

To the North and To the South

Joshua 9-11

While Joshua and the Children of Israel were worshipping God between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal, the kings in the hills, lowlands, and coastal areas of Canaan were planning an attack.

Read Joshua 9:1-15.

1. A common enemy brought otherwise rival kings together to form a coordinated attack against Israel. What did the inhabitants of Gibeon decide to do instead? (v. 3-4a)

We will continue to look at the conquering of the Promised Land as an example of the believer conquering obstacles in their walk and laying hold of the victorious life Christ has afforded them. In this scenario, Jericho represents the influence of the world, Ai represents the underestimated sinful nature (our flesh), and Gibeon, the last of the major cities to be conquered, represents Satan himself.

2. How does Jesus describe the devil in John 8:44?

3. Record the five lies the men from Gibeon told Joshua and the men of Israel.

v. 6 _____

v. 8 _____

v. 9 (what compelled them) _____

v. 11(their mission) _____

v.12-13 (their evidence) _____

4. **THINK:** What would you expect a caravan of important political ambassadors on a mission of peace to look and travel like?

5. What do the following verses teach us about Satan?

1 Peter 5:8 _____

2 Corinthians 11:3 _____

6. In what ways can we be deceived?

Obadiah 1:3 _____

1 Timothy 4:1 _____

James 1:22 _____

7. Where did Joshua go wrong and fall victim to their deceit? (v. 14)

8. **THINK:** How do you think taking some of the provisions the Gibeonites brought with them could have contributed to their being deceived?

9. What happened as a result of Joshua being deceived? (v. 15)

10. How could Joshua have applied the truth of 2 Corinthians 5:7? Be specific, don't just write down the verse.

11. How can we protect ourselves against being deceived?

Isaiah 28:16 _____

2 Timothy 3:13-14, 16 _____

James 1:25 _____

12. What instructions does Peter give us when it comes to Satan? (1 Peter 5:8-9)

Sober – to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect, moral alertness, free from the influence of intoxicants (metaphorically).

Vigilant – give strict attention to, be cautious, take heed lest one fall into sin.

Resist – to set oneself against, to withstand, resist, oppose.

Steadfast – to make solid, make firm, strengthen, make strong, establish.

Read Joshua 9:16-27.

Three days later, the gig was up. Joshua knew he had been deceived by the rulers of Gibeon.

13. God had commanded the Children of Israel, “You shall let nothing that breathes remain alive (Deut. 20:16-17). Using the analogy (Jericho = Worldly influence, Ai = Sin Nature, Gibeon = Satan’s influence), why would God want everything that breathes (Jericho = Worldly influence, Ai = Sin Nature, Gibeon = Satan’s influence) to be put to death?

14. How could making a treaty with the Gibeonites prove troublesome for the Israelites? What had they lost or given up by failing to consult the Lord?

15. Why didn't Joshua nullify the deal with the Gibeonites when he discovered they were lying? (v. 18)

16. **THINK:** Breaking the covenant sworn by the Lord's name would have resulted in taking the Lord's name in vain. Why do you think this would be the case?

17. How does 2 Samuel 21:1-2 confirm that God intended for Joshua to keep the covenant made with the Gibeonites?

18. Joshua made a mistake in making a covenant with Gibeon, but they would pay a price for their deception. What did Joshua enforce when it came to the people of Gibeon? (Joshua 9:22-23)

We will all make mistakes. When we do, we should be quick to acknowledge them and look for opportunities to take our mistakes and use them for God's glory.

Read Joshua 10:1-15.

19. **THINK:** What do you think King Adoni-Zedek hoped to accomplish in forming an alliance against Gibeon?

20. What can you learn from the people of Gibeon, this great city with all its mighty men, in times of spiritual attack? (v. 6)

21. How was the initial part of the victory against King Adoni-Zedek's alliance accomplished?

What did Joshua and his men do? (v. 9-10, 12)

What did God do? (v. 10-11, 13)

Joshua had failed to inquire of the Lord when he made a peace treaty with Gibeon, but he didn't sit in his failure. He acknowledged where he went wrong and moved forward in obedience. When Gibeon cried out for help, he did what he knew God would want, and the Lord not only blessed his efforts but answered his plea for miraculous intervention. Joshua may have messed up, but he understood God's forgiveness and that, having been forgiven, he could boldly call on His God for help.

22. Is there an area in your life where you need to acknowledge your mistake, ask forgiveness, and move forward in obedience? If so, use this space to have that conversation with God.

Read Joshua 10:16-27.

The victory was yet to be completed. The kings fled and hid in a cave, while others were escaping on foot.

23. How did Joshua prioritize the final stages of the battle? (v. 18-19)

The capture of these great kings could have been distracting to Joshua, but he showed wisdom and restraint in finishing what was most needed before turning his attention to the hidden kings.

24. What were the two major results of this strategy? (v.21)

When the army came to be reviewed after the battle, there was none slain, none wounded, none missing. Not one Israelite had occasion to lament either the loss of a friend or the loss of a limb, so cheap, so easy, so glorious, was this victory.

- Matthew Henry

These five kings came against God. When they recognized they could not stand against Him, they sought refuge in a cave. Thinking they were wise, the place where they sought to save themselves became their prison and eventually their grave. They had escaped the hail and escaped the sword, but they would not escape judgment for their sins against Him.

25. How can what happened to these rebellious kings serve as a lesson for all mankind?

Read Joshua 10:28-43.

26. What was the outcome of Joshua's southern conquest? (v. 40)

27. What two factors were key to Joshua's success? (v. 40, 42)

28. Read the following verses and record what you learn about obedience.

Acts 5:29 _____

Romans 1:5 _____

1 John 5:3 _____

2 John 1:6 _____

Read Joshua 11.

29. Summarize the efforts of Jabin and describe the resulting army and its purpose.

30. Can you recall a time in your life when you felt like everything was coming against you at once? Take a moment to record how you felt and how you responded.

31. Look closely at verse six. What can we assume about how Israel felt at this moment? Why did God want them to take control of their feelings? And what can you learn and apply to your own situations from this verse?

32. Joshua turned around and made the most of his opportunity. What opportunities could you be making better use of to bring God glory? (v. 10-15)

Verse 13 indicates that not all of the cities were burned. Israel had completed the main task of defeating the major cities. As the land was divided and allocated to each tribe, it would be up to each tribe to continue the work that had been started.

33. **THINK:** How does this relate to Jesus' work on the cross and the believer's walk?

34. Who was the last group of people Joshua and Israel faced together, and what were the results? (v. 21-22)

35. **THINK:** Why do you think facing the Anakim was particularly significant, and what can you learn from the timing? (Numbers 13:1-2, 26, 28, 32-33)

36. What giants are still lurking in your promised land, and how might God be preparing you to face them?

Joshua and the Israelites could not claim victory until they faced the giants that sent them wandering for forty years. But God, in His faithfulness, took the time needed to prepare them to face their giants and claim the victory!

A Closer Look at Seeking the Counsel of the Lord

Joshua 9:14

37. Read Joshua 9:14. What did the Israelites fail to do? _____

If you were to look up the word *counsel* in the original Hebrew language, you would learn that *counsel* means *mouth*. Isaiah 40:5 says, "The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the *mouth of the LORD has spoken*."

The Israelites failed to heed the Word of the Lord. They failed to ask and, therefore, failed to listen. Joshua 9 tells of the consequences of not seeking the Lord's counsel. Let's explore what Scripture teaches us about heeding *the mouth/word/counsel of the Lord*.

39. Look up John 1:1-3,14. What is another description of Jesus? _____

40. Look up 2 Timothy 3:16-17. How is the Word of God beneficial to us?

41. Scripture teaches us that we are to seek wisdom. Read Proverbs 2:6.

Who gives us wisdom? _____

What comes from His mouth? _____

42. Read James 1:5-6. What are you to do when you need wisdom?

Wisdom is from God. All we have to do is ask, and He will give it to us liberally. Proverbs 4:7 tells us to get wisdom, to get understanding, and to take firm hold of instruction. Proverbs 2:2-5 instructs us to incline our ears to wisdom, apply our hearts to understanding, and cry out for discernment. When we do so, we will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. We will have His counsel.

43. Look up Proverbs 19:20-21.

a. What are we instructed to do? _____

b. What is the result of following these instructions? _____

c. If it is the Lord's counsel that will stand, what does this tell us about man's plans?

44. Look up Psalm 119:105. How does this verse apply to seeking counsel?

45. Look up the following verses. How do we apply these verses when seeking counsel?

Psalm 1:1-6

Proverbs 15:22

Proverbs 20:18

Hebrews 4:12

46. Go back and read Joshua 9:14 and review all of the verses we have read in this section. How could the Israelites have done better?

47. Think of a personal situation where you need to seek the Lord's counsel (not your own, not the world's). What steps will you take?

"Blessed is the (wo)man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful, but (her) delight is in the law of the Lord."

- Psalm 1:1-2a