

38. Joshua Prayed for Israel

Joshua 7:6-15 NLT

Joshua and the elders of Israel tore their clothing in dismay, threw dust on their heads, and bowed face down to the ground before the Ark of the Lord until evening. Then Joshua cried out, “Oh, Sovereign Lord, why did you bring us across the Jordan River if you are going to let the Amorites kill us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side! Lord, what can I say now that Israel has fled from its enemies? For when the Canaanites and all the other people living in the land hear about it, they will surround us and wipe our name off the face of the earth. And then what will happen to the honor of your great name?”

But the Lord said to Joshua, “Get up! Why are you lying on your face like this? Israel has sinned and broken my covenant! They have stolen some of the things that I commanded must be set apart for me. And they have not only stolen them but have lied about it and hidden the things among their own belongings. That is why the Israelites are running from their enemies in defeat. For now Israel itself has been set apart for destruction. I will not remain with you any longer unless you destroy the things among you that were set apart for destruction.

“Get up! Command the people to purify themselves in preparation for tomorrow. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Hidden among you, O Israel, are things set apart for the Lord. You will never defeat your enemies until you remove these things from among you.

“In the morning you must present yourselves by tribes, and the Lord will point out the tribe to which the guilty man belongs. That tribe must come forward with its clans, and the Lord will point out the guilty clan. That clan will then come forward, and the Lord will point out the guilty family. Finally, each member of the guilty family must come forward one by one. The one who has stolen what was set apart for destruction will himself be burned with fire, along with everything he has, for he has broken the covenant of the Lord and has done a horrible thing in Israel.”

C	O	C	R	H	A	U	R	E	C	C	T	M	Y	O
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D	O	I	L	N	M	E	R	I	S	S	E	I	L	O
J	R	T	R	S	I	N	N	E	B	P	S	N	O	M
S	Y	A	I	U	E	Y	T	T	I	L	T	G	R	E
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| ACROSS | DUST | MORNING |
| AMORITES | FORWARD | POINT |
| APART | GROUND | PRESENT |
| BELONGS | GUILTY | PURIFY |
| BOWED | HIDDEN | REMOVE |
| BURNED | HORRIBLE | SURROUND |
| CLANS | JORDAN | TORE |
| CONTENT | JOSHUA | TRIBES |
| DEFEAT | LIED | UNLESS |
| DISMAY | LYING | WIPE |