

**"The Wilily Gibeonites"**

**Joshua 9**

**Introduction:** Today we are stepping away from Zechariah and into the book of Joshua. Today we are going to look at a meeting between two groups of people and a choice that was made as well as the consequences of the choice.

We are living in a period of time when there is a great deal of deception. There is a great deal of demonic influence as well as what I believe to be demonic possession. Our society today seems to mirror the society of Noah's day.

**Genesis 6:5-6, 11-13**

<sup>5</sup> *And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

<sup>6</sup> *And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*

<sup>11</sup> *The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.*

<sup>12</sup> *And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.*

<sup>13</sup> *And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

With this said I want to remind you that the enemy will do his best to deceive us. Our choices must be in the will of God.

**I. The Deception**

When we come to Joshua 9 Israel under the leadership of Joshua has conquered Jericho and Ai right before this. The word of their conquests is traveling through the land and the inhabitants of Canaan are becoming very nervous. They then come together with a plan.

**Notice Joshua 9:1-2**

It is interesting that we are told about all these armies converging to fight against Israel because it never happened. God never permitted these groups of people to come together to destroy His people.

**Deuteronomy 31:1-6**

*And Moses went and spake these words unto all Israel.*

<sup>2</sup> *And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.*

<sup>3</sup> *The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said.*

<sup>4</sup> *And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed.*

<sup>5</sup> *And the LORD shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you.*

<sup>6</sup> *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

What we see here in Joshua 9:1-2 is God's faithfulness to His promises. While the inhabitants in verses 1-2 were planning an attack there was another group with a different plan, a plan of deception.

Notice Joshua 9:3-6

There is something here that we MUST not miss. The Gibeonites knew the military manual.

### **Deuteronomy 20:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> *When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it.*

<sup>11</sup> *And it shall be, if it make thee answer of peace, and open unto thee, then it shall be, that all the people that is found therein shall be tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee.*

<sup>12</sup> *And if it will make no peace with thee, but will make war against thee, then thou shalt besiege it:*

<sup>13</sup> *And when the LORD thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword:*

<sup>14</sup> *But the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, even all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine enemies, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.*

<sup>15</sup> Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities which are very far off from thee, which are not of the cities of these nations.

<sup>16</sup> But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth:

<sup>17</sup> But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee:

<sup>18</sup> That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the LORD your God.

**Application:**

Let us not miss an important lesson here. The enemy knows the Bible and he knows how to twist the Scriptures to lead us astray if we are not grounded. Watch what Satan did when he tempted Jesus.

**Matthew 4:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

<sup>6</sup> And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Satan knew Psalm 91.

**Psalm 91:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

<sup>12</sup> They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

## II. The Mistake

### Notice Joshua 9:7-15

Joshua and the leaders of Israel made a choice based completely upon what they could see. The problem was they did not seek the Lord's direction in the midst of this. Their choice was based completely on sight and feelings.

#### Application:

We would think that they would have learned from something which happened right before this when they went up against Ai.

### Joshua 7:1-11

*But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.*

<sup>2</sup> *And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai.*

<sup>3</sup> *And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few.*

<sup>4</sup> *So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai.*

<sup>5</sup> *And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.*

<sup>6</sup> *And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.*

<sup>7</sup> *And Joshua said, Alas, O LORD God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan!*

<sup>8</sup> O LORD, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies!

<sup>9</sup> For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?

<sup>11</sup> Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

Here at the first approach to Ai Joshua never prayed and they lost 36 men. Had Joshua prayed God would have revealed the sin of Achan.

### James 1:5

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lack wisdom, **let him ask of God**, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

### 1 John 5:14-15

<sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, **if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:**

<sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, **we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.**

God wants to give us wisdom when we need it so when we seek His will He will be sure to answer our prayers.

Joshua and the leaders made a treaty with the Gibeonites and this would prove to be very costly.

## III. The Consequences

### Notice Joshua 9:16-18

Three days after the treaty was made Israel found out they had been deceived. One of the consequences that we see here is that the trust the people had in the leaders was now in question. The people murmured against the leadership.

#### 1. The loss of peace.

There have been many people who have made choices based upon sight or feelings and in the end found out that it was a choice that robbed them of peace. This is especially true

of young people who are looking for a husband or a wife. Many times, the choice is made completely on looks or it is made because of feelings and they do not seek the will of God and if they do, they really do not want His advice. They know what God's Word says but they want what they want and they are determined. There have been many people who have regretted their choice and later wished they had taken the matter to the Lord and listened to Him.

**2. The loss of life.**

**Notice 2 Samuel 21:1**

David knew the famine was the result of sin.

**Deuteronomy 28:15-17, 23-24**

*<sup>15</sup> But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:*

*<sup>16</sup> Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.*

*<sup>17</sup> Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.*

*<sup>23</sup> And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.*

*<sup>24</sup> The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.*

**Notice 2 Samuel 21:2-6, 9.**

Seven innocent men died 400 years after the treaty was made.

**Conclusion:**

**Lessons:**

1. Poor choices will rob you of peace.
2. Poor choices will cause pain in your life and in the lives of those around you.
3. Not being upfront with the truth (as the Gibeonites did) can devastate the lives of others.