

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE AND MOVE ON LESSON 8

Series Subject: Accept the Challenge and Move On!

Lessons 5-10: Conquest of Canaan Josh. 5:1-12:24

Lesson 8: The Fraudulent Scheme by the Gibeonites Josh. 9:1-27

Today's Study: Josh. 9:1-27

1. Dread Vv. 1-2
2. Deception Vv. 3-15
3. Discovery Vv. 16-21
4. Denunciation/Damnation Vv. 22-27

Time is available only for a brief review of questions from previous lesson.

INTRODUCTION

1. Highlights from Lesson 7

- (a) Joshua promptly and properly addressed the issues relating to Israel's defeat at Ai; he was once more assured by God that victory over the enemy was accomplished (Josh. 8:1).
- (b) The following is an important highlight to remember:
"Corruption and disruption within the Church weakens the hands and dampens the spirit of leaders and members and hinders the work of God far more than any external opposition."
- (c) As it relates to Israel after Achan, the first key factor regarding victory was to receive encouragement from God.
 - (1) Achan's transgression brought devastating effects to Israel but they had properly dealt with the situation, now it's time to move on!
 - (2) If morale was low, victory cannot be realized and Israel must go into battle wholly and solely relying on God.
- (d) In regards to the failed attempt on Ai, the assault was based on Israel's intuition, their determination, etc.; now this second assault would be by the guidance and presence of God!!
- (e) When Israel defeated Jericho, no spoil was allowed (Josh. 6:17-19); however, Ai was not under ban and the soldiers were to take "spoil and cattle"(Josh. 8:2).
 - (1) "Spoil of war" refers to any profit extracted as the result of winning a war or military activity.
 - (2) Spoil of war provided the army and the nation with the necessary food, livestock and weapons needed in wartime.
- (f) Ambush was the strategy recommended by God for the second assault on Ai (Josh. 8:2, 8).

- (1) God gave Joshua the general plan and left him to his experience and divine enabling to lay out the specific plan of battle.
 - (2) Joshua continued to be a well-organized, detailed, diligent and thorough leader and did all that was necessary for Israel's second assault on Ai.
 - (g) As God had assured Joshua (Josh. 8:1-2) victory over Ai was realized. The victory was complete and comprehensive, all the inhabitants were killed in battle or executed; the city was burnt and the king hung and buried under a large pile of stones at the gate of the city.
 - (h) Joshua and the people then journeyed to Shechem (30 miles north of Ai) in the valley between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim (Josh. 8:30—35)
 - (1) There they had a rededication service which included building an altar on Mount Ebal, offered Burnt Offerings and Peace Offerings; writing of the Laws on whitewashed stones and the reading of the Law as was recommended by Moses (Deut. 11:29-32 and Deut. 27).
 - (2) Joshua's act of obedience in conducting the rededication service is of significance in so many ways, for example, the importance of taking time out to be refreshed and renewed by God. Here is one thought expressed in a quote by Bible.org:

“Our capacity in life is always dependent on our capacity and orientation to the plan of God. Many Christians continually face defeat in their walk because they fail to take time to get with alone with the Lord and to reflect on Him and to put on their spiritual armor.”
 - (i) The experience at Ai taught Joshua some valuable lessons that are relevant to all believers.
 - (1) He learnt that failure could be turned into triumph.
 - (2) He learnt afresh that he was entirely dependent upon the Lord.
 - (3) He learnt the value of full participation.
 - (4) He learnt the necessity to totally destroy what God considered to be abominable.
 - (5) He learnt that there was no cover for sin which would hide it from God.
- 2. A Summary of Joshua 9**
- (a) We noticed the attitude of an audacious and vengeful confederacy of the kings on the west of Jordan coming together in unity with the sole purpose of destroying the Israelites (Vv. 1-2).
 - (b) There was a second confederacy of the Gibeonites with Israel (Vv. 3-27).
 - (1) We have seen the subtle way it was proposed and petitioned for by the Gibeonites who pretended to have travelled from a faraway country to make alliance with Israel. It was a scheme Israel consented to without consulting God (Vv. 13-15).
 - (2) It wasn't long after the agreement was made before Israel realized that they were deceived. The people of Israel were annoyed with the leaders but it was

eventually decided that they, Israel, had to honor the agreement made and they sought for a reasonable alternative (Vv. 16-21).

- (3) The final decision was adjusted and drafted based on the deception of the Gibeonites, how best to make them accountable and how to protect Israel from further deception. The decision drafted was accepted by all; the Gibeonites' lives were spared because they had been covenanted with; ...
...however, they would render services to Israel by providing wood and water needed for worship rituals (Vv. 22-27).

3. Selected Verses Josh. 9:1-2, 3-4, 14-15, 16, 18, 22-23, 26-27 NIV

“Now when all the kings west of Jordan heard about these things—the kings in the hill country, in the western foothills and along the entire coast of the Mediterranean sea as far as Lebanon they came together to wage war against Joshua and Israel

However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, they resorted to a ruse (*ruse: an action intended to deceive someone; a trick ... my insert*): They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended

The Israelites sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD. Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified the oath.

Three days after they made the treaty with the Gibeonites, the Israelites heard that they were neighbors, living near them. But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the assembly had sworn an oath to them by the LORD, the God of Israel.

Then Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said, ‘Why did you deceive us by saying, ‘We live a long way from you,’ while actually you live near us? You are now under a curse: you will never be released from service as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of God.’

So Joshua saved them from the Israelites, and they did not kill them. That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the assembly., to provide the needs of the altar of the LORD at the place the LORD would choose. And that is what they are to this day.”

A. Dread Josh. 9:1-2

1. Worry and Despondency

- (a) The power and presence of the true and living God produced fear.
(1) There is none like God (**Ex. 15:11**; Deut. 33:26; 2 Sam. 7:22; etc.)

- (2) He is the Creator and sustainer of all (**Psa. 24:1**; Ex. 19:5; Lev. 25:23; 1 Chron. 29:14; Psa. 50:10) .
- (3) He is the true and living God (**Jer. 10:10**; John 17:3; Heb. 1:8; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 20:11-15).
- (b) He is feared among the nations.
 - (1) Jacob's experience going back to Bethel (Gen. 35:1-7, NB. v. 5)
 - (2) The Egyptians feared being destroyed (Ex. 12, NB v. 33)
 - (3) Such reality expressed by Moses in his victory song (Ex. 15:16)
 - (4) Characterized the Canaanites (Josh. 2:9-11; 5:1; 6:1; 9:1-4)
 - (5) Such fear was assured by God (**Deut. 2:25**)

2. **Who** (Josh. 9:1)

Who are the opposing forces, as noted in our text?

- (a) Great alliance of the Canaanite kings (west of Jordan Josh. 9:1-2).
 - (1) It's somewhat unusual that this alliance was not done before.
 - (2) They knew that the land of Canaan was given to Israel by God (Josh. 2:9).
 - (3) All along they knew of the victories experienced by Israel through the power and presence of God; be it the deliverance from Egypt to the defeat of Ai (Josh. 2:10-11; 6:1-27; 8:1-35).
 - (4) They knew that the threat of destruction for all the inhabitants of Canaan was imminent.
 - (5) It was unusual that they didn't form an alliance with Jericho and Ai or the cities owned by the Gibeonites.
- (b) It is also surprising that they did it when they did.
 - (1) But with the destruction of Jericho and Ai; the alliance became a matter of top priority as destruction was knocking on their doors.
 - (2) Most likely, the alliance was formed when Israel was having the rededication ceremony at Shechem (Josh. 8:30-35).
 - This solemn occasion was a time of refreshing, and soaring in heavenly atmosphere, in the very presence of God!!
 - They, Israelites, were renewing the covenant to follow God wholeheartedly.
 - It was a great experience, a time in which they were conscious of the holy presence of God flooding their souls.
 - A dear saint and beloved church mother reminded me some years ago: "When God blesses, Satan comes messing!!"
 - That's a reality we all experience as we travel on our pilgrim's journey.
 - **NOTE:** Israel was experiencing the blessings of God and the enemy was forming an alliance to attack! To destroy God's people!!
- (c) What they heard produced a great fear among them! (Josh. 9:1)
 - (1) Because of what they heard and continues to hear they sounded an alarm, that went across to all these kings west of Jordan!

- (2) This was not just about Israel's conquest of other nations or was it about the great convention at Mount Ebal and Gerizim but about the destruction overshadowing these kings that were forming the alliance!!
- Indeed, beloved, "There is a Great Day Coming!"
 - Oh, that millions more would sincerely seek God while there is still time! (Isa. 55:6-7).

3. **What** (Josh. 9:2)

What was the objective to be achieved by forming this alliance?

(a) It was a large coalition of Canaanite forces (v. 1)

- (1) It was not to seek alliance with God and His people!!
- They had no desire for peace and to seek mercy.
 - "They gathered themselves together to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord" (Josh. 9:2 KJV).
- (2) This was a united front against Israel, the people of God!!
- They, the alliance, were ready to sacrifice personal differences and unite to resist the advance Israel was making.
 - This is a classic, frontal attack—they will try to defeat Israel on the battlefield, in head-to-head competition.
 - We have no indication of Joshua sending out alarm signals, despite the possible size of the alliance Joshua was not in any way terrified.

(b) This organized opposition could be a means to boost the courage of God's people.

(1) **Isa. 54:17 NKJV**

"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn ..."

(2) **Psa. 37:1-2 NKJV**

"Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like grass, and wither as the green herb."

(3) **Psa. 2:4-5 NKJV**

"He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure."

(Read the Psalm)

4. **Warfare against Forces of Evil ... Victory is Assured in Jesus Christ**

Satan and his host of demons have always fought against the work of God and will continue to do so until eternally bound, however, we should never be disheartened no matter the challenges, because we are the Church of Jesus Christ and He has promised that the "gates of hell will not prevail against it!!" (Matt. 16:12-20, NB Vv. 17-18).

(a) This fact is clearly seen in Josh. 9:1-2 and chapter 10; spiritual enemies will always seek to destroy the believers, the people of God.

- (1) Satan and his host of evil forces will continuously seek to rob and to destroy (John 10:10).
 - (2) These evil forces of the spiritual world seek to destroy our faith in God and our victorious faith in Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:13; 1 John 2:26).
 - (3) We have discussed this subject many times, but it is of such importance that we do need to repeat it as often as we possibly can. Beloved whenever we let down our guard, Satan can move in (Matt. 12:43-45), therefore we must always remain watchful, sober and vigilant (1 Peter 5:8-9).
- (b) As noted above, the alliance of the west Jordan kings was formed after Israel's victories and their rededication to wholly follow the LORD God.
- (1) Beloved, the attack of the enemy is especially strong when we are experiencing a spiritual high.
 - It is in moments of recommitment, of renewing our covenant with God that the devil forms an alliance of evil, to present a strong attack against us!!
 - It is those times of spiritual victories, times of refreshing, times being in the very presence of God, when the alliance of evil comes against us.
 - **It's also Satan's objective to seek to destroy those who are victorious, who continue to pursue a life of holiness and sincere dedication to God; such persons are a threat to him (Satan) and he will seek to destroy. The devil and the forces of evil do not worry about weak believers!!**
 - (2) Accept it or not, the believer is engaged in spiritual warfare and Satan will attack us when we experience our spiritual highs and we are to be aware and live cautiously and above reproach with the help of God (1 Cor. 10:12; Titus 2:7).
 - **Luke 22:31 Amplified Bible**
 "Simon, Simon (Peter), listen! Satan has asked excessively that [all of] you be given to him [out of the power and keeping of God], that he might sift [all of] you like grain, [Job 1:6-12; Amos 9:9]."
Although Satan is so motivated note carefully verse 32
 "But I have prayed especially for you [Peter], that your [own] faith may not fail; and when you yourself have turned again, strengthen and establish your brethren."
 • See also Matt. 4:1; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 2:1-7; 6:10-13; 2 Tim. 2:4.

(c) **The Hymn: We Have an Anchor**

Partial Quote

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
 Steadfast and sure while the billows roll
 Fastened to the Rock which cannot move
 Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love

Refrain

We have an anchor that keeps the soul

Steadfast and sure while the billows roll
 Fastened to the Rock which cannot move
 Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love

B. Deception Josh. 9:13-15

NOTE:

We have two different strategies of attack against Israel.

- (a) **First**, we have the alliance of the west Jordan kings who unite in order to destroy Israel (Josh. 9:1-2).
- (b) **Second**, the Gibeonites realized their inability to conquer Israel, devised a deceptive scheme to save themselves by forming an alliance with Israel (Josh. 9).

Josh. 9:15 Amplified Bible

"Joshua made peace with them, covenanting with them to let them live, and the assembly's leaders swore to them."

1. Layout (Josh. 9:3-5)

(a) Mixed reactions

- (1) The alliance formed by the kings of west Jordan was done because they **heard** about Israel and planned to destroy them (Josh. 9:1-2).
- (2) The Gibeonites also **heard** (Josh. 9:3), weighed the consequences and decided to seek peace with Israel.
 - The threat of the alliance of the west Jordan kings was a serious one but not in comparison to that of the Gibeonites.
 - The Gibeonites threat was a scheme of deception and lies under the guise of a peace treaty.
 - Obviously the Gibeonites had four cities (Josh. 9:17) of which Gibeon was an important fortress and larger than Ai, located 20 to 25 miles from Gilgal.
 - Their soldiers were regarded as mighty men (Josh. 10:2).
 - Israel was commanded to destroy and not to make alliance with the Canaanites or any heathen nations (Ex. 23:23-33, NB Vv. 1-7, and highlight v. 2; etc.).
 - Unanimously, the Gibeonites, agreed that their best option was to seek peace with Israel at any cost.
- (3) This mixed reaction, one source was repulsive and the other desired to associate, is true in regards to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (*time only for a few pointers*):
 - From the cradle to the cross . . .
 - The wise men and shepherds sincerely sought Jesus; Herod sought Him to kill Him (Matt. 2; Luke 2).
 - The Gospels clearly revealed the multitudes following Christ because of who He was, while the Jewish leaders opposed Him, always seeking how to destroy Him (Example Matt. 26, John 7 to 9).

- To millions, Jesus is the fragrance and assurance of eternal life while to others it is the smell of death (2 Cor. 2:15, 16).
 - To some the Christian experience refreshes, renews, releases new life in abundance bringing health, peace, hope, victory, etc.; to others it has no meaning and no effect (Example see Ezek. 47:1-12 ... blessings Vv. 1-10, 12; to some no effect v. 11).
 - To some the message of the cross is foolishness, to others it is the power of God, transforming our lives to His glory (1 Cor. 1:18-25, NB v. 18).
 - Etc.
 - Despite this great disparity the open opportunity to be at peace with God will not be available forever and cannot be obtained when one dies (Matt. 3:10; Luke 13:5; Heb. 9:27). Bearing these factors in mind it is necessary to remember that a day of accountability is coming and the outcome depends on one's choice (John 3:36).
- (b) The method decided on by the Gibeonites to achieve their objective was through deception.

Josh. 9:4a Amplified Bible

"They worked cunningly, and went pretending to be ambassadors ..."

(1) They worked deceitfully.

- The methods were acts of deception.
 - They were clever . . . real crafty.
 - They misrepresented themselves . . . great pretenders.
 - They even produced false evidences . . . ability to deceive.
 - They wanted to be at peace with the people of God (Josh. 9:4-6, 8, 11).
 - To this extent they resembled Rahab (Josh. 2:8-14).
 - They differed from Rahab because they used trickery to gain their objectives (Josh. 9:4-5, 12-13).
 - Their hearts' desire was to make an alliance whereby they might retain their land and liberty.
- (2) The Gibeonites are regarded as a people of deception and lies who deceived Israel in making an alliance with them.

2. Lies! Lies! Lies! (Josh. 9:6-13)

(a) **They lied about their livelihood** (v. 4)

- (1) They lied about who they were; presenting themselves to be ambassadors from a foreign country. Such title carried with it some prestige and importance.
- (2) Such reality would have some significance for Israel to be honored by a distant country.
- (3) Hezekiah also found delight when he had a foreign country visited him after his recovery (Isa. 39, NB Vv. 3-4).

(b) **They lied about where they lived** (Vv. 4-6, NB v. 6)

- (1) They pretended to have undergone the weariness of a very long and dangerous journey.
- (2) **Josh. 9:6b NKJV**
 “We have come from a far country . . .”
- (3) This was an outright deception and lie! The Israelite leaders were somewhat suspicious (Note v. 7).
- They cautiously suggested that the Gibeonites could possibly be neighbors (v. 7a)
Josh. 9:7a LASB
 “The Israelites replied to these Hivites, ‘How do we know you don’t live nearby?’”
 - They also requested that the Gibeonites produced some form of evidence to corroborate their account as to who they claimed to be (v. 7b).
Josh. 9:7b LASB
 “For if you do, we cannot make a treaty with you?”
 - It was as if the leaders of Israel were saying: “We need more proof other than what you are saying in order to believe you!!”
- (c) **They continued to lie by not directly answering the question about their identity** (Vv. 8-9)
- (1) Joshua continued the emphasis on having the Gibeonites identify themselves (v. 8).
- (2) Note how they slyly avoided properly answering Joshua’s question in regards to their identity.
Josh. 9:8b NKJV
 “And Joshua said to them, ‘Who are you, From where have you come?’”
- Most likely this scheme by the Gibeonites was well rehearsed so that they all stay with the same account.
 - Note they gave the same explanation as at first.
 - **Josh. 9:6a NKJV:** “We have come from a far country ...”
 - **Josh. 9:9a NKJV:** “So they said to him: ‘From a very far country ...’”
 - They had no intention of revealing the name of their city because such would disqualify them to form an alliance with Israel (Deut. 7, NB Vv. 1-5)
- (d) **They lied about their loyalty directed to God ... such was a worthy desire but it was not the main purpose for their desire to form an alliance** (Vv. 8-10).
- (1) Note how convincing they tried to be
Josh. 9:9b NKJV
 “... have come because of the name of the LORD your God: for we have heard of His fame ...”
- Indeed! His name is worthy to be praised!!
 - **Psa. 113:3 Amplified Bible**
 “From the rising of the sun to the going down of it from the east to the west, the name of the Lord is to be praised.”
 - **Prov. 18:10 Amplified Bible**

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the [consistently] righteous man [upright and in right standing with God] runs into it and is safe, high [above evil] and strong.”

- Whether voluntary or involuntarily, whether now or in the future, **every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!! (Phil. 2:9-11).**
- (2) The Gibeonites came because of what they heard about the true and living God who acts on behalf of His people.
- They were convinced that the God of Israel was indeed above all gods (Ex. 15:11).
 - Realizing who the God of Israel is and what He is capable of doing, they had to find a way of escape and to be placed under His protection.
- (3) We observe their account of the victories realized by Israel (Josh. 9:10), except they did not make mention of Jericho and Ai. If they did such awareness would identify them as residents within the area.
- (e) **They lied about their willingness to serve (v. 11) ... at least this also was not their primary reason for the alliance they sought.**
- (1) **Josh. 9:11b NKJV**
“We are your servants; now therefore, make a covenant with us.”
- (2) “Your servants” may have been used to cover their real objective.
- They were displaying a level of humility but what other choice they had?
 - They presented their willingness to serve but their objective was to be spared from annihilation.
- (f) **They lied about their food and clothing (Vv. 5, 11-13)**
- (1) They presented their cracked wineskins and showed their worn-out clothes and sandals.
- (2) They actually suggested Joshua and the officers to thoroughly inspect their worn-out clothes and stale provision as evidences of their long perilous journey (Vv. 12-13).

3. Leadership Deceived (Josh. 9:14-15)

(a) The evidence corroborated

Confirmed at least to as far as Joshua and the leaders were able to determine; not realizing the well devised scheme by the Gibeonites to deceive.

Josh. 9:14a

Amplified Bible: “So the [Israelite] men partook of their food ...”

ESV: “So the men took some of their provision ...”

NIV: “The Israelites sampled their provision ...”

- (1) The leaders seemingly thoroughly examined the evidence provided by the Gibeonites.
- They saw the bread was dry and moldy.
 - They saw the wineskins were split open.
 - They saw the clothes and sandals were worn out.

- (2) Undoubtedly the evidence produced was impressive and definitely convincing.
- They ate (sampled their provision) with them as a gesture of friendship.
 - This showed that they (the leaders of Israel) trusted their senses instead of the Lord. “Look at the bread it surely feels and taste stale; definitely, they must have come a long way.” Unfortunately, the leaders were walking by sight and not by God’s guidance!!
 - The scheme by the Gibeonites was so overwhelmingly impressive and convincing that the leaders did not see the Gibeonites deception.
- (b) Peace pact with the Gibeonites (v. 15)

(1) Done without consulting God!

Josh. 9:14b NKJV

“... but they did not ask counsel of the LORD.”

- They did not consult the King whose mission they were on.
- Joshua and the leaders of Israel failed to pray and seek God’s will with regards to the Gibeonites.
 - They presumptuously entered into a covenant with them that they could not break (v. 18)
 - This ill-advised decision brought the ungodly Canaanites within the midst of Israel (an action forbidden, Deut. 7 ... as noted before).

(2) A few additional pointers about the agreement with the Gibeonites.

- They agreed to let them live.
 - In a common war this agreement would have been a small matter, but the war in Canaan meant destruction of the enemy (Deut. 7:1-5).
 - It was a great favor to a Canaanite to have his life given as a gift.
 - The following reference is used in a different context but will help show the value of the Gibeonites being granted their life.
 - ***You may want to study the context in which this verse has been used for deeper understanding (Jer. 45).***
 - Baruch was a faithful secretary and friend of Jeremiah and was rewarded by God for his faithfulness. He would survive the destruction of Jerusalem.
 - **Jer. 45:5 Amplified Bible**
 “And should you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not; for behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, says the Lord, **but your life I will give to you [as your only booty and] as a [snatched] prize of war wherever you go.**”

The assurance of life granted is always warmly welcomed ... and this was very much true as it relates to the Gibeonites knowing this was their main concern.

- This agreement with the Gibeonites was made both by Joshua and the princes (rulers) of the congregation.
 - This was not based only on Joshua's determination but in unison with the leaders.
 - The princes were also aware of the negotiation because they were present during the entire procedure.
 - The agreement was confirmed by an oath not by any of the gods of Canaan but by the God of Israel (v. 19).
 - At the time when the agreement was made, nothing appeared to be faulty, the major negative factor was that it was done without consulting with God.
- (c) **Some Practical Lessons . . . to be learnt from the Gibeonites' deception of God's people.**
- (1) It is a fact that eye does not reveal all the truth; appearance may be deceptive (Josh. 9:4-6).
 - (2) Good men can be deceived by the craftiness of those who take advantage of them (Vv. 7-8).
 - Note the Gibeonites' evasiveness and continued plea to form an alliance.
 - V. 6 "We come from a far country; now make a covenant with us."
 - Note that emphasis throughout the negotiation . . . Vv. 7-13.
 - The Word of God reminds us (God's people) to be "... wise as serpents ..." (Matt. 10:16). We are not to be gullible (1 John 4:1-5).
 - (3) Pretense of being spiritual may throw good people off their guard (v. 9).
 - The Gibeonites claimed they had "... **come because of the name of the LORD thy God ...**" (v. 9).
 - Some people get into church membership under similar claim. Usually they became an embarrassment to God's people sooner or later.
 - Sometimes marriages come out of this type of deception, and with disastrous results.
 - (4) We should never forget that Satan is the father of lies and deception (John 8:44).
 - Satan is a counterfeit; a deceitful worker seeking to defeat and destroy through deception and lies (Gen. 3).
 - Do not expect that Satan attacks only as a vicious intimidating lion (1 Peter 5:8) but he will also come in any way possible in order to deceive, including coming as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14).
 - Satan's workers are ministers of deception, lies and hypocrisy, and they live contrary to the Word of God (Matt. 7:15-20). Their objective is to destroy our loyalty, to gain our attachment **to their** beliefs and movements.
 - See Matt. 4:1-11; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 6:12; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; etc.
 - (5) Throughout Scriptures we are warned against deception and lies.
 - **1 Tim. 4:1 Amplified Bible**

“But the [Holy] Spirit distinctly and expressly declares that in latter times some will turn away from the faith, giving attention to deluding and seducing spirits and doctrines that demons teach.”

- See also Matt. 24:4; Mark 13:22; Acts 20:30; 1 Cor. 6:9; **Eph. 5:6; 2 Thess. 2:3.**

(6) In all decisions of life we should seek God’s will and pray for His wisdom and guidance, thereby enabling us to avoid the devil’s traps of deception which leads to sorrow and tragedies.

C. Discovery Josh. 9:16-21

1. Sly Scheme Revealed (Josh. 9:16-17)

(a) The league was soon discovered to have been transacted by fraud.

(1) The promise had been made and treaty ratified, the disturbing facts surfaced—Israel’s leaders had been deceived!

- The Gibeonites may not have realized that the truth would be known this quickly but it did!!
 - Three days after the transaction was completed the facts came to light.
 - We are not told the source by which Israel knew the facts but that **“they heard”** or **“they learned”** (v.16) . . . that the Gibeonites were their neighbors.
- Matthew Henry comments as follows:
“A lying tongue is but for a moment and truth will be the daughter of time.”
- Chester O Mulder notes:
“Trickery and deceit are short lived.”

(b) Joshua was no pushover; he was a strategist and a thorough leader!

(1) He knew the importance of communicating with God before going into battle and when making any important decisions.

(2) In this situation, with the Gibeonites, the peace treaty seemed innocent enough, as a result he and the leaders made the decision on their own (Josh. 9:14).

(3) Joshua’s experience was an unfortunate one and helps us to always remember the necessity to sincerely, continuously and literally live by abiding as instructed in Prov. 3:5-6.

Prov. 3:5-6 Amplified Bible

“Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and **do not rely on your own insight or understanding**. In all your ways know, recognize and acknowledge Him and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths.”

(c) The report, in regards to the Gibeonites being neighbors, was investigated and proven to be true (v. 17).

- (1) The Israelites went to all four cities of the Gibeonites, Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth and Kirjath-jearim.
 - (2) The Gibeonites were challenged concerning their deception.
 - They were to face the facts that the peace treaty rested upon dishonesty and has no foundation.
 - Liars do not always come to humiliation this quickly, but such is sure to come.
2. **Secured by the Agreement** (Josh. 9:18-19)
- (a) The treaty with the Gibeonite had been sworn in the LORD'S name and thus could not be revoked, even though it had been entered into under false pretense (Vv. 15, 18-19).
 - (b) The people's complaint (v. 18)

Josh. 9:18b NKJV

"... And all the congregation complained against the rulers."

 - (1) Fresh in the minds was the adverse experience realized when they first attacked Ai; wherein, if God were consulted before launching that failed assault, the underlying problem would have been revealed by God and addressed before the attack.
 - (2) As it regards to the Gibeonites alliance, by failing to seek God's guidance and rushing ahead with their own plans, they created an unpleasant situation resulting from awkward alliance and now had to deal with an infuriated assembly.
 - It is also to be remembered, as noted before, that God had specifically instructed Israel not to make treaties with the inhabitants of Canaan (Ex. 23:23-33, NB v. 32; Num. 33:50—56, NB v. 55; Deut. 7, NB v. 2; 20:16-20, NB Vv. 17-18).
 - Most likely, the people feared the consequences of not being able to follow through with destroying the Canaanites as commanded; they didn't want to lose the favor of God due to an alliance with the Canaanites.
 - (c) The leaders were also concerned about having the favor of God (v. 19)

Josh. 9:19 NKJV

"Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, "We have sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel, now therefore, we may not touch them."

 - (1) Even though the people murmured against them, the leaders still knew they had to do what was right and honorable before God: it was necessary to keep their oath, despite the deception involved.
 - **Two wrongs do not make a right!!**
 - A second mistake or misdeed does not cancel the first.
 - You should not do harm to a person who has done you harm, even if you think that the person deserves it.
 - Eye for an eye does not work well with the followers of Jesus Christ.

- This has been made evident in the “Disciple’s Prayer Format” (Matt. 6:5-15, NB Vv. 12-15; etc.)
- Revenge must be resisted and overcome at all cost (Matt. 5:38-48).
- Etc.

(2) **The leaders of Israel acted wisely:** they had already done wrong in making an alliance without seeking God; now they must not be in the wrong a second time by destroying the Gibeonites.

- They realized that they could not hurt the Gibeonites because of the oath taken (Josh. 9:19).
- **To break this oath would bring the name of God into contempt among the Canaanites.**

NOTE:

In order to overcome the deception of the Gibeonites three steps were taken:

First: Protecting and Honoring God’s Name! The essential factor in this transaction is God!! That must be the area of central focus!! It’s all about Him!! **(Vv. 18-19).**

Second: Avoiding God’s Wrath and Judgment! This was done by honoring an agreement that was made in God’s name!! Keeping that promise was essential, otherwise they would face the judgment of God **(Vv. 20-21).**

Third: Rebuke and Guard against Future Deception! Confronting the source of deception and addressing it! After which they put in place what was necessary to avoid a repetition! **(Vv. 22-27).**

*The first two steps are currently being discussed in this main point (**Discovery Vv.16-21**) and the third will be done in our closing main point (**Denunciation/Damnation Vv.22-27**).*

(d) As noted, before, despite the negative factors relating to the alliance with the Gibeonites, the oath was taken (sworn) in the name of the LORD (Vv.15, 18-19).

(1) To violate this oath would bring a reproach to God’s name.

- If they attacked the Gibeonites, God’s name and honor would be jeopardized, as a result they would not retaliate against the Gibeonites.
- It was of uttermost importance to honor God’s name by abiding according to the agreement made.
- By keeping their word, they proved their loyalty to God and uphold His honorable holy name!!

(2) **God’s people are to be moral and just in all areas of transactions, such manner of living conveys a powerful message to everyone, including unbelievers.**

(3) God Himself honored the oath that was made with the Gibeonites. . . .

- Later in Israel’s history King Saul broke this vow to the Gibeonites and his sin brought famine upon Israel in the days of David (See 2 Sam. 21:1-9; NB v. 1).
 - As it relates to King Saul’s violation, this is the only account mentioned, as recorded in 2 Sam. 21. I am making reference to show the importance of NOT violating our promises made in God’s name!
 - The oath was not invalidated by the Gibeonites deception . . . it was already made in the name of God.
 - God had commanded that oaths be kept (Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21), and breaking an oath was a serious violation.
 - This should motivate and encourage us not to take our promises lightly (Ecc. 5:4-7; Matt. 5:33).
- (4) It is a mark of godliness to keep an oath, even when it is difficult. Beloved, God “... honor those who fear the Lord (who revere and worship Him); who swear to his own hurt and does not change” (Psa. 15:4b Amplified Bible)

3. Satisfactory Alternative (Josh. 9:20-21)

- (a) Despite the people’s displeasure and discontent with the alliance, the leaders determined to abide by the agreement with the Gibeonites.
- (1) Noted above that for Israel to do otherwise would dishonor the name of God and discredit them among the Canaanites.
- (2) Beloved, we must never be intimidated, either by authority or large numbers; to do what is sinful, and go against conscience.
- **Prov. 1:10 ESV**
“My son, if sinners entice you do not consent.”
 - See also Prov. 28:10; 2 Peter 2:18.
- (b) The lives of the Gibeonites were spared but their liberties were restricted, Joshua maintained control using them as perpetual workmen for the Tabernacle supplying wood and water used in its services.
- (1) Those who were angry that the Gibeonites lived might be content that their perpetual servitude would keep them restricted.
- (2) Those who angry that they were not privileged to spoil the Gibeonite cities might be content with their service to the congregation.
- (c) Joshua and the leaders did what was necessary to avoid God’s wrath and judgment (Note Vv. 20-21).
- The following limited pointers, while briefly reviewing how Israel avoided God’s wrath and judgment in relation to responding to the Gibeonites deception will include repetition of some facts shared above.
- (1) The oath made by Joshua and the leaders was done in God’s name (Vv. 15, 18-19).
- Consequently, the treaty was binding because it was God’s treaty; this peace treaty was made in His name.

- Taking this into consideration, Israel’s loyalty was not due the Gibeonites but to God.
- (2) Israel would experience adverse and consequential repercussions if they had broken the league.
- To break the covenant would result in the wrath and judgment of God because they had given their word in the name of the LORD.
 - Breaking the covenant would be dishonoring God’s name by not keeping their word and would result in the judgment of God upon them. We noted above what happened when King Saul violated this agreement (2 Sam. 21:1-9). Numbers 30 covers “Laws Regarding Vows”; carefully note Vv. 1-2 ... also note Vv. 3-9)
- (3) The best alternative for Joshua and his leaders was to make the Gibeonites perpetual servants, using them as woodcutters and water carriers for the Tabernacle.

D. Denunciation/Damnation Josh. 9:22-27

NOTE:

Briefly defining the two words used as the caption for this closing point;

“Denunciation”: Public reprimand, condemnation of someone or something.

Some similar words are reprimand, accusation, **rebuke**, etc.

This action was taken by Joshua as noted in verse 22.

“Damnation”: The word “damn” carries a variety of meanings including “to condemn to a punishment or fate;” “the utterance of the word damn as a curse.”

Some similar words are condemnation, **curse**, doom, perdition, etc.

Joshua had pronounced a **“curse”** on the Gibeonites as noted in verse 23.

1. Rebuke and Curse (Josh. 9:22-23)

- (a) Joshua gathered the Gibeonites, requiring them to give an account of their deception and publicly rebuked them (v. 22).
- (b) The fraudulent nature of the alliance had to be seriously and firmly addressed, making sure that nothing of this nature happened again.
- (c) Rebuke has to be made, as the matter requires but it does not have to be demeaning, derogatory or destructive.

(1) Notice how Joshua mildly reprimanded the Gibeonites.

Josh. 9:22

NKJV: “... ‘Why have you deceived us saying, ‘We are very far from you,’ when you dwell near us?’”

Amplified Bible: “... ‘Why did you deceive us, saying, We live very far you, when you dwell among us?’”

- We saw such mild mannerism but powerful rebuke when he interrogated Achan (Josh. 7:19).

- The nature of the matter was serious, he was saying to the Gibeonites: “Why? For what reason have you deceived us?”
 - He did not load them with names.
 - He did not use harsh provoking language. He did not call them as they deserved, although they were base liars.
 - He simply wanted to know why they deceived Israel.
- (2) Oh! The beauty of gentle, firm rebuke with the love of God!!
 - Unfortunately too many do not know the value of being corrected, even when it is lovingly done (so many examples in Proverbs as well as other Books of the Bible ... Prov. 1:22; 9:6-8; 15:5; etc.
 - On the other hand, many do not know how to lovingly correct others even though the Word of God shows the need for love and compassion in our rebuke. **A few examples:**
 - The necessity for “**kind words**”
 - **Prov. 25:15 Amplified Bible**
 - “By long forbearance and **calmness of spirit** a judge or ruler is persuaded, and a **soft speech** breaks down the most bonelike resistance [Gen. 32:4; 1 Sam. 25: 24; Prov. 16:14.]”
 - See also **Prov. 15:1**; 31:26; Isa. 50:4; etc.
 - The necessity for **sound speech**
 - **Col. 4:6 Amplified Bible**
 - “Let your speech at all times be gracious (**pleasant and winsome**) **seasoned [as it were] with salt**, [so that you may never be at a loss] to know how you ought to answer anyone [who puts a question to you].”
 - See also Prov. 17:27; Matt. 5:37; 2 Tim. 1:13.
 - There are some who believe that they must always return fire for fire even when it is totally unnecessary. . . . Jesus Christ taught us differently:
 - By His example; Isa. 53:7; Matt. 26:62-63; 27:14; etc.
 - In the written/spoken Word to us: Matt. 5:39; Rom. 12:17; 1 Thess. 5:15; **1 Peter 3:9**; etc.
 - Read prayerfully and carefully Matthew chapters 5 to 7; etc.
 - Matthew Henry states:

Under greatest provocation, it is our wisdom and duty to keep our temper, and to bridle our passion; a just cause needs not anger to defend it, and a bad one is never made better by it.”
 - (d) Joshua after questioning the Gibeonites pronounced judgment on them (Josh. 9:23).
 - (1) The decree agreed upon by the princes is called a “**curse**” (v. 23) when Joshua addressed the Gibeonites.
 - (2) They were always to serve in the menial duties of the Tabernacle.-
 - They were always to be in a position of subordination.

- Their deception and lies had proven they were enemies, scheming to mislead God’s people.
- As a result of their deception they had to suffer the judgment of subjection and service v. 23).

2. Reason for Their Deception (The Gibeonites) (Josh. 9:24)

(a) The Gibeonites explained that they acted as they did, in deceiving Israel, because they feared for their lives (v. 24)

(1) What they heard about the miraculous power of God, demonstrated on behalf of His people, produced fear in their hearts.

- **2 Chron. 17:10 Amplified Bible**

“And a terror from the Lord fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat.”

- See also Gen 35:5; Ex. 15:16; 23:27; Josh. 2:9-11.

(2) The Gibeonites feared for their lives; this was also revealed by Rahab as related to those who heard of Israel’s victories wrought by God (Josh. 2:12-14).

(b) The fear of God among the nations!!

(1) Moses made mention of such fear in his victory song (Ex. 15).

- **Ex. 15:14 Amplified Bible**

“The people have heard of it; they trembled; pangs have taken hold on the inhabitants of Philistia.” (Read Vv. 15-16).

(2) See also Deut. 2:25; Psa. 48:1-8, NB Vv. 3-6; Hab. 3:7.

(c) **The Gibeonites deception was a subtle way of surrender, they desired to live!!**

(1) Oh, that millions and millions more today would choose life!!

(2) The appeal, the open invitation, freely offered by God to accept life is nothing new!! Here are a few Scriptural reminders:

- Sin leads to death, separation from God (Rom. 6:23).
- A choice must be made (Matt. 7:13).
- God has done everything necessary for those who are willing to have everlasting life (John 3:16-17; Rom. 5:1-12; 1 John 5:13; etc.).
- Choices determine one’s eternal destiny (John 3:36; Matt. 7:13-14; etc.).
- Etc.

(3) The Gibeonites did not justify their lie but earnestly sought pardon and salvation (deliverance) for their lives!

- We can make no justification, no excuse, etc. for our sins (**John 15:22**; Gen. 3:12; Acts 17:30; Rom. 1:20; etc.).
- We simply need to sincerely confess, forsake and with God’s help walk in the newness of life (**Rom. 10:9-13**; James 1:21; 1 John 5:13; Rev. 22:14; etc.).

(4) Not only for the unsaved but the call to salvation is a great challenge even for believers as it relates to unsaved family members, neighbors, friends, coworkers, etc., judgment is imminent; we are here for a purpose!! Let us

reach out to others with the message of hope!! **THERE IS LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST!!**

- **The Hymn: There is Life for a Look at the Crucified One**

Verse 1

There is life for a look at the Crucified One,
There is life at this moment for thee;
Then look sinner, look unto Him and be saved
Unto Him who was nailed to the tree

Refrain

Look! Look! Look and live!
There is life for a look at the Crucified One,
There is life at this moment for thee,

- During the dispensation of the law, Rahab found mercy! The Gibeonites found mercy! Even more available to all is God's free mercy and grace!! Indeed, there is life for a look at the Crucified One!!

3. **Resigned to/Rendered Accordingly** (Josh. 9:22-27)

(a) All the parties accepted the decision made by Joshua and the leaders of Israel.

(1) The Gibeonites were moved with deep gratitude and were satisfied and had no complaint.

- What was most urgent and deeply desired by them was the sparing of their lives.

Josh. 9:24b NKJV

"... We were very much afraid for our lives because of you ..."

- They willingly humbly reserved themselves to any decision Israel made.

Josh. 9:25 NKJV

"And now we are in your hands; do with us as it seems good and right to do to us."

- They were conscious of the wrong in drafting a lie in order to deceive Israel.
- They were aware of the possible negative consequences and were thankful that their lives were spared.
- They knew that it was better to live in servitude rather than to be annihilated.

(2) Essentially, they were happy with the prospect of being incorporated into Israel, and being servants to the LORD, even though it was menial service.

- Their response express the sentiment of the Psalmist's heart:

Psa. 84:10 Amplified Bible

"For a day in Your court is better than a thousand [anywhere else]; I would rather be a doorkeeper and stand at the threshold in the house of my God than to dwell [at ease] in the tents of wickedness,"

- Such humility and commitment to servitude expressed by the Gibeonites were not coming from physically weak men but mighty men (Josh. 10:12).
 - But they were yielding to Him who is all-powerful (Psa. 62:11; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:3; 1 Peter 5:11; Col. 1:16-17; etc.).
 - The greatest, most gifted, the strongest of men will fade but God remains and gives strength to those in need (Psa. 28:8; Isa. 40:25-31; 41:10; 2 Cor. 12:9; etc.)
- (3) The Gibeonites gladly resigned themselves to the menial task assigned them
- Saul (Paul) with great humility asked: “Lord, what do you want me to do?” (Acts 9:6b NKJV).
 - Jesus Christ willingly submitted to the imminent suffering and disgrace of the cross for our redemption (Matt. 26:29).
 - Mary, despite the possible adverse consequences of her conception at the period of her betrothal said ... “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38 NKJV).
 - According to tradition Peter refused to be crucified as Christ was and requested to be crucified upside down.
 - The list goes on and on; all the apostles were martyred except John and he was grievously tortured and exiled on the island of Patmos, there he wrote the Book of Revelation (See what the apostles had agreed to in Mark 10:35-45, NB Vv. 38-39).
 - The fact is time wouldn’t allow making a list of the challenges servants of God face in the line of duty or just being identified as Christians; yet the question is: **“Can we genuinely rejoice in any kind of service God wants us to do?”**
 - Think on the song: Where He Leads Me
Verse 1
 I can hear my Savior calling,
 I can hear my Savior calling,
 I can hear my Savior calling,
 “Take thy cross and follow me.”

Refrain
 Where He leads me, I will follow,
 Where He leads me, I will follow,
 Where He leads me, I will follow,
 I’ll go with Him, with Him all the way.
- **Acts 9:6 Amplified Bible** (Referred to above)
 “Trembling and astonished he asked, **Lord, what do you desire me to do?**
 The Lord said to him, But arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” (For context read Acts 9:1-22 or the chapter).

- (b) Joshua made sure to put in place protection against future deception and evil influence of the Gibeonites (v. 27)

*The following pointers were noted before (maybe not the exact words), however, as it relates to the agreement with the Gibeonites, we are now seeing that the bill was now signed into law. The bill (**bill**: draft of proposed law presented for discussion) was not only introduced (v. 21), discussed and voted on (v. 23) but became law (v. 27).*

- (1) What did the protective measures drafted and enacted meant and what were the objectives?
 - The Gibeonites were made servants in the Tabernacle itself, the very worship center of God’s holy presence.
 - As a result of such service the Gibeonites would centralize their lives—all their attention and work—upon the LORD and His worship.
 - This would keep them from spreading their false worship and idolatry among the Israelites.
 - It would also mean that eventually the Gibeonites would become worshippers of the living God, the LORD God Himself.
 - (2) By Incorporating the Gibeonites into Israel’s society, the leaders of Israel had to implement some means of protection against any evil influence of the Gibeonites.
 - Working around the Tabernacle was a way to influence the Gibeonites with the worship of Israel.
 - Instead of the Gibeonites influencing the Israelites with evil, they instead will be influenced by the very presence of the true and living God in their day by day service around the Tabernacle.
- (c) How the judgment was given against the Gibeonites.
- (1) Their service was made a curse to them; they were condemned to servitude as a punishment for their fraud (v. 23).
 - (2) Still, this curse was turned into a blessing; they must be servants in the house of God (v. 23).
 - (3) They were hereby excluded from the liberties and privileges of true-born Israelites and a remaining mark of distinction was put upon their posterity throughout all generations.
 - (4) They were hereby employed in such services as required their personal attendance upon the altar of God in the place which He should choose (v. 27)
 - (5) This would be a great advantage to the priests and Levites to have many, and those mighty men, constantly there for the performance of duties as assigned.
 - (6) They were herein servants to the congregation as well; for whatever promoted and helped forwarded the worship of God was a real service to the commonwealth of Israel.

- (d) **Additional Pointers: “The Gibeonites after Joshua 9.”**

- (1) **Josh. 10:2:** Gibeon, “was a great city” being “greater than Ai” and had mighty men.
 - (2) **Josh. 10:12:** The place where God made the sun stand still during the war between the Israelites and the Southern coalition (Josh. 10:1-5, 12-14).
 - (3) **Josh 18:25:** Gibeon . . . one of the cities inherited by Benjamin’s sons (Vv. 21-28)
 - (4) **Josh. 21:17:** Gibeon, with its pasture lands, became a Levitical city (Read (a) Verse 3, each tribe gave of their inheritance to the Levites. (b) Note also Vv.9-19).
 - (5) **2 Sam. 2:12-17:** Abner and Joab, along with their armies, fought at Helkathhazzurim (v.16); a place found in Gibeon.
 - (6) **1 Kings 3:4-5:** In a “high great place” inside Gibeon, King Solomon offered sacrifices and, in his dream, God appeared and asked him what he wished to receive (Note Vv. 3-15).
 - (7) **1 Chron 12:4:** At least one of David’s mighty men was a Gibeonite.
 - (8) **1 Chron. 16:39-40** and **21:29:** Gibeon became a priestly city; the Ark of the Covenant stayed at Gibeon often in the days of David and Solomon.
 - (9) **Neh. 3:7** and **7:25:** Men from Gibeon were among those who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem with Nehemiah.
 - (10) **Jer. 28:1:** Prophets such as Hanaaniah the son of Azur came from Gibeon.
- (e) The Gibeonites became servants at the Tabernacle, Just as Joshua had commended.

The Gibeonites found salvation (deliverance) in the God of Israel much like Rahab did in Josh 2 and 6.

- (1) Both Rahab and the Gibeonites were willing to risk forsaking their former association and be counted among God’s people.
- (2) The risk relating to Gibeon became more apparent as seen in Josh. 10. They were targeted because of their alliance with the Israelites (Josh. 10:1-5).
- (3) In both examples (Rahab and the Gibeonites) we have seen the great things God can do with people who are sinners but have surrendered to Him in humility, confessing and forsaking the past and with His help pursue a life of righteousness.

(4) **The song: Great Change Since I’ve Been Born**

Things I used to would do I don’t do no more
Been a great change since I been born

Lies I used to would tell I don’t tell no more
Been a great change since I been born

People I used to would hate I don’t hate no more
Great change since I been born

Roads I used to would walk I don't walk no more
Been a great change since I been born

A new song been sung since I been born
Been a great change since I been born

Things I use to would do I don't do no more
Been a great change since I been born

LESSON 8 REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Complete the following:

“(a) _____ and disruption within the (b) _____ weakens the hands and (c) _____ the spirit of (d) _____ and members and (e) _____ the work of (f) _____ far more than any (g) _____ opposition.”

2. (a) Approximately how far apart was Shechem from Ai? (b) Why did the Israelites go there after the victory at Ai (Josh. 8:30-35)?

3. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“... Many Christians continually face defeat in their walk because they fail to take time to _____ and reflection on Him and to put on their spiritual armor.”

- (a) get alone because of fear
- (b) get alone with the Lord
- (c) get alone with friends
- (d) get out of the way

4. Match the statements on the left with the correct references on the right
“The Fear of God Among the Nations”

STATEMENTS	CORRECT REFERENCES	JUMBLED REFERENCES
Jacob’s experience going back to Bethel		Ex. 15:16
The Egyptians feared of being destroyed		Josh. 2:9-11; etc.
Expressed by Moses in his victory song		Gen. 35:1-7
Characterized the Canaanites		Deut. 2:25
Such was assured by God		Ex. 12, NB V. 33

5. What were some possible reasons why the kings of west Jordan formed an alliance to destroy Israel (Josh. 9:1-2)?

6. The alliance of the west Jordan kings (Josh. 9:1-2) may have been formed while Israel was at Shechem for their rededication ceremony; it was also after the victories at Jericho and Ai. What lessons were learnt from this alliance and their motive to destroy Israel?

7. Complete the following:
"No (a) _____ formed against you shall (b) _____,
and every (c) _____ which rises against you in (d) _____
you shall (e) _____" (f) _____ ("*f*"...Reference).

8. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer.
"Satan's objective is to seek and destroy weak believers, they are threat to him"

9. Two alliances were formed as noted in Joshua 9, name these alliances and the reason why each was formed

10. Why was the Gibeonites alliance was a greater threat than the alliance of the west Jordan kings?

11. We noted in our lesson the mixed reaction in comparison by comparing the west Jordan kings and the Gibeonites. List four examples in which we have seen similar responses in regards to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

12. In essence, the Gibeonites desired peace with Israel and their lives were spared. Such was also Rahab's objective but how was the Gibeonite's objective differs?

13. Briefly list the areas in which the Gibeonites lied in their negotiations to gain peace with Israel (give references).

14. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer.

“At no time during the negotiation with the Gibeonites did the leaders of Israel required of them to prove the authenticity of their report.”

15. Explain Josh. 9:14a. (a) What transpired (as noted in this reference)? (b) What was the result of their finding?

16. How was the agreement with the Gibeonites confirmed, give reference?

17. Briefly list five practical lessons to be learnt from the Gibeonite's deception of god's people (give references).

18. Complete the following:

"In all (a) _____ of life we should (b) _____ God's will and (c) _____ for His (d) _____ and (e) _____ thereby enabling us to (f) _____ the devil's (g) _____ of deception which leads to (h) _____ and (i) _____."

19. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

"A lying tongue is _____ and truth will be the daughter of time."

- (a) always a smart ally
- (b) generally beneficial and helpful
- (c) maybe bad but needed
- (d) but for a moment

20. (a) Joshua was a thorough leader; what may have been the possible reason he did not consult God in transacting the agreement with the Gibeonites? (b) What very important lesson for all believers?

21. Despite the deception, by which the agreement with the Gibeonites was decided on, why was it not possible for it to be revoked by Israel?

22. (a) Explain the following statement; (b) how was it applied to Israel’s agreement with the Gibeonites when they did not destroy them after their deception was discovered?
“Two wrongs do not make a right.”

23. In order to overcome the deception of the Gibeonites, what three steps were taken by Joshua and the leaders of Israel?

24. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“God’s people are to moral and just _____, such manner of living conveys a powerful message to everyone including unbelievers.”

- (a) in what is seen and known
- (b) in all areas of transactions

- (c) in some areas of transactions
- (d) in only the areas desired

25. Complete the following:

“Beloved, we must never be (a) _____ either by (b) _____ or large (c) _____ to do what is (d) _____ and go against (e) _____.”

26. Complete the following:

“Under the greatest (a) _____, it is our (b) _____ and duty to keep our (c) _____ and to bridle our (d) _____; a just cause needs not (e) _____ to (f) _____ it, and a bad one is never the (g) _____ by it.”

27. What were the primary reasons the Gibeonites gave for their act of deception?

28. In what way did the Gibeonites expressed their satisfaction with the judgment handed down by Israel?

29. Give at least three Scriptural examples of those who willingly resigned to the will of God without any reservation. *(Not limited to the examples noted in our lesson ... **give references**).*

30. Using the Gibeonites in the Tabernacle how was it such was an effective way to protect Israel from future deception and influence by the Gibeonites?

2 Tim. 2:15

KJV

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Amplified Bible

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of truth.”

We will discuss the answers to as many questions as possible in our next class.