

# Perfidy is not Private

Joshua 6-7

June 18, 2023



# The Battle Plan

## Joshua 6:16-27

**16** And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: “Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!”

**17** Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who *are* in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who *are* with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

**18** And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

**19** But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, *are* consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.”

**20** So the people shouted when *the priests* blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

**21** And they utterly destroyed all that *was* in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

# The Battle Plan

## Joshua 6:16-27 Continued

<sup>22</sup> But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, “Go into the harlot’s house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her.”

<sup>23</sup> And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel.

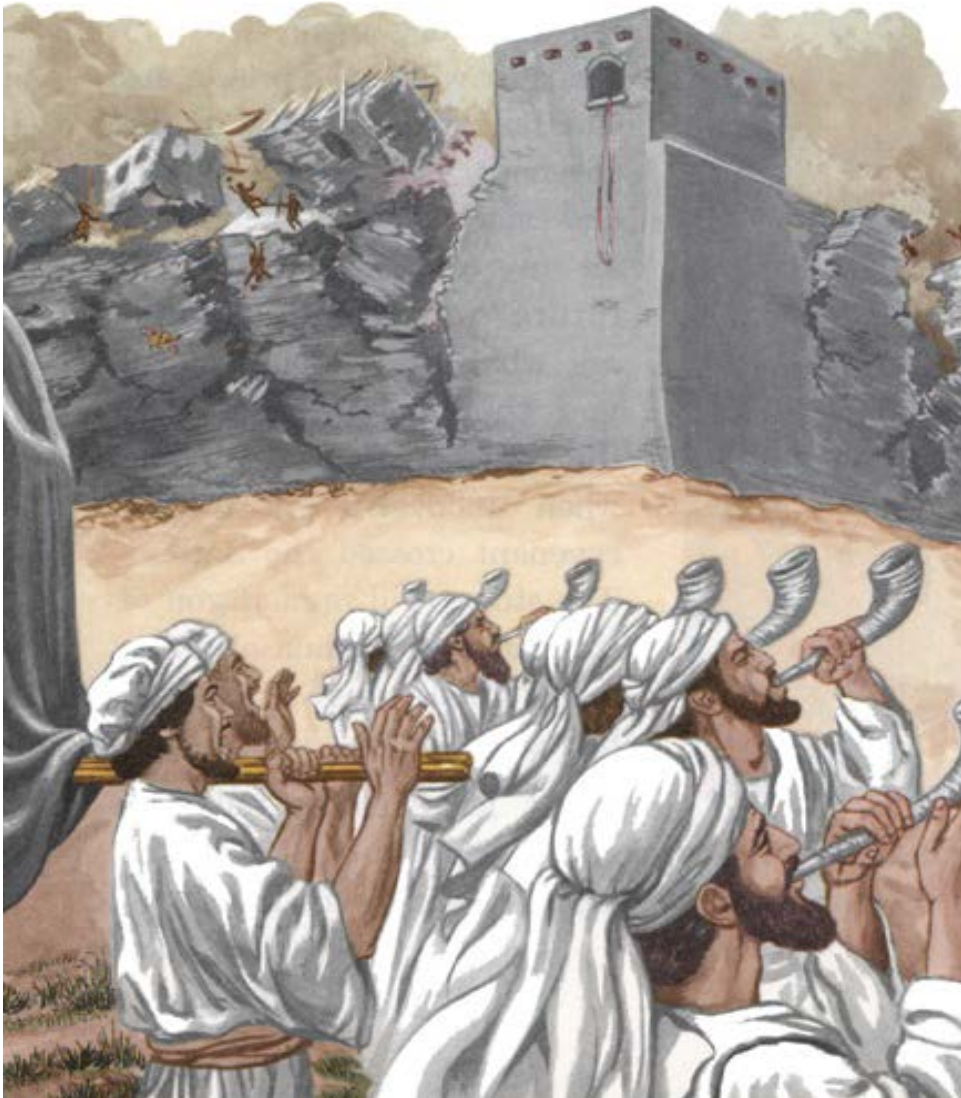
<sup>24</sup> But they burned the city and all that *was* in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

<sup>25</sup> And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father’s household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

<sup>26</sup> Then Joshua charged *them* at that time, saying, “Cursed *be* the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates.”

<sup>27</sup> So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

# Jericho's Demise



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Seven days encompassing the city

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Priests led way with Ark

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Not a syllable uttered

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Sopherim only sound

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On seventh day ALL shout

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Jericho is Cherem (Accursed – Devoted)

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Rahab and family saved

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# Achan's Perfidy

## Joshua 7:1-9

<sup>1</sup> But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which *is* beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, “Go up and spy out the country.” So the men went up and spied out Ai.

<sup>3</sup> And they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for *the people of Ai are few.*”

<sup>4</sup> So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

## Achan's Perfidy Joshua 7:1-9 -Continued

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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!

<sup>8</sup> O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies?

<sup>9</sup> For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear *it*, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?”



# BIBLICAL SETTING

Shechem ■

HILL COUNTRY

Bethel ■

■ Ai?

Gibeon ■

■ Gibeah

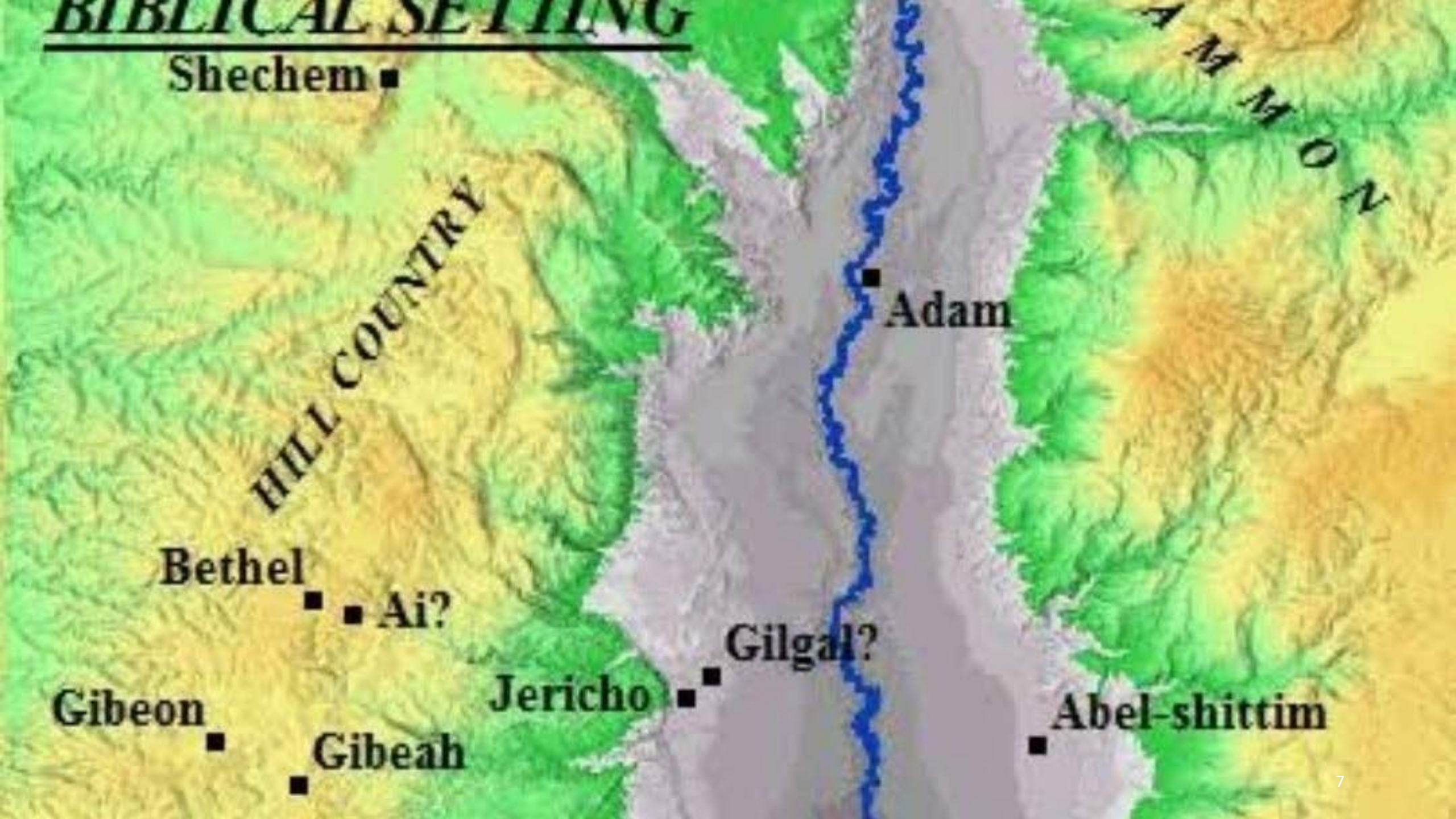
Jericho ■

■ Gilgal?

■ Adam

■ Abel-shittim

A M M O N





## Immediate Result of Achan's Perfidy

- Ai's remarkable Resistance
- Thirty-six Israelite Deaths
- Failure of courage
- Joshua's concern



# Discovery

## Joshua 7:16-19

- 16** So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken.
- 17** He brought the clan of Judah, and he took the family of the Zarhites; and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man, and Zabdi was taken.
- 18** Then 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** Now Joshua said to Achan, “My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide *it* from me.”

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# The Process

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- Deal with Sin
- God will identify the culprit
- Confession



## The Sin Joshua 7:20-21

<sup>20</sup> And Achan answered Joshua and said, “Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done:

<sup>21</sup> When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.”

# Sin's Course

I saw

I coveted

I took

I hid



## Verification

### Joshua 7:22-26

**22** So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver under it.

**23** And they took them from the midst of the tent, brought them to Joshua and to all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.

**24** Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor.

**25** And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

**26** Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day.



# Justice

- **Verification**
- **Just Punishment –  
Stoning and Burning**