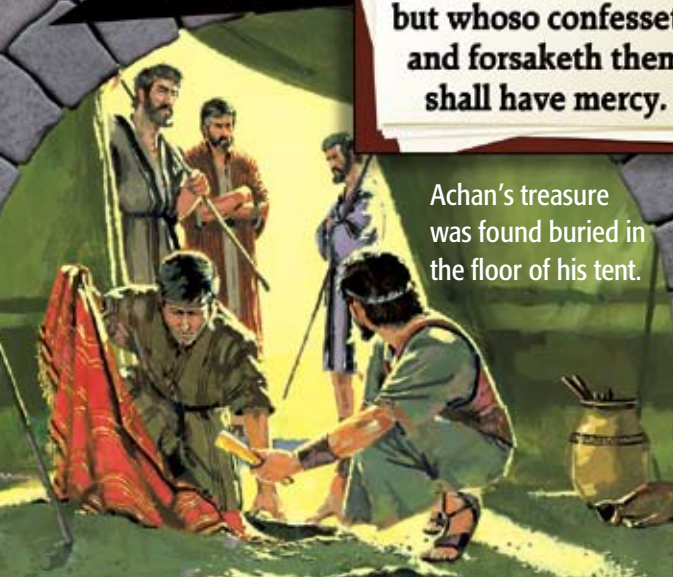


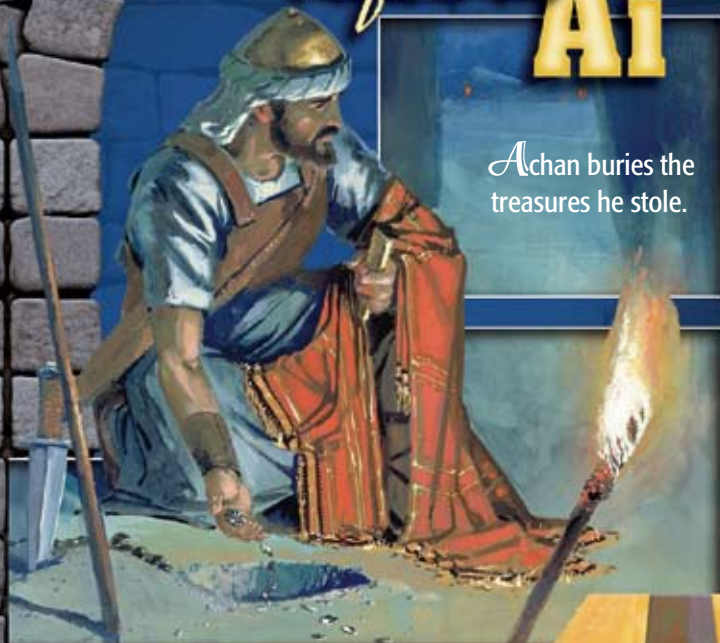
He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.



Achan's treasure was found buried in the floor of his tent.

Achan/ *defeat at* Ai

Achan buries the treasures he stole.



Achan and family were stoned—then buried.



Ai defeats Israel; 36 men of Israel are killed.



Scripture to read before next study

Joshua 8:1-35

JERICHO—“first fruits”

Jericho, the first city taken, was to be the “first fruits” of Canaan. Therefore, any gain from Jericho would be God’s “first fruits” for His treasury.

God is always to have the “first fruits” of our time, talents, and wealth.

Ai defeats Israel

Joshua, not aware of Achan’s sin, was stunned at Israel’s defeat at Ai. How could it be? What about God’s promises? But God knew His people must learn—when a command is clear, obedience is necessary.

Joshua was also concerned about God’s reputation and zealous for His name!

Disobedient Christians are like Achan—they mar God’s reputation and hurt believers.

“Put away sin”

God told Joshua—He would not be with Israel unless the sin was put away. For some sins, God says—“You either get rid of it, or you and I don’t walk together any more.”

This was important, because 36 of Israel’s warriors had died at Ai. The tribes were to be brought *“in the morning”*, which was Achan’s opportunity to confess his sin that night. But he did not confess.

Those who do not judge themselves, God will judge. *“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world”*—I Cor. 11:31, 32.



Achan, the guilty one, was finally discovered. He then told

—his sequence of sin.

“I **saw**”—lust of the eyes produced his strong desire.
“I **coveted**”—sin began. The 10th Commandment is “Thou shalt not covet.” Coveting is wanting something so badly it disturbs our inner peace. Coveting is often the root sin of stealing, lying, murder, adultery, etc.

It is also one of America’s great sins.

“I **took**”—is stealing. Jericho’s treasures were God’s, and Achan stole God’s *“first fruits.”*

“I **hid**”—is the natural reaction to **cover** sin.

If anyone, even his family, knew Achan took the accursed thing, they should have reported it.

God told Joshua,
“Get up.”

There’s a time to pray and a time for action. But prayer never takes the place of putting sin out of our lives, and God never treats sin lightly.

Now was Israel’s time to get right with

God, because *“sin was in the camp.”*

We need God’s attitude toward sin—to deal seriously with it in our life.

Joshua rent his clothes.

