

Joshua—Joshua 9

Tricked by the People of Gibeon

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

1. Verse 5... CLOUTED—“**clouted**: The word clouted signifies here patched, from the Anglo-Saxon clut, a clout or rag; and not nailed from the French clou, a nail.” [TSK].
2. Verse 6... LEAGUE—“A treaty or confederacy. The Jews were forbidden to enter into an alliance of any kind... (1.) with the Canaanites (Ex 23:32-33; 34:12-16); (2.) with the Amalekites (Ex 17:8,14; Deu 25:17-19); (3.) with the Moabites and Ammonites (Deu 2:9,19). Treaties were permitted to be entered into with all other nations. Thus David maintained friendly intercourse with the kings of Tyre and Hamath, and Solomon with the kings of Tyre and Egypt.” [Easton’s Bible Dictionary].
3. Verse 12... MOULDY—“Of the Gibeonites it is said that “all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy” (Jos 9:5, Jos 9:12). The Hebrew word here rendered “moldy” (nikuddim) is rendered “cracknels” in 1Ki 14:3, and denotes a kind of crisp cake. The meaning is that the bread of the Gibeonites had become dry and hard, hard as biscuits, and thus was an evidence of the length of the journey they had traveled.” [Easton’s Bible Dictionary].
4. Verse 14... “This is one of the few cases in the Bible where failure to pray is pointed out. Not inquiring of God’s will leads to wrong decisions which have lasting effects in our lives and in the lives of others” [Disciple’s Study Bible]. “We make more haste than good speed, when we stay not to take God with us, and do not consult him by the word and prayer” [Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible].

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: Period of the Conquest.

GILGAL, Place of Covenant... “Gilgal is a special holy place in the biblical stories. It was there that the newly arrived Israelites were circumcised. This act reestablished them as God’s chosen people (Josh 4:19; 5:7), and was supposed to prepare them spiritually for their conquest of Canaan. Gilgal was also where they celebrated their first Passover in the Promised Land (5:10). The ‘camp at Gilgal’ (9:6) served as the Israelites’ base of operations during their early military activities (Josh 10:6-7, 15, 43). ... At a later time both Samuel and Saul name Gilgal as a place where one went to offer sacrifices (1 Sam 10:8; 15:21). Understandably, Saul used Gilgal as a place to intensify nationalistic feelings and loyalty (1 Sam 11:14-15). It was there that Saul was made king of Israel” [The Life and Times Historical Reference Bible, p. 277].

GIBEONITES & the Period of the Restoration... “The Gibeonites were among those who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem after the return of Israel from Exile (Neh 7:25)” [The Hebrew/Greek Key Study Bible, p. 307].

III. Summary.

Chapter 9 begins with two different reactions to the recent victories God had given the Israelites. Most of the Canaanites put aside the things that normally kept them divided and decided to band together to fight against the invading Israelites. One group, however, followed a very different tact. The Gibeonites sought to make a treaty of peace with Israel. They knew they would have to use trickery to accomplish this and they formulated a plan for convincing the Israelites that they were from a great distance off and thus would be no problem to the Israelites. The evidence was examined and a decision was made by Joshua to make peace with

them. Verse 14 points out that the Israelites did not ask counsel at the mouth of the Lord. This, of course, was a large mistake. About three days later, the disguise of the Gibeonites had been discovered and there was a confrontation about the lies they had told. The princes of Israel restrained the Israelites from attacking the Gibeonites because of the oath they had sworn by the Lord with the Gibeonites. However, they did make slaves out of the Gibeonites, causing them to be hewers of wood and drawers of water. Joshua spoke to them and asked why they had been so deceitful. Their response was that they feared for their lives. Joshua passed along the sentence that they would be servants of Israel to cut wood and draw water.

IV. Outline.

1. Most Canaanites band together to fight Israel (Josh 9:1-2).
2. The Gibeonites use trickery to form a peace treaty with Israel (Josh 9:3-15).
3. Israel discovers the deceit of the Gibeonites (Josh 9:16-17).
4. The princes of Israel restrained the people from killing the Gibeonites because of the oath they had taken in the name of the Lord (Josh 9:18-20).
5. Instead of killing them, they would enslave them (Josh 9:21).
6. Joshua speaks to the Gibeonites and informs them of the decision (Josh 9:22-27).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ The presence of Israel in Canaan caused most of the inhabitants to be of one accord.
02. _____ The Gibeonites had heard about commands the Lord gave Moses.
03. _____ The Gibeonites mentioned the victory Israel had won over Jericho.
04. _____ Four cities were involved in the Gibeonite treaty.
05. _____ The Gibeonites had heard of the fame of the God of the Israelites.

Who/What Am I? Who Said It? Who Did it?

06. _____ Hewers of wood and drawers of water.
07. _____ “Who are ye? and from whence come ye?”
08. _____ “Let them live.”
09. _____ “This our bread we took hot for our provision out of our houses on the day we came forth to go unto you...”
10. _____ Moldy.

Fill in the Blanks

11. Different segments of the inhabitants of the land gathered themselves together with _____.
12. “And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were _____; and, behold, they be _____.”
13. Children of Israel came to the cities of the Gibeonites on the _____ day.
14. Ex ____:____... “And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a _____ in a book, and _____ it in the ears of Joshua: for I will _____ put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.”
15. “...and _____ counsel at the mouth of the Lord.”

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to Lesson 01-75 ... [01—True, Josh 7:26; 02—False, Josh 7:1; 03—False, Josh 7:20-21; 04—False, Josh 7:6; 05—True; 06—b, Josh 7:10; 07—c, Josh 7:21; 08—b, Josh 7:5;

09—a, Josh 7:24; 10—a, Josh 7:11; 11—say, Israel, backs, Josh 7:8; 12—Nehemiah, fasting, earth; 13—face, Josh 7:10; 14—saw, coveted, took, hid, Josh 7:21; 15—thirty, six, Josh 7:5.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai, They did work wily,...** (Josh 9:3). Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary of American English defines the word WILLILY as: "**WILILY, adv. [from wily.] By stratagem; with insidious art. Josh 9.**" It is interesting to me that this older dictionary unashamedly makes a quote from the Bible as an aid in defining a word. If dictionaries in our time used Bible texts to illustrate word usage, I doubt that they would be of much value because of our woeful lack of Bible knowledge. The two different approaches in dealing with the invading Israelites is quite interesting. The approach of the majority was a massive combined show of force. The approach of the Gibeonites was insidious trickery as a strategy to lead to peaceful co-existence. Our spiritual enemy, the devil, is sometimes BOLD as a lion (1 Pet 5:8), and sometimes SUBTILY transforms himself into an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14).
2. **...now therefore make ye a league with us** (Josh 9:6). The forces of evil are ever intent on causing the righteous to compromise their convictions. The order of the Lord was clearly understood even by the enemies of Israel, but this did not stop an attempt by the Gibeonites to bypass or get around that divine ruling. Pharaoh made four distinct attempts to get Moses to compromise away from the position the Lord had given him to stand upon (Ex 8:25; 8:28; 10:11; 10:24). Moses steadfastly refused to compromise saying, "*there shall not an hoof be left behind*" (Ex 10:26). Our only proper response to attempts to get us to compromise on the doctrine of Christ must be steadfast refusal to yield. If we resist the devil he will flee from us (Js 4:7). Nehemiah refused to compromise on the plains of Ono (Neh 6:1-3). We can have no fellowship with the works of darkness (Eph 5:11).
3. **This our bread we took hot for our provision...** (Josh 9:12-13). The evidence that was offered to prove the distance they had come to make a treaty was impressive, but it was NOT GENUINE. Joshua and the princes of Israel gave too much weight to the evidence that was being presented and in so doing made a bad decision. It is SAD, but true that error is sometimes easy to accept and many are deceived by it. We do have a reliable guide which is an objective standard that is always dependable and right (2 Tim 3:16-17; Acts 17:11; 1 Jn 4:1). We ought never to give any more weight to any proposition than is absolutely demanded by the evidence. We are to prove all things and hold fast that which is good (1 Th 5:21).
4. **And the men took of their victuals and asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord** (Josh 9:14). This is an often repeated mistake! Our means of receiving counsel at the mouth of the Lord today is to search the Bible.
5. **...because the princes of the congregation had sworn unto them by the Lord God of Israel... lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath which we sware unto them** (Josh 9:18, 20). They came to realize that they had been deceived, but a covenant of peace had already been agreed to, and they had attached the name of the Lord to it. Here is a strong indicator of the importance (in the eyes of the Lord and those faithful to Him) of honest dealings. The God of the Israelites was far different than any of the heathen gods. The children of Israel could not allow the name of the Lord to be disrespected by violating an oath they had taken in His name. The alternative taken was to punish the Gibeonites by enslaving them. At a future date, there was wrath executed against Israel as a result of Saul's slaying some of the Gibeonites (1 Sam 21:1-2).

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

G H B V C D E R F V B G T Y H N M J U I
P V S L O I K M N H Y T G C C B V F R E
D E U C X S W Q A Z X S W E E U D C V F
R R G T G Y O R T S E D B R N H R Y U B
J Y N M K I O I N H A B I T A N T S L O
P F O O L K I U J M N H Y A T G B O E N
V A M F R E S D C X S W Q I A Z X R S D
W R A E D R C R V F R T G N B N H E Y M
U J M K E I O L E P O L K L I U J A M E
N H Y W T G B V F W R E D Y C X S F W N
Q A E Z X S W E D D A C V F R T G R B N
H H Y U J M K E I O L R P O L K I A U J
M N H Y T G L B V F R E D D A C X I S W
Q A Z X S I W E D C V F R T G U B D N H
Y U J M U K I O P L O I K J U M H N H Y
T G B G V F R E D C X S W Q A Z X S S W
E D E C V F R G I V E L T G B N H Y O U
J B M K I O L P O L K A I U J M N H Y J
Y H N B G T R F V C D N D E W S X Z A Q
W S X C D E R F V B G D T Y H N M D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Joshua 9:22-24--²²And **Joshua** called for them, and he spake unto them, saying, Wherefore have ye **beguiled** us, saying, We are **very far** from you; when ye dwell **among us**? ²³Now therefore ye are **cursed**, and there shall none of you be freed from being **bondmen**, and **hewers** of wood and **drawers** of water for the house of my God. ²⁴And they answered Joshua, and said, Because it was **certainly** told thy servants, how that the LORD thy God commanded his servant Moses to **give** you all the **land**, and to **destroy** all the **inhabitants** of the land from before you, therefore we were **sore afraid** of our lives because of you, and have done this thing.