

June 7, 1996 Asher

The Sin of Achan

A simple play, which was written and produced by Ha Emeq, was presented on the Erev Shabbat Celebration. It was a play concerning the sin of Achan. It contained a powerful message about the sins of the Fathers being passed onto their children and how one member can leaven the whole loaf of a nation.

Something in him still loved the world. Some people would think in their natural mind that the judgment that came to Achan was harsh, even unduly harsh, but in fact it was essential, as his deeds clearly showed, that he still had a *love for the world* in his heart and he was bringing that into Israel.

They had come out of the world (Egypt), but he was trying to bring the world back into Israel, so this had to be cut off. It had to be cut off because if what Achan brought in had been allowed to grow and exist and develop, then it would have destroyed Israel as a separate and distinct Holy Nation.

An underground would have developed. It was hidden in Achan's heart and then what was hidden in his heart came out when he had opportunity. He hid it under his tent and then when opportunity arose he brought them out to indulge in. This would have led to a sub-culture, an underground within what should have been an undivided nation.

A subculture or underground movement is a culture within a culture, creating division, disunity, not taking complete identity with God's people, as a member of the body, the community of the redeemed. Achan desired to stand above, separate, identifying with a worldly culture outside of Israel and gaining worth by it.

We are God's set-apart people, not individuals. Achan's heart's desire to secretly re-identify with the world reaped calamity and it would have poisoned the whole nation. It needed to be cut off because Achan was unwilling to judge his rebellion and love for the world, and this would have been passed on to his children and grown up in his seed. His entire family was destroyed.

Achan went *outside the boundaries* of God's love and protection and received the same judgment that came upon Jericho, because his heart was still in and for the world.

People who allow their children in the community to identify with the world in their clothing, speech, or attitudes are sowing seeds to their own destruction and that of the corporeal body.

Those who destroy the temple, God will destroy.

Hidden, subversive or defiant actions from within the sanctified boundary of God's temple have to be judged and brought to light and cut off before that leaven leavens the whole loaf and we become dulled to performing greater acts of evil.

Is allowing your child to wear an LL Bean T-shirt going to bring about the downfall of this temple? Does it seem a light thing that God's own people would *advertise the world* on our clothing. Who's image do we want to bear? God's or the world's? Whose?

***We are one body and our personal rebellion and sin affect the whole body.
Achan's bosom sin caused the death of many of his brothers.***