

**THE CORROSIVE RESULT OF SIN ON
A COMMUNITY** Joshua 7:1—8:29



ACHAN'S SIN

He took some of the devoted things (7:1)

Despite being clearly told not to (6:15-19)

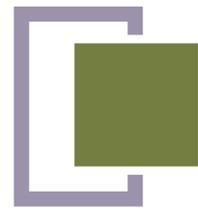
JOSHUA 6:17—19

17 [Joshua commanded the army] ‘The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.

18 But **keep away from the devoted things**, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.

19 **All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury.’**





JOSHUA 7:11

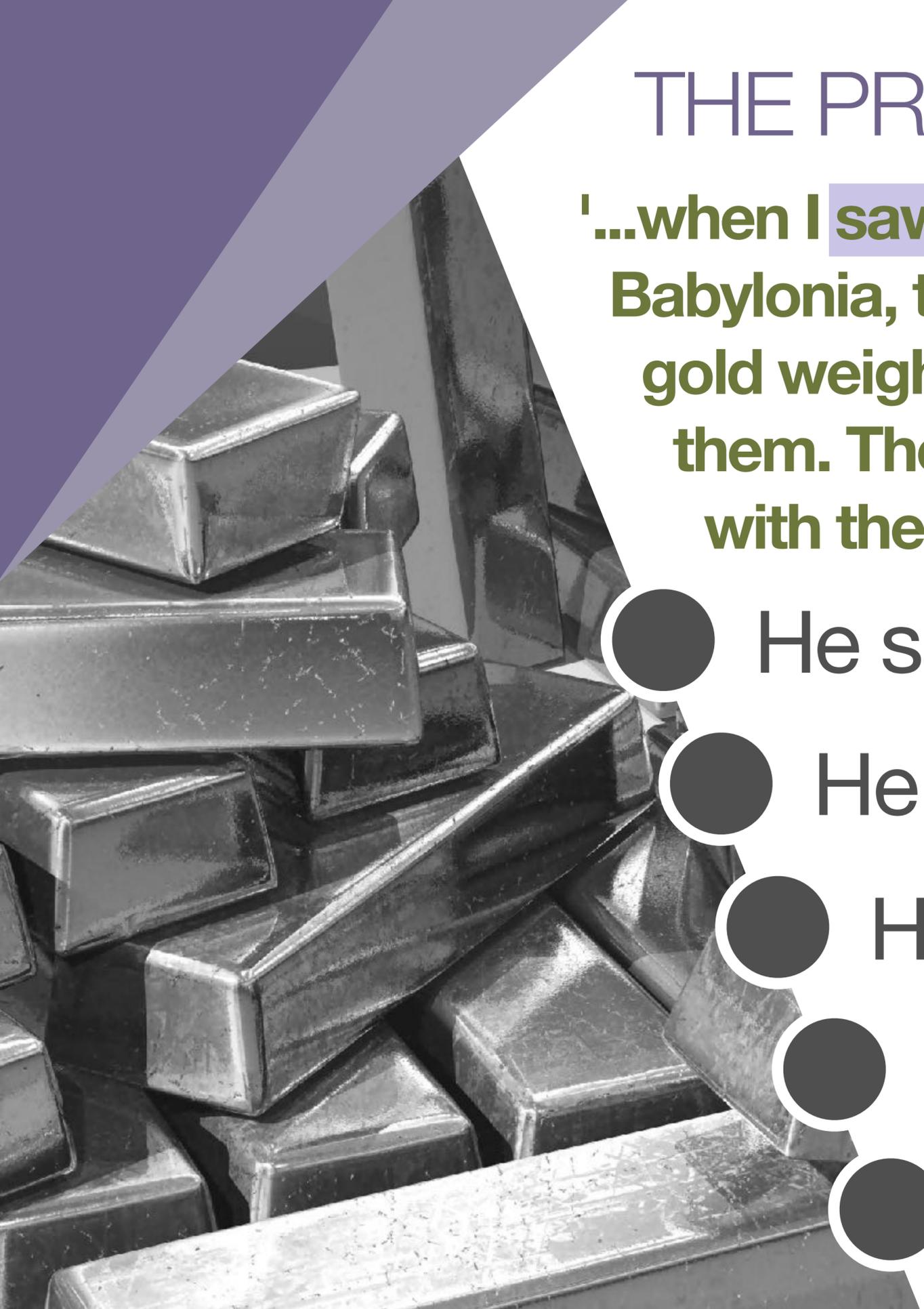
Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.



THE PROGRESSION OF ACHAN'S SIN

'...when I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.' Joshua 7:21

- He saw
- He reclassified
- He coveted
- He took
- He hid



THE PROGRESSION OF OUR SIN

We often act in exactly the same way as Achan!

Example 1 - Greed/covetousness

- We see (In a shop window or advert)
- We reclassify (*I need* this thing)
- We covet (Long to possess)
- We take (Effectively from God)
- We hide (Justify our purchase)



THE PROGRESSION OF OUR SIN

We often act in exactly the same way as Achan!

Example 2 - Lust

- We see (Beautiful man or woman)
- We reclassify (It's not lust!)
- We covet (Desire what's not ours)
- We take (Second glance or click)
- We hide (Check or delete)





THE RESULT OF ACHAN'S SIN

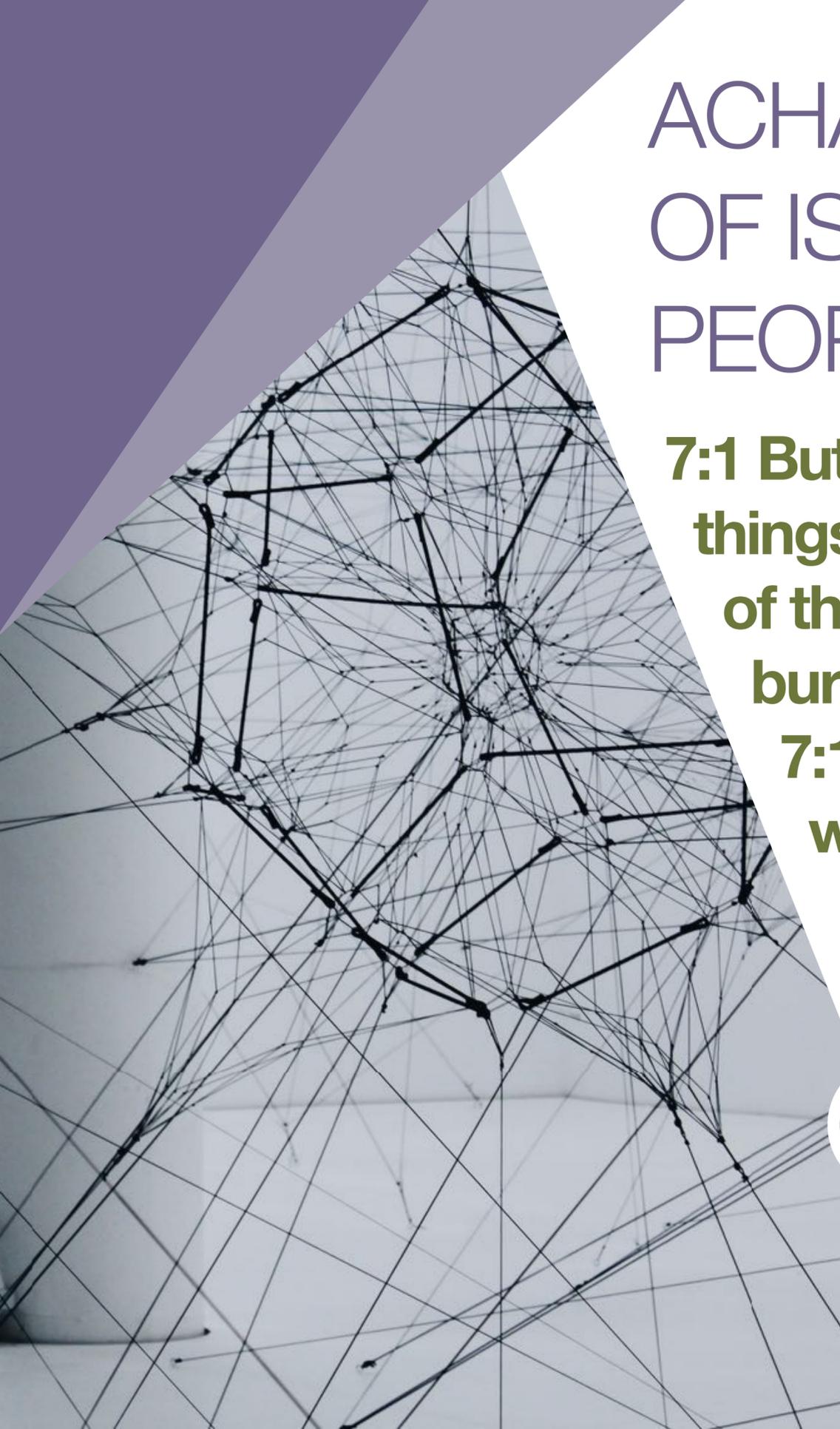
It affected the whole community (7:12)

So it had to be radically dealt with

JOSHUA 7:10 –12

10 The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? 11 Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. 12 That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you any more unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.





ACHAN'S SIN (NEGATIVELY) AFFECTED ALL OF ISRAEL BECAUSE THEY WERE ONE PEOPLE, UNITED BY GOD'S COVENANT.

7:1 But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the Lord's anger burned against Israel.

7:11 Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.

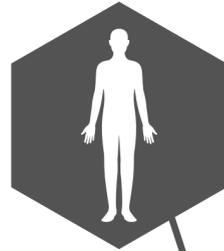
- They were a community
- Therefore sin dealt with severely

BUT WHY SUCH A HARSH PUNISHMENT?

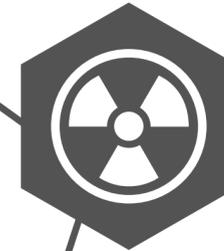
God was protecting his fledgling people/baby nation from hypocrisy.



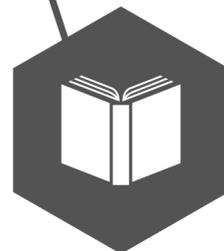
God is teaching us that we never sin in isolation; our private sins affect the whole body.



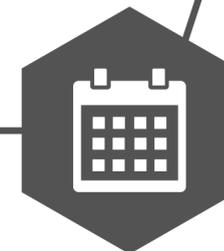
God was resisting Satan's internal attack, and stopping the cancer before it spread.



God was warning his people not to take his Word lightly.



God judges sin severely at the beginning of a new period in salvation history.



An anatomical model of a human head and neck, split vertically. The left side shows a realistic human face with closed eyes, while the right side is cut away to reveal internal structures like the brain, sinuses, and throat. The model is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping a purple and black geometric design.

THE PRINCIPLE OF PRIVATE SIN AFFECTING A WHOLE COMMUNITY

Joshua 7 and 1 Corinthians 5, 12

1 CORINTHIANS 5:1—2, 6

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: **a man** is sleeping with his father's wife. 2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this?

6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a **little yeast leavens the whole batch** of dough?



1 CORINTHIANS 12:12, 13a, 14

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

13 For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body...

14 And so the body is not made up of one part but of many.





IMPORTANT: OUR INDIVIDUAL SIN
WILL AFFECT THE WHOLE CHURCH!

How this can happen?

- Actively: Sin causing quenching of Spirit
- Passively: Not getting involved
- Forgetfully: Forget part of a body
- Example: A UK church
- Example: Hebrews 12:15
- Example: Revelation 2:5



THE ANTIDOTE

1. Destroy your sin (before it destroys the church)
2. Shift your gaze (to change your heart)



1. DESTROY YOUR SIN (BEFORE IT DESTROYS THE CHURCH)

Be ruthless with your sin because it has the potential to damage Argyle

- Make a map
- Devise an IF/THEN strategy
- Tell someone

2. SHIFT YOUR GAZE (TO CHANGE YOUR HEART)

Our hearts determine our thoughts, desires and behaviours

- Achan admired the wrong treasure
- Our treasure is Christ: gaze on him

