

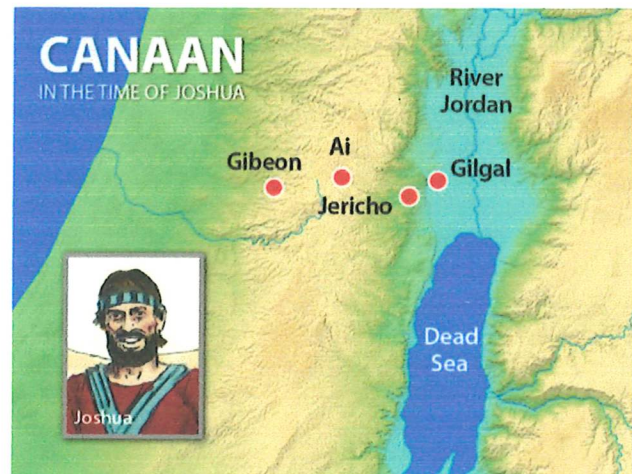


## Joshua 9

### The Gibeonite Deception

As soon as all the kings who were beyond the Jordan in the hill country and in the lowland all along the coast of the Great Sea toward Lebanon, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, heard of this, <sup>2</sup> they gathered together as one to fight against Joshua and Israel.

<sup>3</sup> But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, <sup>4</sup> they on their part acted with cunning and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended, <sup>5</sup> with worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes. And all their provisions were dry and crumbly. <sup>6</sup> And they



went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country, so now make a covenant with us." <sup>7</sup> But the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you live among us; then how can we make a covenant with you?" <sup>8</sup> They said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you? And where do you come from?" <sup>9</sup> They said to him, "From a very distant country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God. For we have heard a report of him, and all that he did in Egypt, <sup>10</sup> and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon the king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth. <sup>11</sup> So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country said to us, 'Take provisions in your hand for the journey and go to meet them and say to them, "We are your servants. Come now, make a

covenant with us.”<sup>12</sup> Here is our bread. It was still warm when we took it from our houses as our food for the journey on the day we set out to come to you, but now, behold, it is dry and crumbly.<sup>13</sup> These wineskins were new when we filled them, and behold, they have burst. And these garments and sandals of ours are worn out from the very long journey.”<sup>14</sup> So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD.<sup>15</sup> And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.

<sup>16</sup> At the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they heard that they were their neighbors and that they lived among them.<sup>17</sup> And the people of Israel set out and reached their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim.<sup>18</sup> But the people of Israel did not attack them, because the leaders of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel. Then all the congregation murmured against the leaders.<sup>19</sup> But all the leaders said to all the congregation, “We have sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel, and now we may not touch them.<sup>20</sup> This we will do to them: let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath that we swore to them.”<sup>21</sup> And the leaders said to them, “Let them live.” So they became cutters of wood and drawers of water for all the congregation, just as the leaders had said of them.

<sup>22</sup> Joshua summoned them, and he said to them, “Why did you deceive us, saying, ‘We are very far from you,’ when you dwell among us?<sup>23</sup> Now therefore you are cursed, and some of you shall never be anything but servants, cutters of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God.”<sup>24</sup> They answered Joshua, “Because it was told to your servants for a certainty that the LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you—so we feared greatly for our lives because of you and did this thing.<sup>25</sup> And now, behold, we are in your hand. Whatever seems good and right in your sight to do to us, do it.”<sup>26</sup> So he did this to them and delivered them out of the hand of the people of Israel, and they did not kill them.<sup>27</sup> But Joshua made them that day cutters of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, to this day, in the place that he should choose.

**Deuteronomy 20:10-18**

"When you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it. <sup>11</sup> And if it responds to you peaceably and it opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall do forced labor for you and shall serve you. <sup>12</sup> But if it makes no peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it. <sup>13</sup> And when the LORD your God gives it into your hand, you shall put all its males to the sword, <sup>14</sup> but the women and the little ones, the livestock, and everything else in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as plunder for yourselves. And you shall enjoy the spoil of your enemies, which the LORD your God has given you. <sup>15</sup> **Thus you shall do to all the cities that are very far from you, which are not cities of the nations here.** <sup>16</sup> But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes, <sup>17</sup> but you shall devote them to complete destruction, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, as the LORD your God has commanded, <sup>18</sup> that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God.

**Joshua 2:10-13**

**Rahab's Words to the Spies**

For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. <sup>11</sup> And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. <sup>12</sup> Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign <sup>13</sup> that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death."

*"We need not only the power of the Spirit against giants, but the wisdom of the Spirit against serpents"*

J. Sidlow Baxter

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.

**Joshua 6:3-5****Conquest of Jericho**

<sup>3</sup>You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. <sup>4</sup>Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. <sup>5</sup>And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat,<sup>[a]</sup> and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him."

**Joshua 8:4-8****Conquest of Ai**

<sup>4</sup>And he commanded them, "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind it. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you remain ready. <sup>5</sup>And I and all the people who are with me will approach the city. And when they come out against us just as before, we shall flee before them. <sup>6</sup>And they will come out after us, until we have drawn them away from the city. For they will say, 'They are fleeing from us, just as before.' So we will flee before them. <sup>7</sup>Then you shall rise up from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will give it into your hand. <sup>8</sup>And as soon as you have taken the city, you shall set the city on fire. You shall do according to the word of the LORD. See, I have commanded you."

**2 Samuel 21:1-6****David Avenges the Gibeonites**

Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year. And David sought the face of the LORD. And the LORD said, "There is bloodguilt on Saul and on his house, because he put the Gibeonites to death." <sup>2</sup>So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites were not of the people of Israel but of the remnant of the Amorites. Although the people of Israel had sworn to spare them, Saul had sought to strike them down in his zeal for the people of Israel and Judah. <sup>3</sup>And David said to the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? And how shall I make atonement, that you may bless the heritage of the LORD?" <sup>4</sup>The Gibeonites said to him, "It is not a matter of silver or gold between us and Saul or his house; neither is it for us to put any man to death in Israel." And he said, "What do you say that I shall do for you?" <sup>5</sup>They said to the king, "The man who consumed us and planned to destroy us, so that we should have no place in all the territory of Israel, <sup>6</sup>let seven of his sons be given to us, so that we may hang them before the LORD at Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of the LORD." And the king said, "I will give them."

*"Our need is no different than Israel's. We need not only the power of God to overwhelm our obvious enemies but also the wisdom of God to detect our subtle enemies. Unfortunately, the church too often craves God's power while it ignores God's wisdom."*

Dale Ralph Davis