

## re-thinking some of the parables ... No.37

### THE PARABLE OF ACHAN ... found in Joshua 7, 1; 18-26 and 22:19.

The timing of our story was when Joshua was leading the younger generation of saints from the wilderness into the Promised Land. They had miraculously crossed over the flooded River Jordan and were moving on to overcome the strongholds of those that needed liberation — those who were satisfied due to having been brainwashed by Babylon's worldly, natural thinking.

Joshua emphasized that *'The accursed thing'* had to be avoided. What was this thing? Joshua 22:19 declares it is when we build an altar beside the altar of the LORD our God ... something that looks like it is OK. before God but lacks His touch or His life in it. Whenever we stubbornly hang on to or hanker after what has been a blessing in our lives and which makes up our 'comfort-zone', it is most likely *instead of Christ's way*.

With this background one can readily see that it parallels today's situation when Christ Jesus is leading those who have separated themselves from the wilderness limited *Churchy* lifestyle and are beginning to experience all that has been provided by Father in His plan through the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Christ Jesus.

#### A PART OF THIS GREAT MOVE OF GOD

The central character of our story is a man called Achan. He was greatly blessed in having everything *'going for him'*. Privileged in being a part of this great move of God of entering into the Promised Land. His heritage was outstanding. His father was noble and spiritually fruitful as seen in his name (Carmi). His grandfather had similarly been endowed with a special touch by Jah (Zabdi), plus his great grandfather had within himself evidence of new life in God (Zerah) ... yet our reasonably wealthy man who had above average possessions, was troubled inside to the point where it showed. Strange how he was named *'Trouble'* (Achan) when he was born.

Achan was among the first-fruits to cross into this new land and before him was all the glorious provision and purpose of God in this land full of God's promises. It was the new land with new ways, it was for this family the unfolding reality the Kingdom of God. Joshua had laid out the discipline required of each one on this progressive journey particularly warning the people to avoid wanting or bringing with them, anything of the old religious ways which were so very much like Babylon and its glitter — some of which looked very much like what God was pleased with especially the lowering of one's standard in order to widen one's reach. Those Babylonish attractions so easily became a part of one's daily life before God until they are accepted as spiritual and godly.

#### FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND

When in their advance into this new Promised-Land Kingdom, troubled Achan started reasoning within himself that God's supply would not be sufficient for him and his family in the unknown and a little bit scary days ahead. Then, would you believe, Achan comes across an abandoned dwelling where, upon entering, his eyes grew wide open and he exclaimed, *'It is the provision of the Lord for us!'* Achan had discovered a small treasure and his reaction reasoned that it was only a small treasure! A fifty-shekel wedge of gold made in Babylon which equates with God's nature — what He is like ... Achan did not realize that it was Babylon's idea of what God was like which was miles off target and thus not acceptable to the Lord as it was ... it needed surrendering to God's purposes even though it appeared to be anointed (50). Then there was 200 shekels of silver which Achan didn't know was insufficient (meaning of 200) for what God had in mind in their complete salvation (silver). No doubt in Achan's unrenewed mind, God had opened the windows of heaven and poured out this blessing! On top of that there was a functional garment or 'covering' that had been used in religious-Babylon. It looked great and it gave him some added confidence and his pride a little boost just when he was called to become as nothing by leaving behind the things of old. God did not require a 'covering' over Achan other than Himself, His Spirit.

## **NOTHING HIDDEN FROM GOD**

But God exposed the situation and gave Joshua a revelation of what had happened. Joshua was concerned because what Achan had done was affecting the whole of this corporate people who had been chosen to leave the Wilderness (of religion) and enter the Promised Land (of the Kingdom of God). When confronted by Joshua, Achan admitted to his failure and was told to repent before God. Being they were under the old covenant before mercy was introduced at the Cross, not only Achan, but all his family and all his possessions ... everything associated with him was destroyed, put to death and burned. The curse of being unteachable brought upon the whole company was then lifted and the others continued walking by faith to inherit all that God had planned for them.

## **ACHAN'S LEGACY OR TESTIMONY**

Achan's legacy to what started out as a great privilege of being among those entering into the Promised Land, ended up by having a valley named after him called *The Valley of Trouble* (Achor). It would be a reminder to all those who were aspiring to enter into today's Promised Land, that nothing of the old Christian-religious lifestyle can be taken along. Not even the old harsh concept of what God was like ... not even the ways of worship which were so much like Babylon's expressions of self gratification ... or anything relating to 'having to be under a Babylonish man-devised *covering*' ... Sorry! It was a 'new day' with new horizons before Achan and it is similarly a new day that is before us ... *all things are new* as we come under the direct leading of our heavenly Father and learn to move in '*present truth*' *forgetting those things which are behind and pressing forward into the high calling of God's purposes in Christ Jesus* in His Kingdom of our Promised Land of the fullness of Christ.§