaching me new things. Thank you Lord for every time you are dealing with sin and wicked people who are hiding their sins.*

Come now to the Lord, repent, and renounce all your sins. Renounce your greed, worldliness, the love of money, covetousness, boasting, showing off, telling lies, your wrong motive of giving, your covering up and condoning sin.

Lord forgive me, I renounce and repent of the following sins

Lord I commit my life to stand with you and not be discouraged in times as this. Lord sustains me and upholds me with your grace to continue to serve you and fulfill your purpose. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord bless my Brothers and Sisters who repented and committed their lives to you to live in holiness and to serve you and stand with you in dealing with sin. Lord uphold them with your grace, protect them and provide all their needs and sustain them.

Lord bless us as your church and uphold us with your grace and mercy so that we will continue to serve you. Lord we commit our lives to you to cleanse ourselves and our families and your church from sins and to live in holiness, standing with you in times that you deal with sin and sinners. Lord we commit ourselves to stand firm to deal with the sinful practices, to correct your people and to rebuke and deal with those who persist in their sins. Lord refill us

once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and serve you, to evangelize, to reach new people with the gospel of Jesus and to make new disciples, and train new workers to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Fear of God Part 17. The Judgment of God – The Door of Hope. Hosea 2:15. Joshua 7:1-26. Isaiah 65:10. Psalm 23:2. Acts 4:36-5:11.

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