

Joshua 9

Joshua 9.1-2

V1 – What was the Great Sea? Mediterranean

-What did these kings hear of? The defeat of Ai

V2 – What did these pagan kings do? Dropped their differences and united against the Israelites

-Is there any indication that Joshua was afraid of these kings? No – he trusted in God

Joshua 9.3-15

V3 – The deeds of Joshua were told everywhere

-Gibeon – a small area about 6 miles northwest of modern Jerusalem – about 6 miles southwest of Ai

-Was this in the vicinity of the Israelites? Yes - very close

V4 – Did the Gibeonites believe in God? Yes

-That is why they knew they were doomed if they didn't do something

-Who do they remind us of? Rahab

(Interesting: Rahab lied; the Gibeonites used deceit)

-What did the Gibeonites want to do? Make peace with God's people

-Remember: *Genesis 34* – Jacob's daughter Dinah as raped; Jacob's sons deceived the men of Shechem

-They pretended to make a covenant with them (circumcision), but killed them all

V4-5 – How did the Gibeonites disguise themselves? Old clothes, worn-out sandals, old wine-skins, food that was hard and dried out

V6 – What was their message to the Israelites? They had come from a far-away country: "Make a covenant with us"

V7 – Hivites – a general title for nomads in Palestine

-What did the men of Israel say? Maybe you are a local people – the men of Israel were cautious

V8 – Reply of the Gibeonites? We are your servants (pretended to be very humble)

V9 – Their story? We heard of your God – what he did here and in Egypt (10 plagues/Red Sea)

-Shows how the word had spread throughout the Promised Land

V10 – They heard about other victories of the Israelites:

1. The defeat of the two kings of the Amorites (on other side of the Jordan)
2. The defeat of Sihon king of Heshbon
3. The defeat of Og king of Bashan who was at Ashtaroth

-It is hard to find many details of these victories

V11 – The story continued: their elders told them to make a covenant with Israel

V 12 – **What did they say about their bread?** Warm from the oven when they left

V 13 – **What else?** New wineskins, new clothes and shoes

V 14 – **Very sad verse** – **Two mistakes that the Israelites made?**

-1. Accepted food from the Gibeonites and 2. Did not ask the counsel of God

V 15 – **Covenant?** They could live at peace in Israel

Joshua 9.16-21

V 16 – **How long did the deception last?** 3 days

-Lying usually doesn't work for very long

V 17 – **How far away were the Gibeonites?** 3 days journey – the 4 cities of Gibeon are listed here

V 18 – **Two results?** Israelites did not attack the Gibeonites (because of the covenant), and the Israelites grumbled against the leaders

-God killed more people in the Old Testament for grumbling than for any other cause – the 2-3 million people who died in the wilderness died because of their grumbling and whining and complaining (from the day they crossed the Red Sea...)

V 19 – **Reply of the leaders?** We made an agreement

V 20 – The leaders of Israel did not want to break an oath

V 21 – **Decision of the leaders?** The Gibeonites could live, but would be "slaves" (chopping wood, drawing water, etc.)

-Of course, that was better than what happened to the other inhabitants of the land

Joshua 9.22-27

V 22 – Joshua was very upset that they had been deceived

V 23 – **The curse?** They would always be slaves

V 24 – **What was the commandment of God?** That all the inhabitants of the land were to be destroyed

-The Gibeonites knew about the commandment

-Conclusion: These were not the typical pagans of the land

V 25 – **What did the Gibeonites agree to?** To the decision of Joshua and the elders

V 26 – **Result?** The Gibeonites were not killed

V 27 – They remained slaves until the writing of the book of *Joshua*

- Later: *1 Chronicles 12.4* – a Gibeonite was one of David's mighty men
- Neh. 3.5* – the Gibeonites helped Nehemiah rebuild the wall around Jerusalem
- Interesting: **Read 2 Samuel 21.1-6** – Saul had mistreated some Gibeonites – David had to avenge the Gibeonites
- In other words, the covenant with Joshua was honored down through the history of Israel

Remember: **Read Romans 8.28** – God causes all things to work out for good (as in the case of the Gibeonites)

Lessons from Joshua 9

1. People can appear to be religious and sincere, but can be lying:
 - The old prophet – **Read 1 Kings 13.18-19**
 - Read 2 Cor. 11.13-15**
 - Read Titus 1.10-11**
 - Read Jude 12-13**
2. Our only hope is to consult God (and the Bible)

Revised 2012-09-15