



Lesson 71

Joshua and the Gibeonites

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Joshua 9:1-27 • Setting: circa 1405 B.C., near Gilgal. • Characters: God, Joshua, and Gibeonite ambassadors • Plot: Men from Gibeon deceive the leaders of Israel into making a peace treaty with them. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s) “ _____ ” (vv 6,7, 11, 15, 16) • Climax <i>Joshua 9:14 And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD.</i> |
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Clever Ruse

1. (vv 1-15) As news spread across Canaan of the destruction of Ai and Jericho, many of the city-states in the land formed a confederacy against the Hebrews. However, the Hivites of Gibeon (and also of Chephirah, Beeroth and Kirjath-jearim), took matters into their own hands and formed a cunning plan to trick the Hebrews into a peace treaty. The plan involved:
 - a. Professing to be from a distant land. (The Hebrews were permitted to make treaties with nations outside of _____ . cf. Deu. 20:10-17)
 - b. Providing “evidence” to convince the Hebrews of their distant origins, including moldy bread, worn-out clothes, and ruined _____.
 - c. Proclaiming their fear of God (vv 9-10). The Gibeonites were wise to mention only their knowledge of the exploits of the Hebrews under Moses’ leadership and not also the miraculous victories of _____. This added to their claim of having left their homeland a long time previous.
2. The Gibeonite plot was successful, and the Israelites were deceived.

APPLICATION → The Hebrews’ mistake was in not asking counsel of the LORD. They trusted in their own abilities and _____.

Jeremiah 17:5 Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.

Consecrated Servants

3. (vv 16-27) Three days later, the Hebrews discovered the real origins of their mysterious visitors and paid them a visit. The soldiers wanted to attack the cities, but the princes (or elders) of Israel restrained them because of the _____ they had made with the Gibeonites.
4. In obedience to Deu. 20:10-17, Joshua spared the Gibeonites but put them in bondage by making them water carriers and _____ for the congregation (tabernacle services).
 - a. This fulfilled in part what was said in **Gen 9:25** *And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. 26 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.*
 - b. In verse 27, the Hebrew word that Joshua used for made (or appointed) is *nathan*. It is very likely that the Gibeonites were also denominated as the _____, who were servants to the temple.

APPLICATION → Like Rahab, the Gibeonites are a Canaanite illustration of salvation and grace to the Gentiles. Matthew Henry wrote, “Let us imitate these Gibeonites, and make our peace with God in the rags of humiliation,

