

# CHANGING WANDERERS INTO WORSHIPERS

## From the Exodus to the Promised Land

### Defeat on the Heels of Victory

*Selections from Joshua 7*

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

STUDY



## LET'S BEGIN HERE

*We hardly ever incur more vulnerability than after a great victory*—a maxim that reigns true in the annals of military history . . . just as it reigns true in our spiritual lives. But the Israelites didn't take it seriously after their miraculous victory at Jericho, which we read about in Joshua 6.

Joshua 7 contains the account of one man, Achan, whose choices made his name infamous. His story dramatically illustrates the truth of a principle found in God's Word: people reap what they sow (Galatians 6:7).

Today, we will study with Chuck Swindoll the sobering report of Joshua 7 so we might avoid any entangling sins and run with endurance the race set before us.



## YOUR TURN IN THE SCRIPTURES

We'll begin by reviewing our *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study method. It's the same method Chuck uses when he studies the Bible, and it includes four components that equip us to make nourishing spiritual meals. The four steps are:

1. **Observation:** We read what the text says, perceiving how each word fits in sentences, how each sentence fits in paragraphs, and how each paragraph fits in the book.
2. **Interpretation:** We understand what the text means, delving into word studies, ancient cultural practices, history, and theology.
3. **Correlation:** We compare our passage with other biblical passages on the same topic to complement our understanding of the topic from our main passage.
4. **Application:** We integrate into our lives the biblical truths and principles, obeying Jesus' commands, believing Jesus' promises, and walking with Jesus always.

## Quotable

*If God brings to  
your attention  
that which needs  
attention, I plead  
with you: face it,  
confess it, forsake it,  
and repent.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Copyright © 2001, 2002, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.  
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

S14  
1

# CHANGING WANDERERS INTO WORSHIPERS

## From the Exodus to the Promised Land

### Defeat on the Heels of Victory

*Selections from Joshua 7*

SEARCHING  
THE  
SCRIPTURES

STUDY

While these mechanics help us ascertain spiritual truth, God's Spirit must anchor His Word in our minds and wed His Word to our hearts that we may walk in His power. Below, write a prayer asking God to bless your study.



#### Observation

In observation, we will place our gaze upon the tree of *Joshua 7* to inspect both leaf and branch. Remember: no rushing. First, simply read through the chapter.

#### The Setback—Joshua 7:1–15

How does Joshua 7:1 function in relation to the rest of the chapter?

*The most secretive sins on this earth are seen clearly by the eyes of our God. He saw it all.*  
—Chuck Swindoll

How many Israelite warriors went to conquer Ai, and why (Joshua 7:2–5)?

Summarize the response of Joshua and the Israelite elders to Ai's victory (7:6–9).



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Copyright © 2001, 2002, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.  
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

S14  
2

**CHANGING WANDERERS INTO WORSHIPERS**  
**From the Exodus to the Promised Land**  
**Defeat on the Heels of Victory**  
*Selections from Joshua 7*

SEARCHING  
THE  
SCRIPTURES

STUDY

How did the Lord reply to Joshua in 7:10–15? How did the Israelites break God’s covenant?

How do the Israelites’ sin, God’s presence, and the battle outcome all correlate in this passage?

**Sin Exposed and Punished—Joshua 7:16–26**

Whom did God single out, and what tribe did he belong to (Joshua 7:16–18)?

Note the four commands Joshua gave to Achan in 7:19. How do the first two relate to the last two?



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Copyright © 2001, 2002, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.  
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

S14  
3

# CHANGING WANDERERS INTO WORSHIPERS

## From the Exodus to the Promised Land

### Defeat on the Heels of Victory

*Selections from Joshua 7*

SEARCHING  
THE  
SCRIPTURES

STUDY

Notice the four verbs Achan used to describe his spiral into sin (Joshua 7:21). List the progression below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

*At that moment, Achan failed to stay with reality and believed the rationalization.* — Chuck Swindoll

What happened to Achan and his family in Joshua 7:24–26?

How does the last statement about God in verse 26 relate to the first statement made about God in verse 1?

On a day when the Israelites should have been singing songs of victory, they returned from a bloody defeat singing songs of lament. Achan had privately sown seeds of greed and caused Israel to bear the brunt of his poor judgment.



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Copyright © 2001, 2002, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.  
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

S14  
4

# CHANGING WANDERERS INTO WORSHIPERS

## From the Exodus to the Promised Land

### Defeat on the Heels of Victory

*Selections from Joshua 7*

SEARCHING  
THE  
SCRIPTURES

STUDY



#### Interpretation

Begin interpretation by looking up key names and terms in the text such as *Achan* and the tribe of *Judah* in your Bible dictionary. Below, record notes on these entries along with any other terms you review.

The Israelites returned from Ai with their report to Joshua (Joshua 7:3). Did their report express faith in God or arrogance? Why do you think this? (Remember to consult a commentary or two during interpretation.)

In 7:6–9, how did Joshua demonstrate faith? How did he demonstrate doubt toward God?

How did God rebuke Joshua in 7:10–13?



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Copyright © 2001, 2002, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.  
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

S14  
5

# CHANGING WANDERERS INTO WORSHIPERS

## From the Exodus to the Promised Land

### Defeat on the Heels of Victory

*Selections from Joshua 7*

SEARCHING  
THE  
SCRIPTURES

STUDY

How does Joshua's concern in 7:9 reflect God's purpose for Israel? How does Joshua's command to Achan in 7:19 reveal Joshua's intention to advance this purpose? Why is this important for the Christian today?

After the Israelites dealt God's justice upon Achan and his family for breaking God's covenant, they piled a great heap of stones over his body. What did the succeeding generations learn about God from Achan's memorial? Why is this important for us today?

*Surprising and strange defeats can often be traced back to secret sins. —Chuck Swindoll*



#### Correlation

Joshua 7 contains a sobering narrative of the consequences of sin before a holy God. Achan submitted to his desires, taking and hiding what God said not to. Achan let temptation lead him to sin and death. Temptation's phases have existed ever since Eve saw the fruit, wanted it, grabbed it, ate it, and gave some to Adam. Then they both hid from God and suffered God's judgment.

James 1:12–15 defines how temptation works, which correlates well with our main passage. This paragraph falls in James' longer section on faith and endurance. Read [James 1:2–18](#).

Write an expanded paraphrase of James 1:12–15 below.



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Copyright © 2001, 2002, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.  
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

S14  
6

# CHANGING WANDERERS INTO WORSHIPERS

## From the Exodus to the Promised Land

### Defeat on the Heels of Victory

*Selections from Joshua 7*

SEARCHING  
THE  
SCRIPTURES

STUDY

*It's called temptation. At the time of temptation, we are blinded and made deaf. We are blinded to reality and deafened to the consequences. —Chuck Swindoll*

James mentioned a few spiritual weapons to combat sin and temptation in James 1:2–18. Note those especially meaningful to you and record them below.



### Application

At the end of Psalm 139, David prayed:

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
Point out anything in me that offends you,  
and lead me along the path of everlasting life. (Psalm 139:23–24)*

A fitting request even for us at this hour as we integrate into our lives the spiritual truth of Joshua 7. Take a moment and pray in your own words Psalm 139:23–24.

*Very private sins can lead to very public consequences. —Chuck Swindoll*

Have you let sin wrap its tentacles around you? Has it come through your wallet? The screen? A relationship heading in the wrong direction? God gives us the power to fight sin so you don't have to let it squeeze the life out of you. Write below any grievous path you might be on.



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Copyright © 2001, 2002, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.  
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

S14  
7

# CHANGING WANDERERS INTO WORSHIPERS

## From the Exodus to the Promised Land

### Defeat on the Heels of Victory

*Selections from Joshua 7*

SEARCHING  
THE  
SCRIPTURES

STUDY

Now how do you plan to beat your temptation? Have you prayed to conquer it? Have you sought support from your church family? Record what you believe needs to change to help you defeat that private sin and how you need the Spirit to aid you in battle.

*This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. (1 John 1:5–9)*



#### A FINAL PRAYER

*Father, what gratitude fills my heart to know that You delight in giving me life. Sin destroys. But You have conquered sin by sending Your Son to receive the wrath that I have earned. Jesus died the death that I deserve that I may be clean and blameless before You, that I may I enjoy fellowship with the living God, and that I may overcome the sin that once entangled me. Thank You. In Jesus' sweet name, amen.*



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Copyright © 2001, 2002, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.  
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

S14  
8



# CHANGING WANDERERS INTO WORSHIPERS

## From the Exodus to the Promised Land

### Defeat on the Heels of Victory

Selections from *Joshua 7*

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

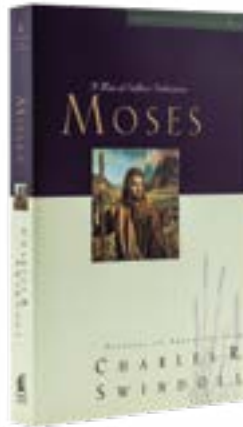
STUDY



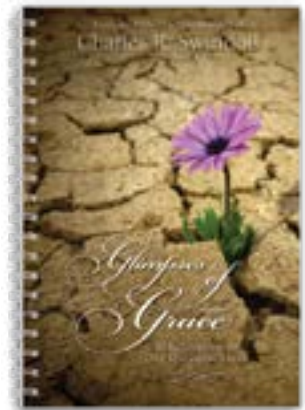
## Tools for Digging Deeper



**Changing Wanderers into Worshipers: From the Exodus to the Promised Land**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
CD series



**Moses: A Man of Selfless Dedication**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
Softcover book



**Glimpses of Grace: 30 Reflections on Old Testament Lives**  
by Insight for Living Ministries  
Softcover book

For these and related resources, visit [www.insightworld.org/store](http://www.insightworld.org/store)  
or call USA 1-800-772-8888 • AUSTRALIA +61 3 9762 6613 • CANADA 1-800-663-7639 • UK +44 1306 640156

For the 2018–2019 broadcast, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Aaron Massey in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, executive vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Copyright © 2001, 2002, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.  
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**