

# These Are the Sons of Israel.

by F.B. Meyer

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of living a life characterized by reverence and fear of God, as a single act or word can reveal a person's character and define their life.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 139:23-24, Proverbs 4:23, Ecclesiastes 12:14, Jeremiah 17:9, Matthew 12:34, Romans 14:12, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Galatians 6:7, James 1:22, 1 John 1:9

**Topics:** "Character", "Divine Judgment"

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## Description

F.B. Meyer emphasizes the irrevocable nature of God's judgment on human lives, as illustrated by the lives of Er and Achan, whose sins defined their legacies. He reflects on the complexity of human character, suggesting that while individuals may have moments of virtue, it is often their ultimate actions that are recorded in Scripture. Meyer urges believers to live with reverent fear and vigilance, recognizing that our words and deeds can encapsulate our true character. He warns that the heart is deceitful and must be diligently guarded, as it is the source of our actions. Ultimately, he calls for a perfect heart before God, acknowledging both forgiveness and the lasting impact of our choices.

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## Transcript

These are the sons of Israel. 1 Chron. ii. 1.

IT is noticeable how irrevocable the Divine sentence is on a human life. Of Er, the grave, impartial voice of Scripture says, he was "wicked in the sight of the Lord"; of Achan, he was the "troubler of Israel, and committed a trespass in the devoted thing." These sentences are recorded with such precision as to admit of no dispute, no appeal; and they sum up the life.

But was there not much else in each of these men? Were there not tender or chivalrous moments? Did they never shine for a moment in some transfiguring ray? Was all their life dyed with these sad and sombre hues? Ah, it may have been so; still the one thing that the Scripture tells of them is the sin in which all their life seemed to culminate and express itself. With unerring accuracy God can distinguish the one act or word by which the character is revealed. He may forgive it, but He holds it up as the epitome or summary of what the life was.

Let us see how we live, walking before God with reverent fear, watching and praying, because any moment may give birth to a word or act which may characterise our life in all coming time. It must be remembered, however, that all these things emanate from the heart. The heart is deceitful above all

things, and desperately wicked; but the issues of life proceed thence: it therefore must be watched with all diligence and care. What a man thinks, that he is. The chance word or act is a true indication of the inner life. Therefore it is preserved for all after&#8209;time by the voice of God. See that your heart is perfect before God. There is forgiveness; but then is also the unerring verdict.

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