



[Joshua 7:1-12](#)

(1) But the children of Israel committed a sin in the cursed thing, for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the thing which was cursed. 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 Beth Aven on the east side of Bethel. And he spoke to them, saying, "Go up and look over the country." And the men went up and spied out Ai. (3) And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Let not all the people go up. But let about two or three thousand men go up and strike Ai. Do not make all the people labor there, for they *are* few." (4) And about three thousand men of the people went up there. And they fled before the men of Ai. (5) And the men of Ai killed about thirtysix men of them, for they chased them *from* before the gate to Shebarim and attacked them on the road going down. Therefore the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

A Faithful Version

One man's [sin](#)! There were no accomplices. Nobody even saw him do it, yet Israel's army became paralyzed with fear. Joshua faltered and became confused. The whole nation was affected. Thirty-six men died. Thirty-six women became widows. And how many children no longer had a father?

One might say that the sin was somewhat atoned for. When they found out what Achan had done, Achan and his family (who were innocent of the deed) were put to death. When [God](#) saw it, however, He analyzed the sin according to different standards. He was dealing with His people, and He wanted to make sure that a witness was made—so that there would be information for those of His church in the end time.

God takes a personal interest in His people. Things happen out in [the world](#), and He seems to do nothing. But when things happen within His church, He is concerned for the well-being of His people, and He takes action.

What we see here is a clear beginning of "the body" analogy that later becomes so

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Joshua 7:1-12 (<http://www.theberean.org>)
important to the church in the New Testament. He shows us plainly that sin has a natural *leavening effect*. It increases; it will not just lie there and die. Corrections must be made to ensure that it does not spread, affecting others.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Every Action Has a Reaction](#)



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