

## Joshua

### Lesson #10, Chapter 9

Israel has now successfully driven a wedge through Canaan with the defeats of Jericho and Ai, effectively dividing the north from the south. God has prepared the nation for the northern and southern campaigns of the conquest of the Promised Land.

1. The kings of Joshua 9:1 are grouped into three geographical areas. What are they (verse 1)? Where are the Israelites in relation to these areas (8:30, 33)?
2. What events in Chapters 6-8 did the Canaanite kings hear about? What was their plan to withstand Israel's invasion (verse 2)?
3. Another group hears about Israel's invasion into the land. Who were they and how are they described in verses 3-4? Also look at verse 7 for another name for this group of people.
4. Fearing for their lives, the Gibeonites do some scheming. Describe their plan (verses 3-6).
5. For some reason the Gibeonites thought Joshua would make a covenant with them if they convinced him they were from a "far country." Why is that? See Deut. 7:1-2; 20:10-18.
6. What things do the Gibeonites do and say to convince Israel to make a covenant of peace with them (verses 3-13)?

7. Joshua inquires where the men are from. What is their answer (verse 9)? Locate Gibeon on your map. Approximately how far is it from Gilgal?
  
8. What did the Gibeonites know to be true of Israel and God (verses 9-10)?
  
9. The Israelites were justified in being wary of other people. What things had God said about making a covenant with the people of the land? See Ex. 23:32-33; 34:12-16.
  
10. Israel understood the clear command of God not to make a covenant with any of the peoples of the land, yet they were convinced to do so by the Gibeonites' appearance and smooth words. What should Joshua and the leaders of Israel have done? See Ex. 28:30 and Num. 27:18-21.
  
11. What three terms of commitment are made by the leaders with the Gibeonites in verse 15?
  
12. Joshua and the leaders of Israel foolishly trusted their own judgment and made their own plans without seeking God's counsel. We often do the very same thing. What does God say about trusting and seeking Him for guidance in the following verses? Ps. 9:10; 37:3-5; Prov. 3:5-7; 16:3; 28:26; Jas. 1:5.

13. What things do we need to keep in mind when dealing with an enemy or the ultimate enemy of all who follow God, which is Satan? See Prov. 12:5, 20; Jer. 17:9; Matt. 10:16; 2 Cor. 2:11b; I Pet. 5:8. How would understanding these truths about an enemy help you be more diligent in applying the verses you looked up in Question #12?
  
14. In verses 16-18 the deception is unmasked. How did the Israelite's react when they found out they had been deceived?
  
15. What reasons do the leaders give for maintaining the covenant, even though it was made under false pretenses (verses 19-20)?
  
16. Eager Beaver: See Judges 11:29-40; I Sam. 14:24-27, 44; Matt. 14:7-9; Acts 23:21 for other examples of unwise oaths.
  
17. Even though the Israelite leaders were deceived when they made the covenant with the men of Gibeon, the covenant was not nullified (verses 18-20). Why? See Lev. 5:4-5; Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:23.
  
18. Even though it was an unwise oath, once it was made it was to be kept with all the responsibilities the relationship entailed. In what ways was that promise tested? See Joshua 10:6 and 2 Sam. 21:1-6. What do you learn?

19. What do the Scriptures have to say about keeping your word? See Deut. 23:21-23; Ps. 15; Rom. 1:31.
  
20. Sometimes keeping your word can cost you, as it did the Israelites, yet this quality reflects God's faithfulness. When do you struggle to keep your word? How have you seen growth in this area in your life? How is procrastination an example of not keeping your word?
  
21. Eager Beaver: How is Joshua 9:21 a fulfillment of the prophecy of Gen. 9:18-27?
  
22. What truth motivated the Gibeonites to proceed with their deception (verse 24)? What was their attitude toward the Israelites (verse 25)?
  
23. The people of Gibeon were sentenced to be wood cutters and drawers of water for the altar in the tabernacle. Yet what did their sentence allow them to be exposed to on a regular basis? See Ex. 30:1, 6-10; 40:10; Lev. 1:17; 4:18-20. How would that be a potential blessing for them?
  
24. Joshua and Israel's leaders were duped and consequently did not seek the Lord's counsel. What are some ways the enemy has fooled you into thinking you don't need God's guidance and direction in certain areas? In what way do the seemingly "small" things need to be entrusted to the Lord's care as much as the larger ones?