

JOSHUA 9-10

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Joshua chapter 9 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

As we have seen, the children of Israel have begun to do battle against their enemies in the Promise Land.

The first enemy they faced were the people of Jericho. And there God instructed the children of Israel on how to defeat them and they were obedient to what God told them.

The result is that God gave them a great victory at Jericho, wiping out their enemy.

Next up in their battle was the small city called Ai.

Here we see Joshua send some spies to check out the land. When they returned, they basically told Joshua that this is a piece of cake, we don't even need all the men of war for this battle, maybe some 3,000 men.

We see that the first mistake was they did not seek the Lord. Not only that, but the second mistake was that there was sin in the camp.

What was that sin?

One of Joshua's men, Achan, had taken some of the spoils of this victory in Jericho and God had specifically told them that the spoil of this battle belonged to Him, all of it!

Thus, because they did not seek the Lord in this battle, they went in with their own plans and they were unaware of the sin that was in the camp, and they were not victorious.

They were not only defeated but 36 men lost their lives in this battle and that was 36 more than at Jericho where the enemy was bigger and stronger.

You see, at Jericho they walked in obedience and Ai they did not, and the results of those battles give us the end result of walking either way.

Now you may be thinking, ***“How could God blame Joshua and the children of Israel? How could they have known that there was sin in the camp? Only one man was involved in this, and he kept it a secret! So why did God do this?”***

The reason God held Joshua and the children of Israel accountable is because they did not pray about this battle. If they did, then God would have shown them that there was sin in the camp, and they could have dealt with it. That was the problem and that is why they lost this battle at Ai.

Once they dealt with the sin, God did give them the victory, which was according to His battle plan and not Joshua’s or the children of Israel!

It is after this we see the children of Israel gather in the valley of Shechem, in the heart of the land, just as Moses had instructed them to do.

In this valley the priest stood and on either side of them were the children of Israel.

Six of the twelve tribes of Israel stood on Mount Gerizim and six of the twelve tribes of Israel stood on Mount Ebal.

When the priests called out the curses, those on Mount Ebal would say, ***“Amen!”***

Picture in your mind what they saw.

Mount Ebal was a rocky, barren mountain and this is where the altar of sacrifice was set up and the sacrifices made. You see, when there is sin there needs to be sacrifices made for the sin.

Also, on Mount Gerizim, which was lush and beautiful, this is where the people would call out ***“Amen”*** when the blessings were spoken. You don’t need an altar of sacrifice here.

Why did they do this?

It was an act of obedience to what the Lord told them through Moses in Deuteronomy before they even entered the land.

And think about it. They did witness what happened when they were disobedient at Ai and now, they were affirming their willingness to be obedient to God's Word.

Again, this is an important lesson for us, that as we obey the Lord there are great blessings that flow and in disobedience there truly are cursings that we will find.

Now as we move into Joshua chapter 9, the children of Israel are back at Gilgal, which is their base camp.

And Satan does have strategies. We are going to see first a frontal assault against the children of Israel and that works at times.

But he also uses a more subtle approach that will catch the children of Israel off guard.

Make no mistake about it, Satan walks about like a roaring lion to seek to devour people, but don't forget that he can transform himself into an angel of light to deceive us.

Thus, there are some very important lessons for us this evening as we walk by faith and fight against the enemy.

With that said, let's begin reading in Joshua chapter 9, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

JOSHUA 9**VERSES 1-2**

As word spread of the victories the children of Israel had at Jericho and then Ai, fear caused the Canaanite Kings to join forces to defeat them. This is the frontal assault; you can easily see what they were doing!

We need to also keep in mind that these city-states usually warred against each other. But now, because Israel poses such a threat the cities rally together.

I guess they figured there was strength in numbers.

Peter makes that point for us as he tells us, “**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**”

The Amplified Bible puts it like this, “**Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour.**” I Peter 5:8.

Now for some Christians that is as far as they go. They see the enemy as this roaring lion and they are fearful and yet, do nothing.

Others are not watchful at all, and they can be easily devoured.

But Peter does not just tell us about the enemy, but he goes on to tell us where our victory is found as we do battle with this roaring lion, the Devil!

Peter goes on to say, “**Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.**”

And again, The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this; **“Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset - rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined], knowing that the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world.”** I Peter 5:9.

We need to stand strong in the faith that has been entrusted to us.

For this confederation of Canaanite tribes, they saw the handwriting on the wall, and it was not good, at least not all of it was good.

They saw the victories that the children of Israel had at Jericho and Ai and thus, they banded together to survive.

But they also heard that at first the children of Israel lost in their battle at Ai so there was some hope that they could defeat them. Maybe not a lot, but just some.

Sin does that, it gives the enemy a boldness or confidence that they can defeat you and that is part of what Achan’s sin did with these other nations, it gave them a little hope that Israel could be defeated.

I think we are ready many times for this frontal assault because they are obvious. But the Devil doesn’t work that way all the time. There is that subtle scheming that he uses to deceive us, and we will see that as we read on.

VERSES 3-6

Understand the next town west of Ai was Gibeon. They knew they were in the line of fire. They were the next city to fall at the hands of the children of Israel.

The Gibeonites came from the region north of Jerusalem and, as we will see, not a faraway land.

They were located some twenty-five miles from the camp of Israel at Gilgal and about seven miles from the area of Ai.

Make no mistake about it. The Gibeonites understood that they were in trouble. They knew that they were no match for the children of Israel, even if they joined forces with the other Kings.

Now please understand that the Gibeonites were not weak people, they were strong. We are told in Joshua 10:2, **“that they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty.”**

But, like I have said, they saw the handwriting on the wall and felt they could only win this war by surrendering to the children of Israel. A kind of ***“Better red than dead”*** mentality!

The only problem was that the children of Israel were to wipe out all the inhabitants of the land. Only those who lived outside the land and wanted to surrender to them would be spared.

Thus, they came up with a plan. These representatives from Gibeon will use deception to fool the children of Israel into thinking they came from a land far, far away!

I think there is a lesson for us to learn from this story. In fact, as we will see, more than just one.

We as Christians need to be as wise as serpents but as gentle as a dove. God has given us wisdom and we need to exercise it.

Yes, Satan will use a frontal assault against us, and he will also be subtle and use deception to devour us. It is a kind of Trojan horse mentality.

Outwardly it may look good, but inwardly there is death that will come forth!

In other words, if he can't defeat us by a frontal assault, then he will try with subtle things that cause us to have a false sense of security! We are not on guard for these things because we are looking for that frontal assault!

Paul warns the Ephesian elders of this very thing, and he is also warning us in Acts 20:29-30, **“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.”**

You see, there will be a direct assault upon believers but there will also be a subtle assault from within as leaders bring forth damming heresies into the church!

In II Corinthians 11:13-15 Paul warns us how deceptive the enemy is. He wrote, **“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”**

Notice the deception as these leaders pretend to be **“ministers of righteousness”** when in reality they are leading people to Hell!

Listen to this story from the Herald Times Reporter. It is from several years ago, from Sunday, August 13, 1995. It is a story about a teacher who becomes a lay preacher and goes from church to church preaching sermons.

What does this man believe?

Listen, I think you might be surprised!

“Mathes said He was not a fundamentalist when it comes to his own philosophy of religion. ‘I don’t know who or what or whether God is,’ he said. ‘Although I preach about it, I don’t know anything about that really.’ Bothered by his questions and doubts, he sought his pastor’s counsel. In a sermon, she explained, ‘Some of the people with the greatest amount of faith are the people who are absolutely uncertain about everything.’ That, Mathes said, set his mind at ease.”

Who would let a man like this speak from their pulpit, to fill their sheep with this garbage? Here is a guy who doesn’t really know what he believes telling others what to believe. How foolish are we!

And yes, that was a long time ago, but things have not changed and there are false teachers with their false doctrine, bringing a false gospel to people today and they are being allowed into the church!

How can this be?

Because many are not using the wisdom, the discernment that God has given to them. They don’t hold these teachings up to the Word of God to see if they are true or not but trust a man rather than the Word of God! They go by feelings instead of the truths of God found in the Word of God!

In I John 4:1-6 we are told about our truth tester to see if what someone is telling us is true or not.

John tells us, **“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”**

Test what is being spoken against the Word of God and with the Holy Spirit’s help you will clearly see if it is of God or not!

May we learn the lesson from the Trojan horse incident, that what may look good, look right outwardly may not be good inwardly. It may bring forth death!

Joshua and the children of Israel will find this out shortly.

VERSES 7-10

These guys are good. I want you to see how they planned all this out. This deception is very good.

Why do I say that?

Listen carefully.

First of all, they don't speak of the victories the children of Israel had at Jericho and Ai, not even their crossing over the Jordan River.

All they talk about is how the children of Israel were delivered from Egypt and defeated the Kings on the east side of the Jordan River.

Why was this so important?

Because they said they came from a faraway land and thus, this recent news would not have reached their land yet!

I told you they were good.

Interestingly enough the word "**Hivites**" means serpents and how cunning they were in their deception just as Satan is!

Now, why would the children of Israel spare them because they said they were from a faraway country?

I thought they were to wipe out all the inhabitants of the land as Deuteronomy 7:1-6 tells us, "**When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved**

images with fire. For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.”

That is pretty clear to me, they were to wipe out everyone; they were not to make a covenant with any of these people.

But that is not exactly true.

In Deuteronomy 20:10-20 we are told, **“When you go near a city to fight against it, then proclaim an offer of peace to it. And it shall be that if they accept your offer of peace, and open to you, then all the people who are found in it shall be placed under tribute to you, and serve you. Now if the city will not make peace with you, but war against you, then you shall besiege it. And when the Lord your God delivers it into your hands, you shall strike every male in it with the edge of the sword. But the women, the little ones, the livestock, and all that is in the city, all its spoil, you shall plunder for yourself; and you shall eat the enemies' plunder which the Lord your God gives you. Thus you shall do to all the cities which are very far from you, which are not of the cities of these nations. But of the cities of these peoples which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive, but you shall utterly destroy them: the Hittite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, just as the Lord your God has commanded you, lest they teach you to do according to all their abominations which they have done for their gods, and you sin against the Lord your God. When you besiege a city for a long time, while making war against it to take it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an ax against them; if you can eat of them, do not cut them down to use in the siege, for the tree of the field is man's food. Only the trees which you**

know are not trees for food you may destroy and cut down, to build siegeworks against the city that makes war with you, until it is subdued.”

In other words, those that did not live in the land God gave to Israel, they could make a covenant with them if they surrendered to the children of Israel. That is what the Gibeonites were trying to do by deceiving the children of Israel into thinking they lived in a land faraway!

And please keep in mind, the Gibeonites were not repenting of their sins, turning to the Lord at this point, but were messengers of Satan who came to influence the children of Israel into making a mistake.

I think this is an important lesson for us to understand, that we don't make a covenant with the enemy.

Paul warns us in II Corinthians 6:14-18, **“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.’ Therefore ‘Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.’ ‘I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.”**

I think that is easy to understand but the enemy is good, and we can fall prey and circumvent what God has said or try to.

We can come up with all kinds of reasons why we can date unbelievers, be in business with unbelievers, but God said that we are not, and we need to listen and obey because He knows what He is talking about. You can't mix light and darkness together!

Now, here in Johsua 9:7 we see the men of Israel question these people and I believe God was giving them discernment about this situation.

Then, In Joshua 9:8 we also see Joshua questioning these people but tragically they brushed this aside and they walked by sight instead of listening to the Lord.

Let me say this before we move on. If God has placed something in your heart about a situation, listen to Him, don't rush in and make a foolish decision as the children of Israel are about to do! Listen to that still small voice and don't be fooled by the scheming of the Devil!

And they are not done with their deception. Listen to what happens next.

VERSES 11-13

The Gibeonites sense there is some reluctance in Joshua and the children of Israel in believing what they are saying to them. Their deception may be exposed.

What do they do?

They pile it on.

They are saying to Joshua and the leaders of the children of Israel, ***“Look at our provisions, they speak of us being on the road a long time! Look at how raggedy our clothes are, we must have been on a long journey! Hey, smell my clothes, that has to tell you we have been on a long journey. Listen with your ears to what we are telling you. Look with your eyes at what you are seeing. Taste and see that this is true. Touch and feel that we are not lying to you. Smell with your nose and you will see this is true!”***

That is pretty good!

Here's the thing folks, you can't always trust your human senses. What looks good on the outside may be rotten on the inside.

Look at wax fruit, it looks very good, good enough to eat as you look at it but when you take a bite out of it, well, it is bad!

Let me show you how this plays out. We are told,

Deception has been a part of warfare since the Trojan horse.

During WWII, it became high art.

Members of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops used special "*weapons*" like dummy planes, tanks, anti-aircraft guns, and amplified recordings that created war sounds to fool the German high command.

To enable a combat unit to change positions or even attack when the Germans thought it hadn't moved at all, the 1800 men of the 23rd impersonated entire divisions. They would move in at night, change insignias, and inflate their rubber decoys.

Meanwhile, the troops they were replacing sneaked away. Such deception was a major factor in the success of the Allies' D-Day invasion, as the German 15th Army waited elsewhere for an assault that never came.

- Today in the Word, November 10, 1991

That is the thing with deception. It is done well to deceive and many fall prey to it because of that.

For the children of Israel, we will see where they failed, where we fail and may we learn the lesson from this.

VERSES 14-16

Once again, as you look at this situation through human eyes, it seemed like they were telling the truth. The evidence was overwhelming.

Then what was the problem?

“... they did not ask counsel of the LORD.” Joshua 9:14.

Here is the mistake that Joshua and the children of Israel made. And as we look back on it, we see the problem and we wonder why they did not seek council from the Lord.

We do the same thing many times. We look at things, doors are opening, and it looks like this is of the Lord. It may not be! That is why we need to seek the Lord and not just look at the outward signs but what is God saying, and do you have peace about the situation.

You see, some things are spiritually discerned and if they had brought it to the Lord instead of just using their human senses, God would have shown them.

Paul tells us of this in I Corinthians 2:10-14, **“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”**

Sometimes the obvious is the wrong thing to do.

Again, the Scriptures tell us that we are to, “**Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.**” Proverbs 3:5-6.

We need Godly wisdom, Godly instruction in all that we do. God wants to direct our steps if we will only seek Him, acknowledge Him!

So Joshua and the children of Israel make this covenant of peace with the Gibeonites.

And look what happened. Only three days after making this covenant with the Gibeonites they find out that they were neighbors and did not come from a faraway country.

In fact, the Gibeonites were only some 25 miles from Gilgal!

It is as the song goes, “*Oh what peace we often forfeit. Oh what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer!*”

Again, do not rush into a decision, but seek the Lord, wait for His direction. If they only waited, they would have found out about these Gibeonites before they made a covenant with them.

In Isaiah 40:31 we are told, “**But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.**”

You see, peace, strength as we learn to wait upon the Lord instead of running on ahead of Him and wasting our strength!

Also, Isaiah 30:15-16 we are told, **“For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: ‘In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.’ But you would not, And you said, ‘No, for we will flee on horses’ - Therefore you shall flee! And, ‘We will ride on swift horses’ - Therefore those who pursue you shall be swift!”**

God is telling them to repent, to turn back to Him and as they do, they will find rest, peace through the storms of life, the things they were going through. He wanted them to place their confidence in Him, but sadly, they refused, and verse 16 of Isaiah chapter 30 tells us why they refused to trust in God.

Notice the arrogance of their speech. Instead of resting in the Lord they were ready to jump on the Egyptian war horses and defeat the enemy!

But God says that they are sadly mistaken. Instead of pursuing the enemy, the enemy will come after them and they will flee!

Here’s the thing. Are you going to rest in the Lord and see the victories He will bring or trust in your own strength and be defeated?

And folks, the bottom line is this. We are to be led by the Lord and not by our will or our senses.

That is not only important for the leadership here at Calvary Chapel, but for every one of us!

But deception is all over the place and Meyer warned about how believers today are often deceived: *“So the children of God are imposed upon still! Women get married to unconverted husbands, supposing all the while that they are converted. Ministers of churches admit ravening wolves into their midst, deceived by the device of the sheepskin. Young converts get seduced from the simplicity and purity of the faith by lying spirits, that seem as lovely as God’s angels. This is due to their relying on their own judgment, and not asking counsel of God. We must try the spirits, whether they be of God, for many false spirits are gone out into the world.”*

Exactly! May we be wise and use the discernment that God has given to us before we rush out and do something!

VERSES 17-18

Now the children of Israel did not attack the Gibeonites, and they were mad at the leaders of Israel because they would not let them go and destroy them.

Why didn’t they attack the Gibeonites since they lied to the children of Israel?

This is interesting as we read on. We will see why they did not attack them.

VERSES 19-21

The people are complaining and wondering why they can’t wipe out this evil, lying people?

And Joshua tells them that they made a covenant with them not to destroy them and now they can’t go back on their word.

You can't take a mistake you made and try to correct it with another mistake or as the saying goes, "*Two wrongs don't make a right!*"

Yes, there was pressure upon them to wipe out the Gibeonites but to do what was right was more important than giving in to the pressure. That is an important lesson not only for leaders but also for all of us.

It is as Psalm 15:4-5 tells us, "**In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the Lord; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.**"

Now, would God hold them accountable if they broke this covenant with the Gibeonites? I mean they did lie so isn't that something they could use to justify the breaking of this covenant?

No, it is not, and God would hold them accountable if they broke it.

In fact, some 400 years later, King Saul broke this covenant with the Gibeonites, and judgment came upon Israel because of it.

We are told in II Samuel 21:1-9, "**Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the Lord. And the Lord answered, 'It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites.'** So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; the children of Israel had sworn protection to them, but Saul had sought to kill them in his zeal for the children of Israel and Judah. Therefore David said to the Gibeonites, '**What shall I do for you? And with what shall I make atonement, that you may bless the inheritance of the Lord?' And the Gibeonites said to him, 'We will have no silver or gold from Saul or from his house, nor shall you kill any**

man in Israel for us.’ So he said, ‘Whatever you say, I will do for you.’ Then they answered the king, ‘As for the man who consumed us and plotted against us, that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the territories of Israel, let seven men of his descendants be delivered to us, and we will hang them before the Lord in Gibeah of Saul, whom the Lord chose.’ And the king said, ‘I will give them.’ But the king spared Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the Lord’s oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. So the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite; and he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the hill before the Lord. So they fell, all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.”

His sin, King Saul’s, brought a famine upon the land during the days of King David and he had to deal with that sin before the judgment was stopped.

May our “*yes*” be “*yes*” and our “*no*” be “*no*.”

May we not break the covenants we make with people, especially but not limited to the marriage covenant!

VERSES 22-27

God takes a bad situation, made because they didn’t seek the Lord, and He will use it for good.

What do I mean by that?

Keep in mind that the Gibeonites understood the power of God and they would come to know this God as they served Him in the Temple as woodcutters and carrying the water.

And, interestingly enough, they are willing to serve the Lord no matter what capacity that would be!

What a great lesson for us, as David said in Psalm 84:10, “**For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**” It seems that is where the Gibeonites found their joy, serving the Lord!

We have seen in our study of Joshua how Rahab the harlot was saved, and now we see how these lying Gibeonites also are saved!

They both came to the God of Israel as sinners and so did we!

As we conclude this chapter listen to what David Guzik said regarding what happened to this group of people known as the Gibeonites. I find this amazing, but I should not because our God is amazing.

This is what he wrote,

- The Gibeonites became servants at the tabernacle, just as Joshua had commanded.
- Gibeon becomes a priestly city; the Ark of the Covenant stayed at Gibeon often in the days of David and Solomon (1 Chronicles 16:39-40 and 21:29).
- At least one of David’s *mighty men* was a Gibeonite (1 Chronicles 12:4).
- God spoke to Solomon at Gibeon (1 Kings 3:4).
- Gibeonites were among those who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem with Nehemiah (Nehemiah 3:7 and 7:25).

- David Guzik, Joshua 9

These are examples of the great things God can do with people who are sinners but come to Him in humility and love.

Now, as we move into Joshua chapter 10, we will see this covenant made with the Gibeonites have to be honored.

JOSHUA 10

VERSES 1-2

Here we see the King of Jerusalem, in hearing what the children of Israel did to Jericho and Ai, and how the Gibeonites made peace with Israel, they are now going to go after the inhabitants of Gibeon because they didn't fight against Israel.

Now, this King of Jerusalem, Adoni-Zedek, is an interesting figure. He was not like Melchizedek, the King of Salem during the time of Abraham and a type of Christ.

And yes, his name means the *lord of righteousness*, as Adoni means *lord* and Zedek means *righteousness*, but he is not a type of Christ but a type of the Antichrist.

For like the Antichrist, he will come with a federation of nations and attack Israel!

VERSES 3-5

Why did Adoni-Zedek do this? Why did he want to attack the Gibeonites?

Because he feared this covenant that the Gibeonites made with Israel, that other nations might join in and thus, his Kingdom would be in more trouble than it already is.

We see that he gathered four other Kings, and they encircled the city of Gibeon to cut off their food and water supply and they would then open up their gates and they could destroy the Gibeonites!

VERSE 6

As the Gibeonites saw what was happening, these armies starting to surround them, they sent word to Joshua and the children of Israel asking for help since they made this covenant with them.

VERSE 7

Think about this situation for a minute. Joshua said that they would not wipe out the Gibeonites. Thus, if they ignored this plea from them, and the Gibeonites were destroyed, it would take care of the problem they had, the mistake they made.

And we may rationalize something like this in our minds, but Joshua didn't. He kept the spirit of the vow he made with them.

What a lesson for us to follow. We are to love our enemies, pray for them, care for them for it shows the world that we are not of this world but of Christ!

VERSE 8

Five kings and their armies against Joshua and the children of Israel. No wonder God told Joshua not to fear. You see, fear speaks of unbelief and that causes us to become paralyzed in situations, unable to walk.

But faith walks!

What will Joshua and the children of Israel do?

Let's read on and see.

VERSES 9-14

They traveled all night from the lowland of Gilgal to Jericho, which is slightly higher, and still higher towards Ai, and then over the mountains was Gibeon, in the valley of Beth Horon, where the battle took place.

This was not an easy journey. Joshua pushes his troops through the night. The Israeli army marches hard - a ten hour - 15 mile - 3300 feet climb.

But when the sun comes up Joshua is in position to launch a surprise attack against Adoni-Zedek and his Amorite buddies.

When the sun rises the fight begins.

Now, there are times when I am exhausted and feel that I can't fight these enemies. The reality is that is true. I can't do it on my own but by the power of God working in me and through me I can be victorious no matter how tired I am!

Was there any reason for Joshua to fear?

Yes, through human reasoning but no because God gave him the victory just as He said He would do.

Folks, we too, as we trust God's Word can walk by faith and He will give us the victories as I have said.

And God gave them this victory in an interesting way. He rained hailstones down upon them and God is a good shot! He only hit the enemy and none of the children of Israel!

How big were these hailstones?

We are not told but in Revelation they weighed 100 pounds or so, and these may have been that big.

And think about this. God killed more of the enemy with these hailstones than the children of Israel did with the sword!

Now Joshua needed more time to finish this battle and asked God to cause the sun to stand still to give them more daylight hours.

People laugh at that but there is historical evidence for this.

In the ancient writings we find records of a long day in the area where Joshua was and on the opposite side of the world there are reports of a long night.

The Chinese speak of a *“long day.”*

The Aztecs of Mexico, and the Choctaw Indians, and the Peruvian Indians - all report a *“long night.”*

It’s a fact of history!

Now how did Joshua come up with a prayer like this?

I don’t believe he did, I believe God gave it to him.

Now many like to try to figure out how God did this and there are many ideas out there. From Venus coming too close to the earth according to a theory by Immanuel Velikovsky in his book, *Worlds in Collision* to another group of scientists who believe it was the planet Mars.

Let me put an end to the speculation. It was a miracle, and I will leave it at that.

In fact, Spurgeon hits the nail on the head as he wrote, *“How He did it is no question for us. . . . It is not ours to try and soften down miracles, but to glorify God in them.”*

And all I can say is *“Amen”* to that! This long day did happen and as Joshua reminds us, **“And there has been no day like that, before it or after it.”**

VERSES 15-27

These five Kings escape and are hiding in a cave. But Joshua does not lose focus, he locks them in this cave, has a few men guard them, and the rest continue to fight against the enemy.

Don't lose sight of the battle with the many distractions that are out there.

Now, after they defeat their enemies, they return to this cave and kill these five Kings and God gave the children of Israel a great victory!

One more point here. This is similar to what we read in Revelation 6:15-16 as other Kings and people hide in caves in fear as Jesus or Joshua comes upon them in judgment. They too refuse to repent, and they will not escape the judgment of God!

VERSE 28

Now the children of Israel are conquering the southern portion of the land and here we see the fall of the Canaanite city of Makkedah.

VERSES 29-30

Next, we see the fall of the Canaanite city of Libnah.

VERSES 31-33

Next to fall we see the Canaanite city of Lachish and when the King of Gezer, Horam came to help, they destroyed them also.

VERSES 34-35

Then came the fall of the Canaanite city of Eglon.

VERSES 36-37

The next Canaanite city to fall was Hebron.

VERSES 38-39

And here we see the fall of the Canaanite city of Debir.

VERSES 40-43

Here we see a summary of the southern campaign against these Canaanite Kingdoms and how God gave the children of Israel the victory.

After this we see that the children of Israel now return to their headquarters at Gilgal after a successful military campaign against the southern Kingdoms of Canaan. And they had to be pumped up, even though they were tired, for they had won a great victory.

And as they passed by those memorial stones of the crossing of the Jordan River, they must have just been praising the Lord for His love and faithfulness as they were preparing themselves for their campaign against the enemies in the northern areas of Canaan.

Folks, for us, it is as Paul said in Romans 8:37, “**Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.**”

May we walk in the victory that God has given to us, thanking Him for all He has done for us, is doing for us and will do for us as we walk by faith and not by sight!

