

A silhouette of a person with curly hair is shown in profile, looking out a window. The background is a bright, hazy sky, and the person's shadow is cast on the wall behind them. The overall mood is contemplative and somber.

# **Sin Has No Hiding Place**

**Joshua 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. <sup>2</sup>Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, 'Go up and spy out the region.' So the men went up and spied out Ai.<sup>3</sup> When they returned to Joshua, they said, '**Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there.**' <sup>4</sup>**So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai,** <sup>5</sup>**who killed about thirty-six of them.** They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. **At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water.** *(Joshua 7)*



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*(Joshua 7)*



# Why God?

<sup>6</sup> Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell face down to the ground before the ark of the Lord, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads.

<sup>7</sup> And Joshua said, **'Alas, Sovereign Lord, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan!** <sup>8</sup> Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? <sup>9</sup> The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?'

*(Joshua 7)*

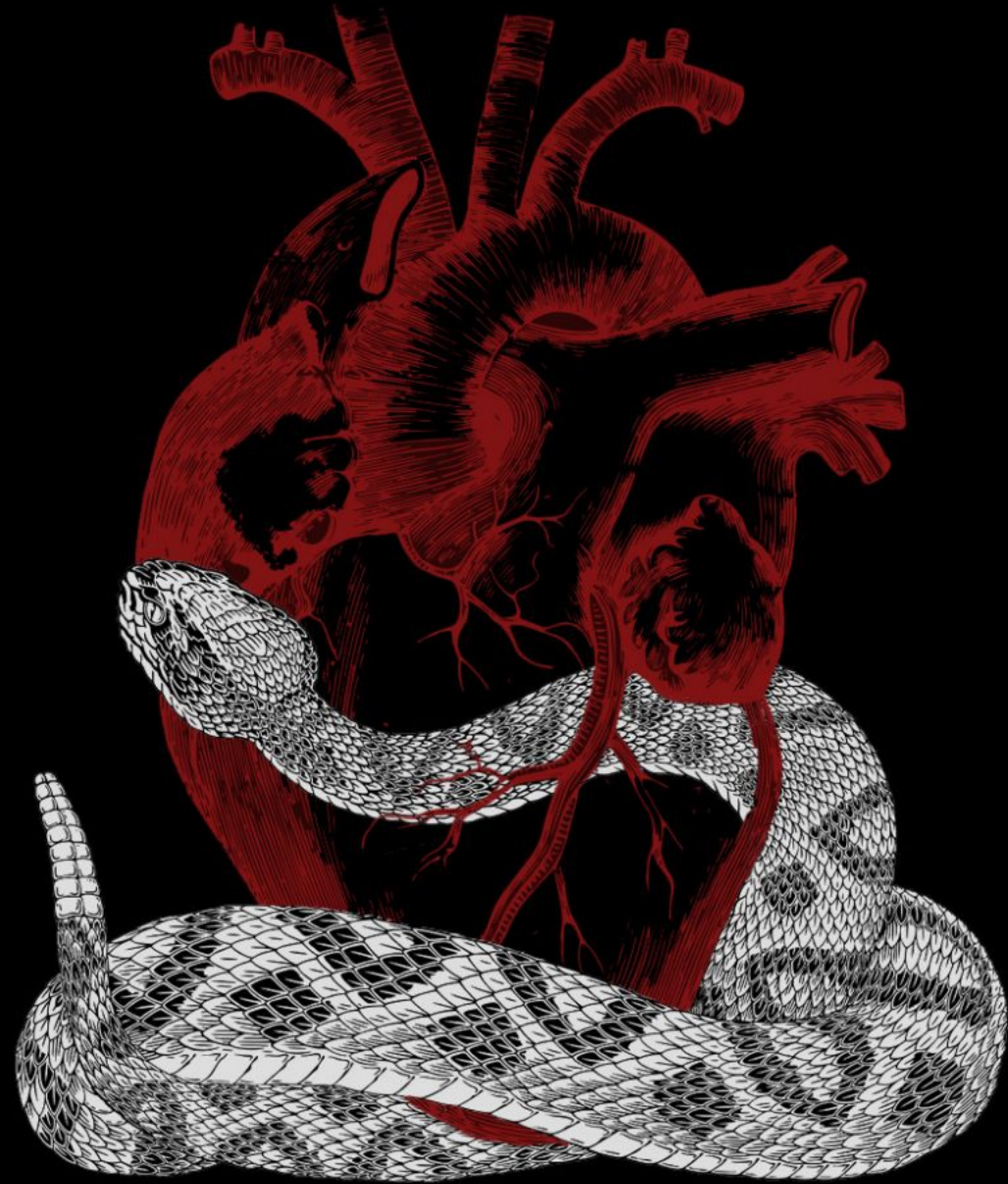


# Why God?

<sup>10</sup> The Lord said to Joshua, 'Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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.

*(Joshua 7)*

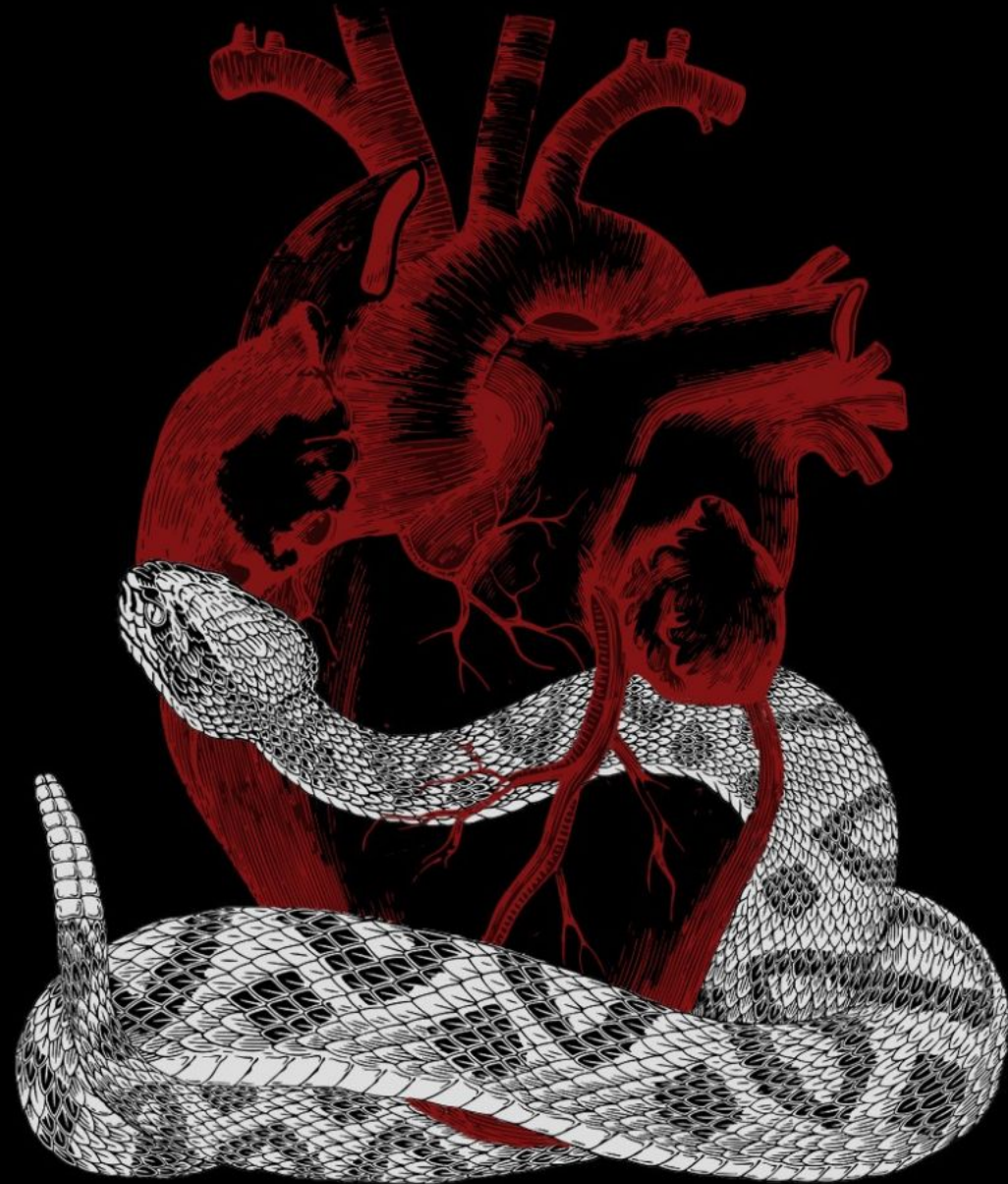




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# The Anatomy of Sin

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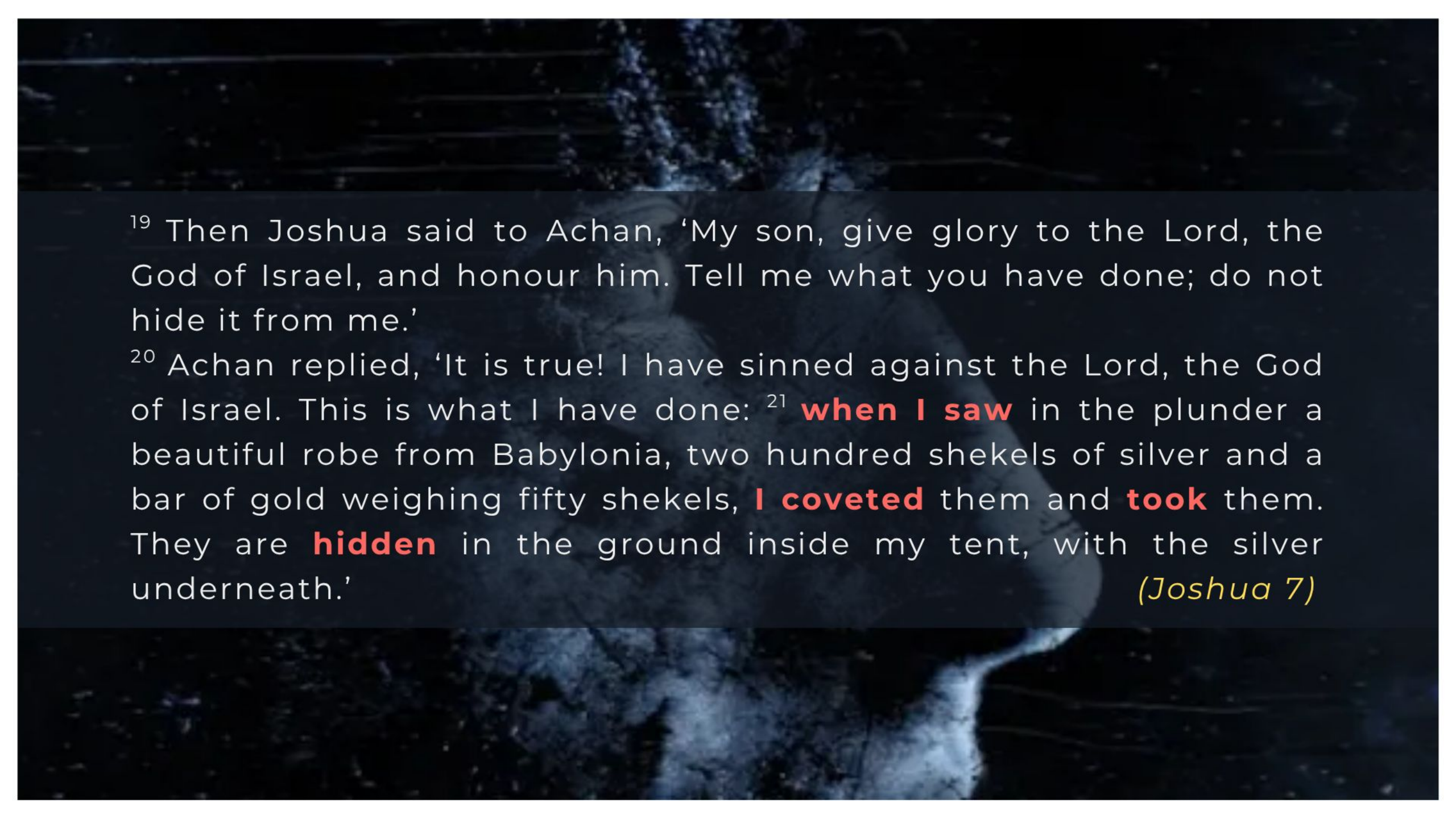


**18 But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise, you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. 19 All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury.'**

***(Joshua 6)***

A black and white photograph of a Roman statue, likely a general, shown from the chest up. The statue is set against a dark background. The Latin phrase "VENI. VIDI. VICI." is overlaid in a white rectangular box across the center of the image. The statue's face is weathered and shows a stern expression. The lighting highlights the texture of the stone and the folds of the garment.

VENI. VIDI. VICI.



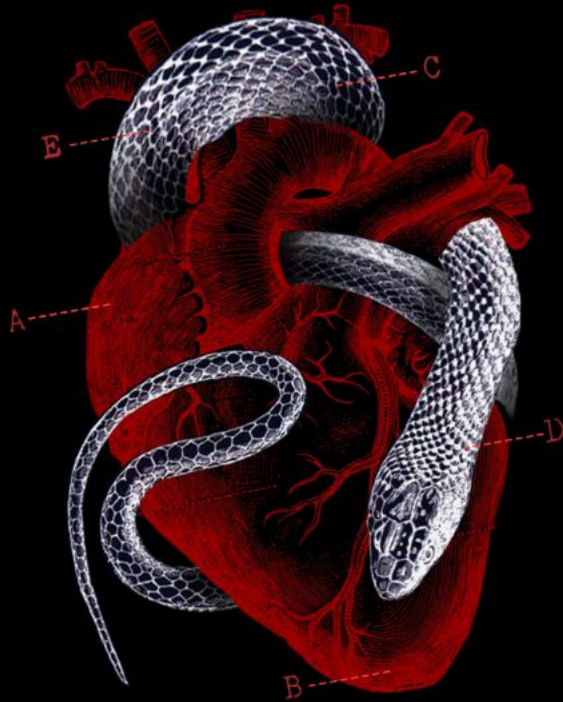
<sup>19</sup> Then Joshua said to Achan, 'My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and honour him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me.'

<sup>20</sup> Achan replied, 'It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: <sup>21</sup> **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)*

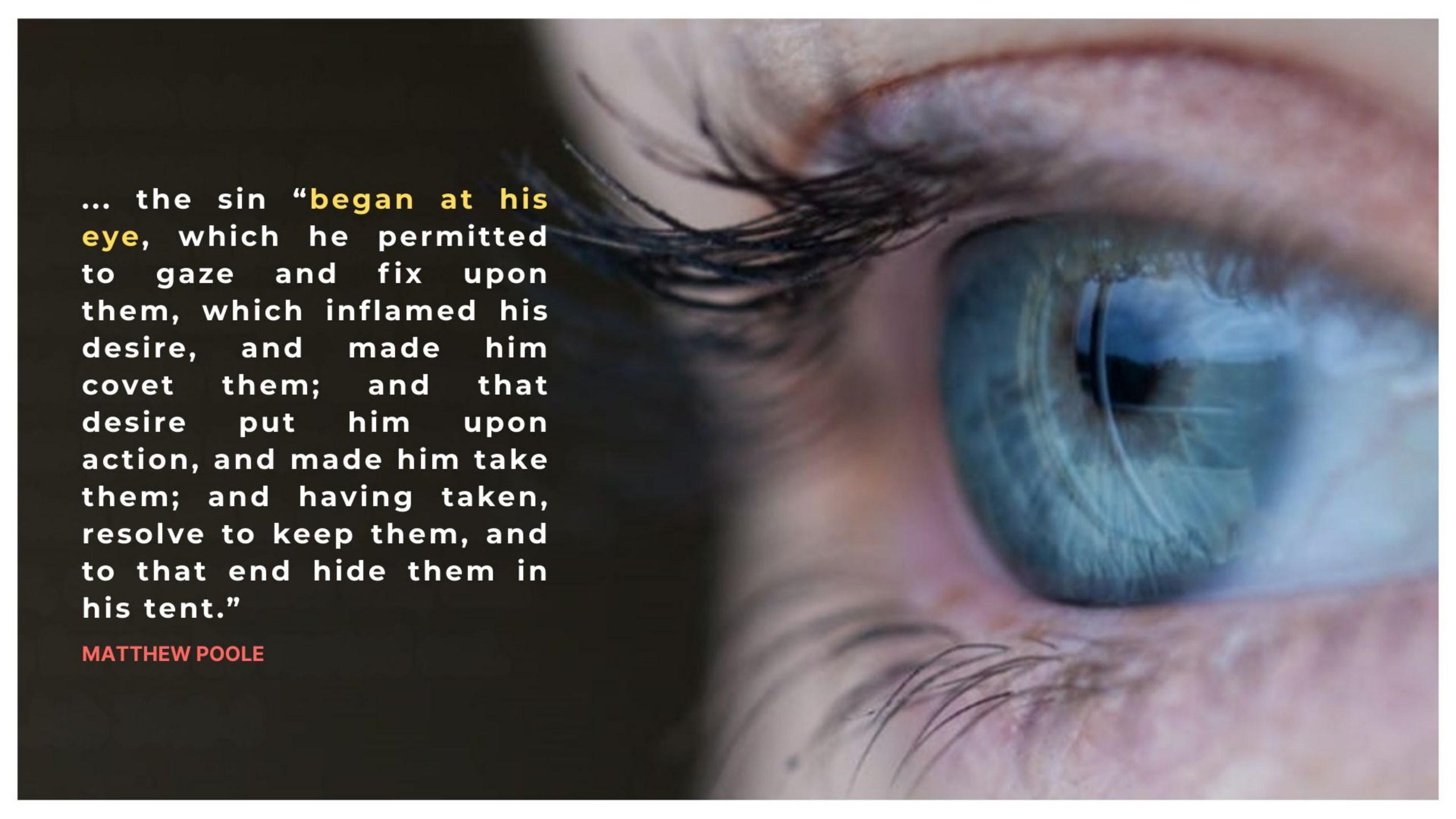
A dark, blue-toned image of a person's face in profile, looking down. The image is heavily shadowed and has a grainy, high-contrast appearance. The text "I SAW. I COVETED. I TOOK. I HID." is overlaid in white, serif font across the center of the image.

I SAW. I COVETED. I TOOK. I HID.



6 When the woman **saw** that the fruit of the tree was **good** for food and **pleasing** to the eye, and also **desirable** for gaining wisdom, she **took** some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and **made coverings** for themselves.

▶▶ GENESIS 3



... the sin “**began at his eye**, which he permitted to gaze and fix upon them, which inflamed his desire, and made him covet them; and that desire put him upon action, and made him take them; and having taken, resolve to keep them, and to that end hide them in his tent.”

**MATTHEW POOLE**

T  
H E  
E Y E  
I S T H E  
L A M P O F  
T H E B O D Y

IF YOUR EYE IS HEALTHY  
YOUR WHOLE BODY WILL BE

FULL OF LIGHT  
MATTHEW 6:22

23 BUT IF YOUR EYES ARE UNHEALTHY,  
YOUR WHOLE BODY WILL BE FULL OF  
DARKNESS. IF THEN THE LIGHT  
WITHIN YOU IS DARKNESS, HOW  
GREAT IS THAT DARKNESS!

(Matthew 6)

**Stepping into  
the LIGHT**





The Cost of

# Hidden Sin

<sup>22</sup> So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath. <sup>23</sup> They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the Lord.

<sup>24</sup> Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold bar, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor. <sup>25</sup> **Joshua said, 'Why have you brought this trouble on us? The Lord will bring trouble on you today.'**

**Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them. <sup>26</sup> Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor ever since.**

*(Joshua 7)*



# Conceal or Confess?

<sup>13</sup> **‘Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, “Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: there are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.**

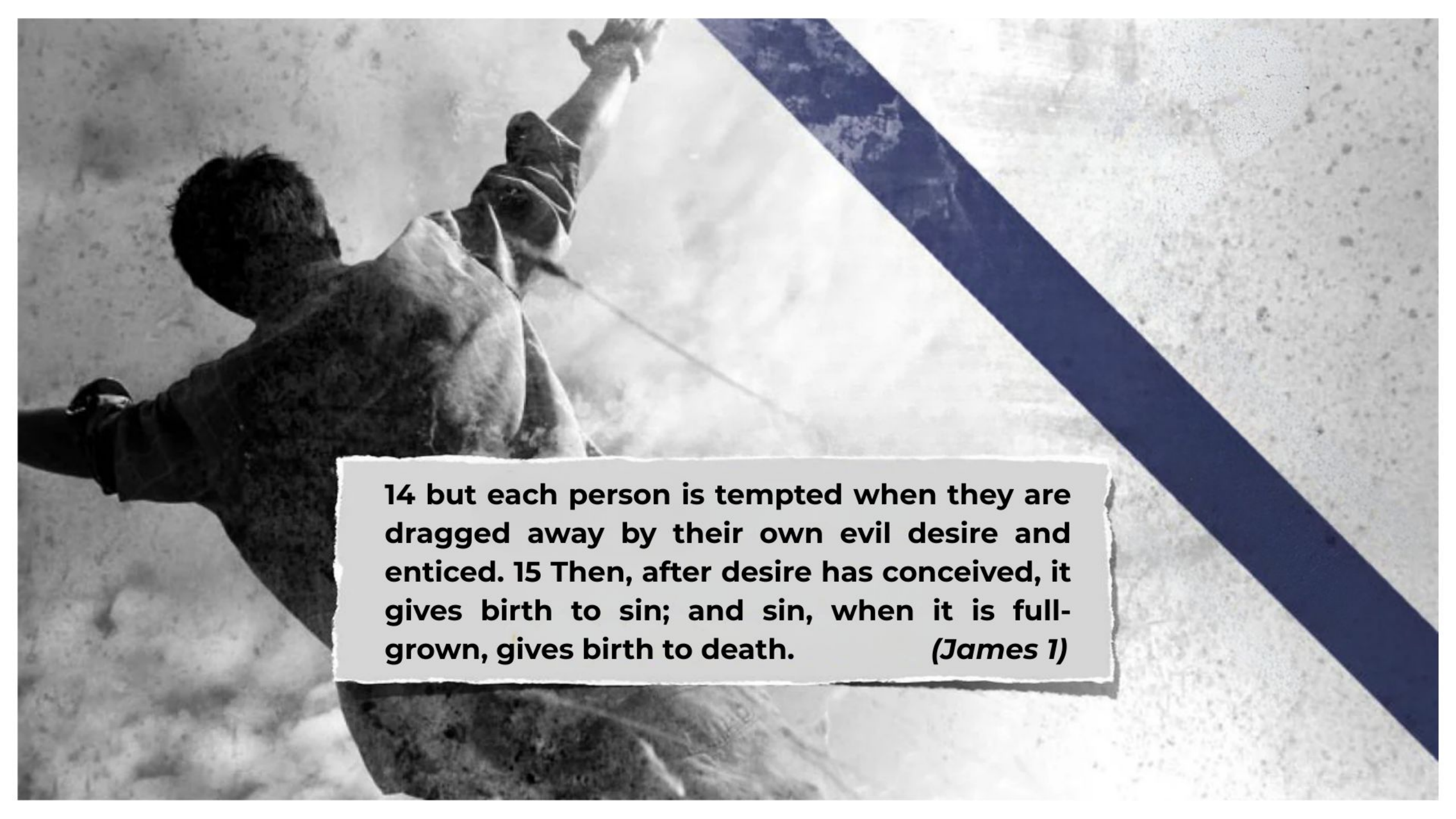
<sup>14</sup> **“In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe that the Lord chooses shall come forward clan by clan; the clan that the Lord chooses shall come forward family by family; and the family that the Lord chooses shall come forward man by man. <sup>15</sup> Whoever is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the Lord and has done an outrageous thing in Israel!”**

*(Joshua 7)*



A large, conical stone cairn is the central focus of the image, constructed from numerous light-colored, angular rocks. The cairn sits on a rocky, sparsely vegetated hillside. In the background, a range of mountains stretches across the horizon under a clear, pale blue sky. The foreground is filled with smaller, scattered rocks and some low-lying desert shrubs.

# The Valley of Trouble



**14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. *(James 1)***

# VICTORY *at* AI

1 Then the Lord said to Joshua, 'Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. For I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land. 2 You shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king, except that you may carry off their plunder and livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city.'

*Joshua 8*



Whoever  
**CONCEALS**  
his transgressions  
will not prosper,

but he who confesses and  
forsakes them will obtain

**MERCY.**

Proverbs 28:13



**EXPOSING** DARKNESS  
TO LIGHT  
**CONFESSION**

A teal-tinted photograph of a wooden double door, possibly made of weathered wood, set within a stone or concrete frame. The door is surrounded by lush, vibrant pink flowers, likely bougainvillea, which are climbing over the top and sides of the door. The background is a soft, hazy teal color, suggesting a misty or overcast day. The overall mood is serene and hopeful.

# *A Door of Hope*

<sup>15</sup> There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.  
There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt.

(Hosea 2)

Sharon will become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor

# *A Resting Place*

for herds, for my people who seek me.

(Isaiah 65:10)



**1. Hidden Sins:** Is there anything in your life you've been hiding or excusing that needs to be brought into the light? How could confession change your relationship with God?

**2. Ripple Effect:** How have you seen someone's sin affect others around them? What does this teach us about our responsibility to one another?



**3. Restoration:** What steps can you take this week to confess, renounce, or make right areas of disobedience? How does Achan's story show God's mercy after repentance?

**4. Takeaway:** What is the one lesson from Achan's story that I need to remember and apply in my life?

