The human heart struggles to be content
within the goodness of God.

Joshua 6:27 NIV

So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

Outline of Joshua

Entering the Land | *Chapters 1-5*

Chapter 1: Commissioning of Joshua

Chapter 2: Rahab's Rescue

Chapter 3: Crossing the Jordan

Chapters 4-5: Remembrance/Consecration

Conquering the Land | *Chapters 6-12*

Chapter 6: The Battle of Jericho

Chapters 7-8: The Battle of Ai

Possessing the Land | *Chapters 13-24*

Joshua 6:27 NIV

So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

Sin in the Camp

JOSHUA 7:1-26

Joshua 7:1 NIV

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.

Instruction on Devoted Things

Joshua 6:18 NIV

“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.”

Importance of Obedience

Joshua 1:7 NIV

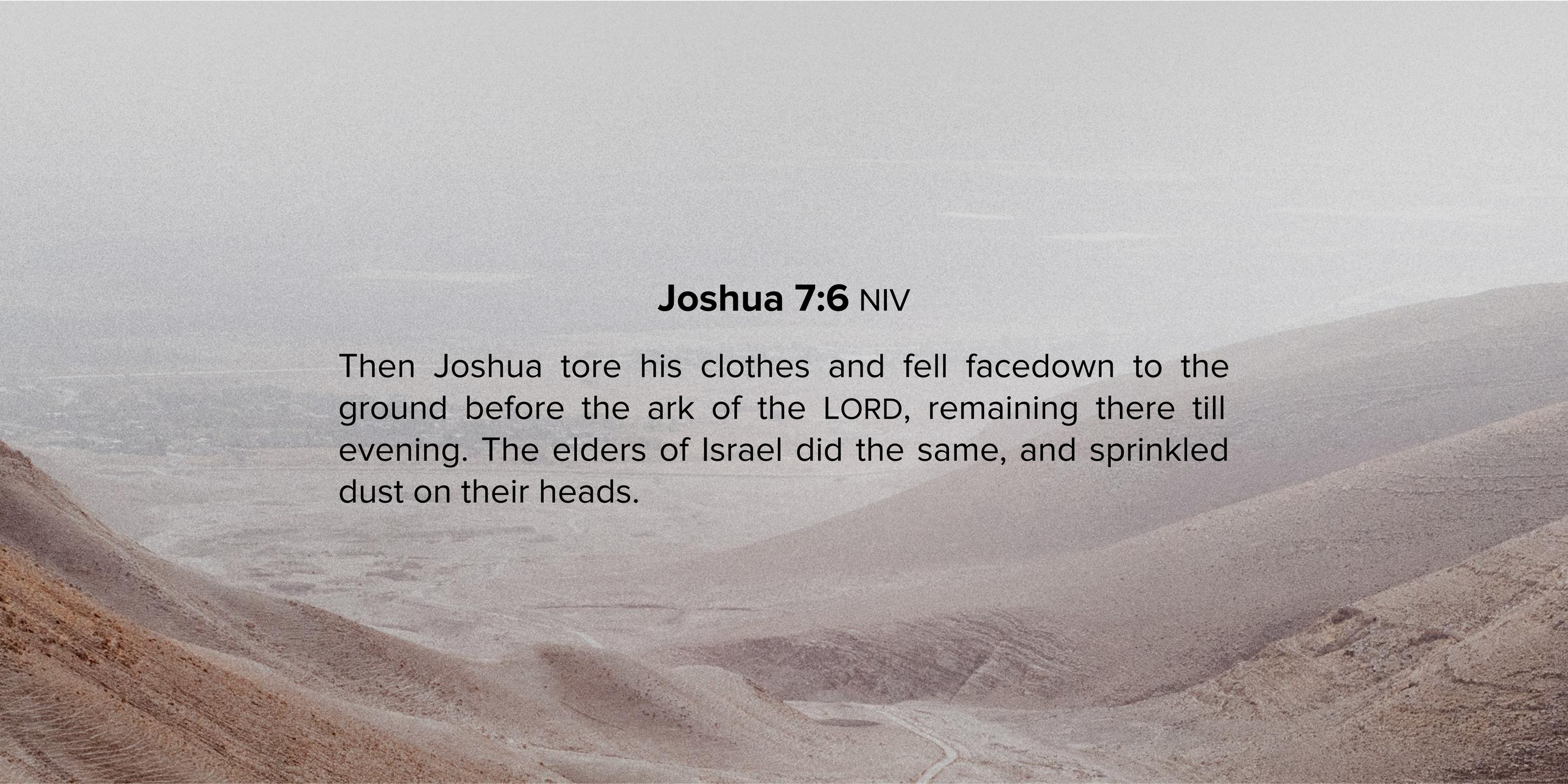
“Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.”

Joshua 7:2-3 NIV

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. 3 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.”

Joshua 7:4-5 NIV

So about three thousand went up; but they were routed
by the men of Ai, [5] 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 7:6 NIV

Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown 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.

Joshua 7:7-9 NIV

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! **8** Pardon
your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has
been routed by its enemies? **9** 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 7:10-12 NIV

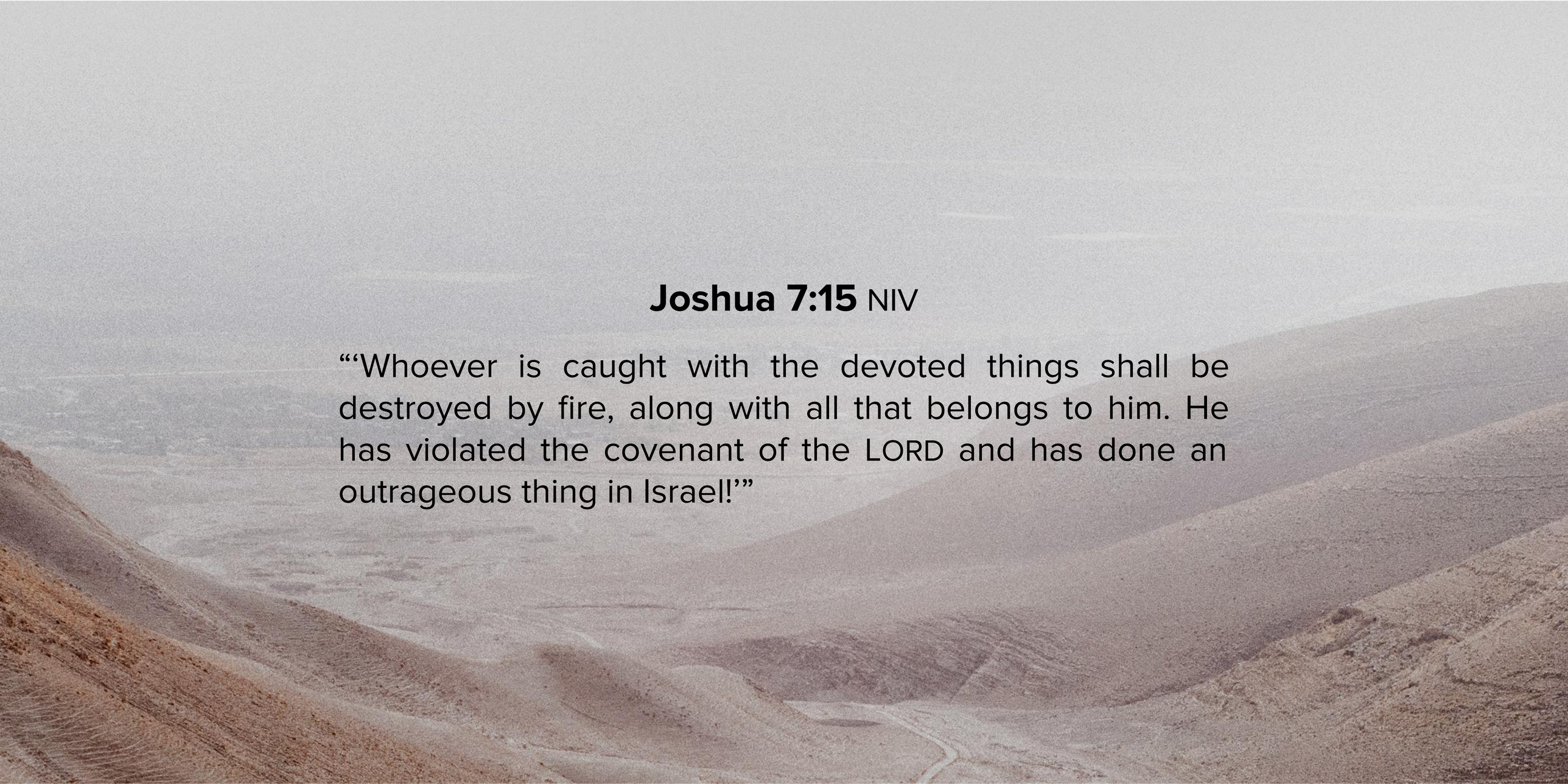
The LORD said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing
down on your face? 11 Israel has sinned; they have violated
my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They
have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen,
they have lied, they have put them with their own
possessions. 12 That is why the 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 anymore unless you destroy whatever
among you is devoted to destruction.”

Joshua 7:13 NIV

“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.’”

Joshua 7:14 NIV

"'In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe the LORD chooses shall come forward clan by clan; the clan the LORD chooses shall come forward family by family; and the family the LORD chooses shall come forward man by man.'"



Joshua 7:15 NIV

"'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 7:16-18 NIV

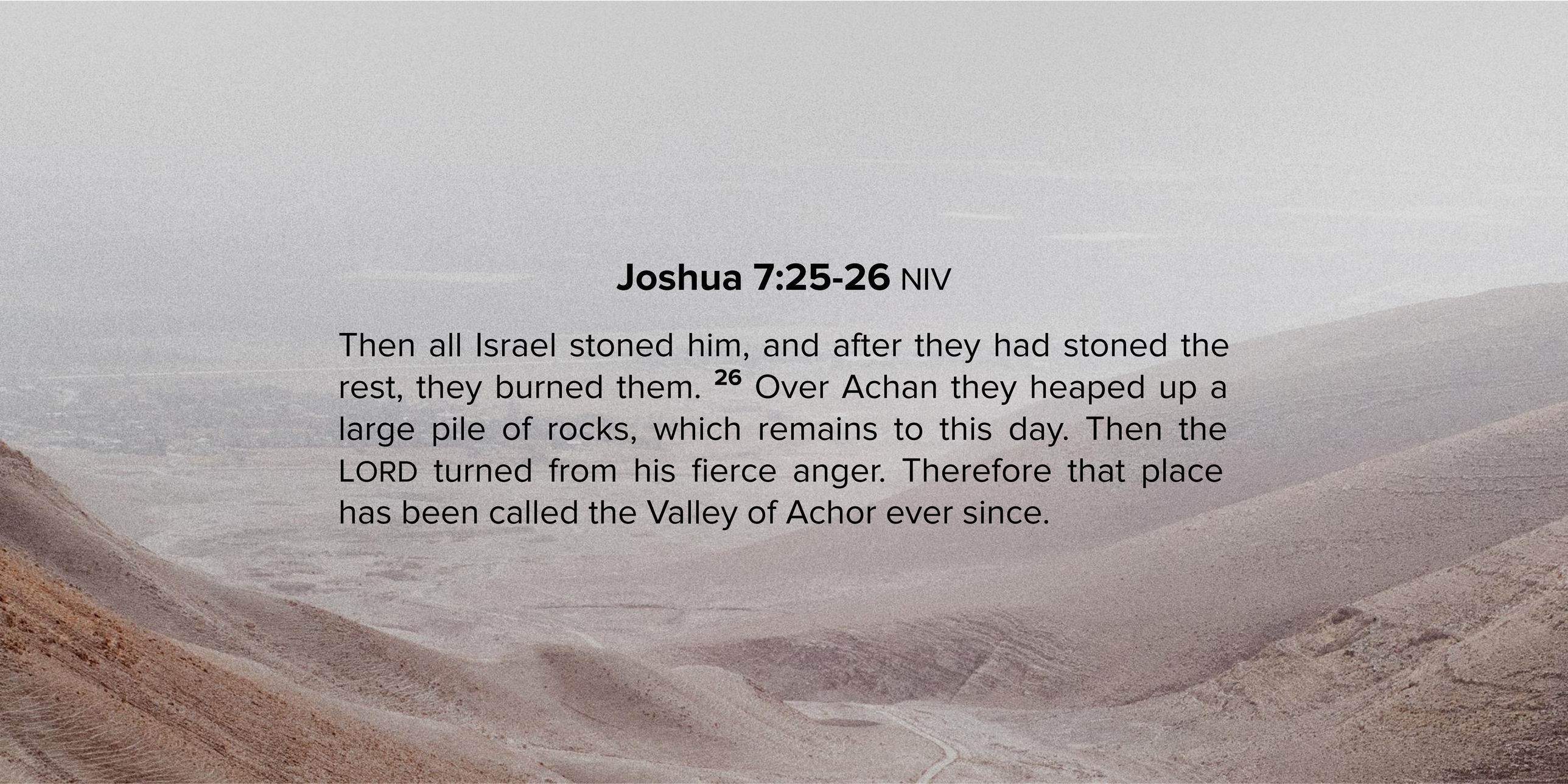
Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was chosen. [17] The clans of Judah came forward, and the Zerahites were chosen. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was chosen. [18] Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen.

Joshua 7:19-21 NIV

Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me.” **20** Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: **21** 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 7:22-25 NIV

So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath. **23** They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the LORD. **24** 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. **25** Joshua said, “Why have you brought this trouble on us? The LORD will bring trouble on you today.”



Joshua 7:25-26 NIV

Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them. [26] 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.

Sin is subject to God’s wrath.

“”

God is not open to the charge of double standards with regard to His treatment of Israel and the Canaanites.

- DAVID JACKMAN

Sin Has Consequences

For your life

For your relationship with God

For your relationship with others

Sin Has a Pattern

He saw.

He coveted.

He took.

Saw

Coveted

Took

Joshua 7:21 NIV

"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."

Saw

Coveted

Took

Genesis 3:6 NIV

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.

Saw

Coveted

Took

2 Samuel 11:2-4 NIV

From the roof he **saw** a woman bathing. The woman was very **beautiful**, 3 and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” 4 Then David sent messengers to **get her**. She came to him, and he slept with her.

Sin Has a Remedy

Romans 6:23 NIV

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Confession

1 John 1:8-9 NIV

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves
and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Hosea 2:15 NIV

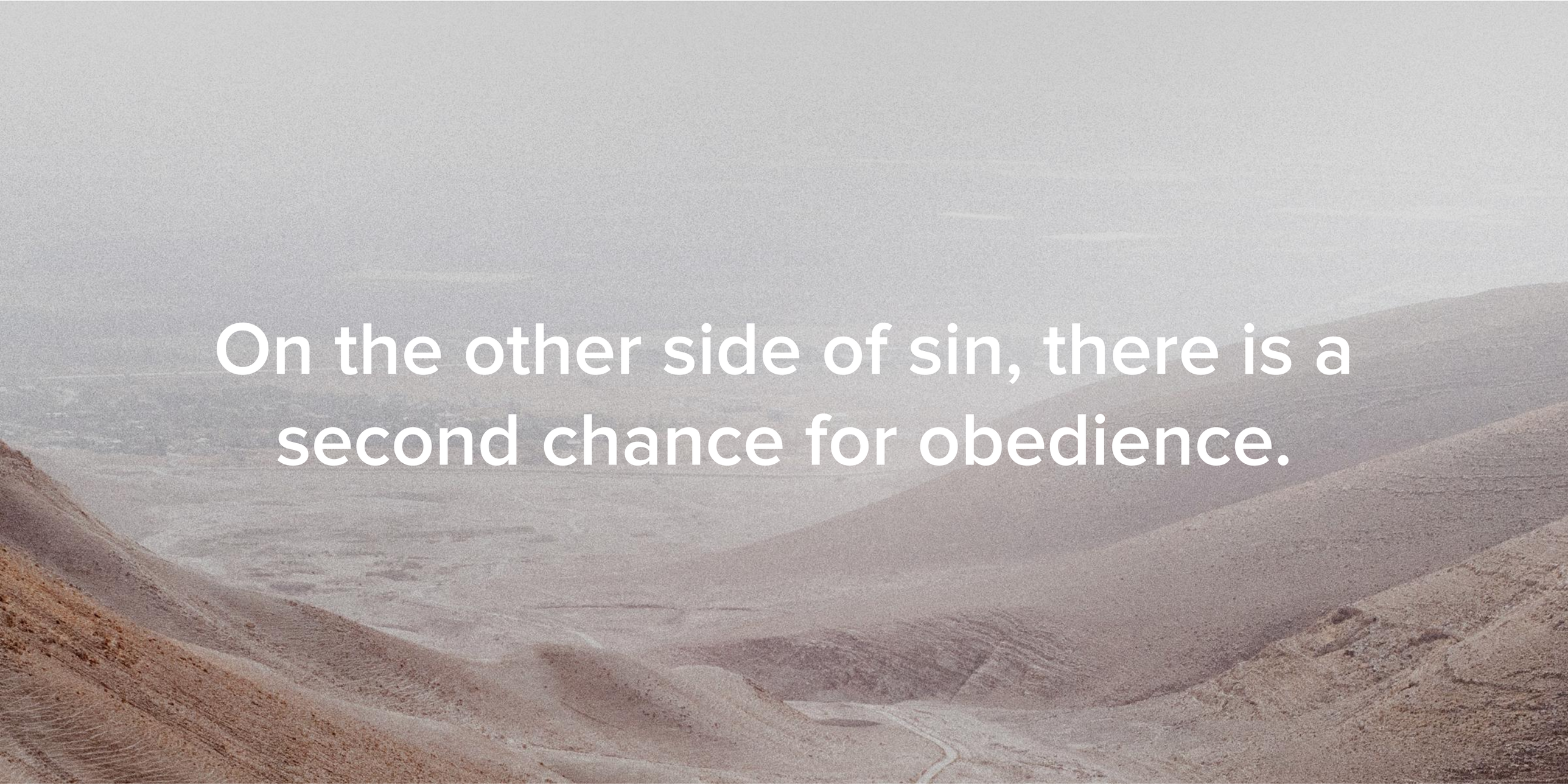
"There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make **the Valley of Achor a door of hope.** There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt."

Isaiah 65:10 NIV

"Sharon will become a pasture for flocks, and **the Valley of Achor a resting place** for herds, for my people who seek me."

Victory Over Ai

JOSHUA 8:1-35

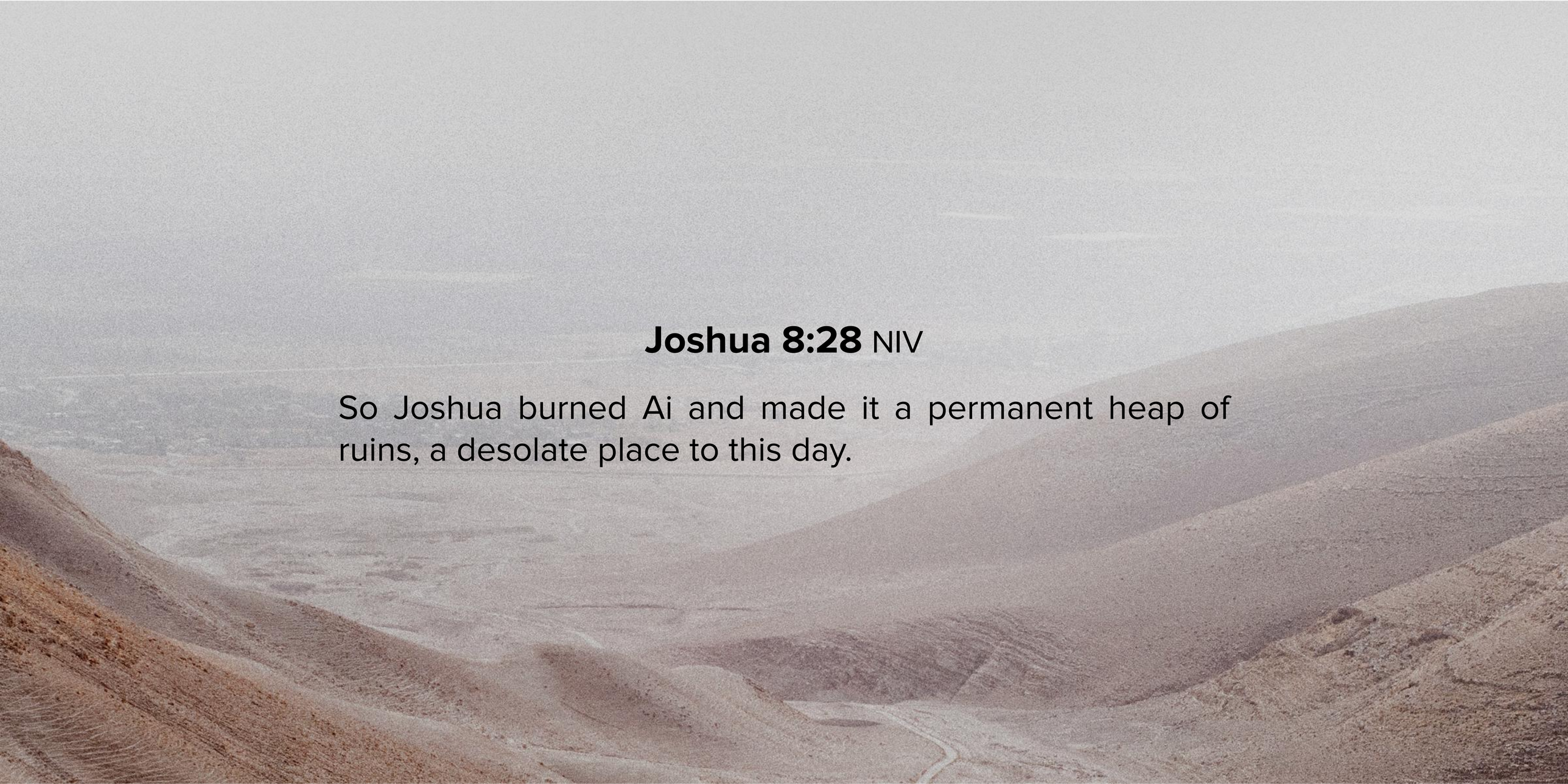

On the other side of sin, there is a
second chance for obedience.

Joshua 8:1-2 NIV

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.”

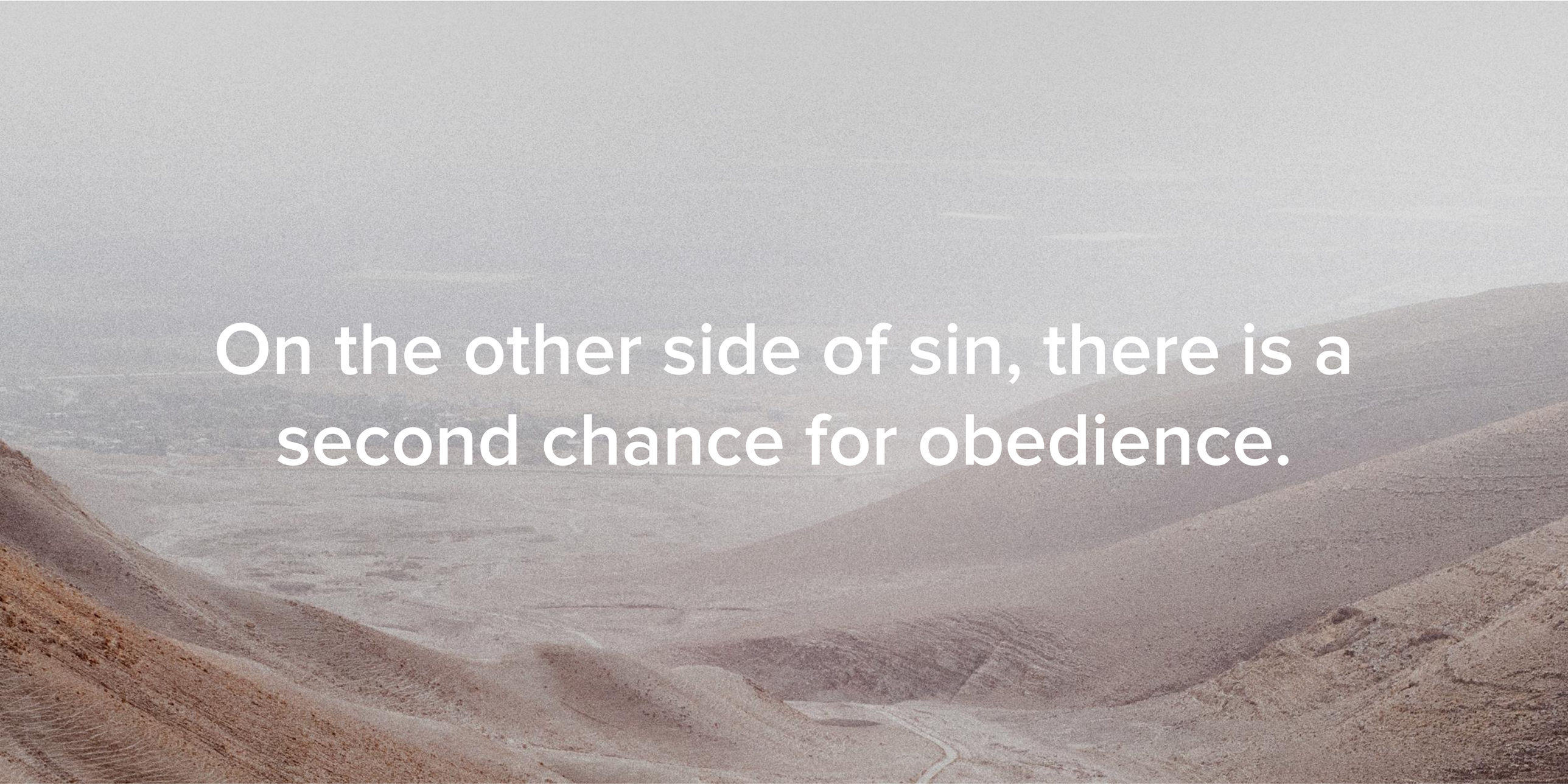
Joshua 8:3-7 NIV

So Joshua and the whole army moved out to attack Ai. He chose thirty thousand of his best fighting men and sent them out at night [4] with these orders: “Listen carefully. You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don’t go very far from it. All of you be on the alert. [5] I and all those with me will advance on the city, and when the men come out against us, as they did before, we will flee from them. [6] They will pursue us until we have lured them away from the city, for they will say, ‘They are running away from us as they did before.’ So when we flee from them, [7] you are to rise up from ambush and take the city. The LORD your God will give it into your hand.”



Joshua 8:28 NIV

So Joshua burned Ai and made it a permanent heap of ruins, a desolate place to this day.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