

This morning/afternoon we’d like to see the book of Joshua 9:1-27 under the title of “Gibeonites’ Deceit”

Q1. In this chapter, how the evil inhabitants of the land did respond to Israel’s invasion as commanded by God? And how should we respond to the power of darkness during our lives as we obey God’s will? (Seek God’s wisdom by prayer)

Q2. In this chapter, what suspicions did Israel and Joshua have in their conversation with Gibeonites? And what pieces of evidence did Gibeonites present to prove that they came from “a very far country?”

Q3. In verse 14, “Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD,” what should we learn? (Pray always even if circumstances seem obvious.)

(Background)

- (1) How to know God’s will/direction by prayer (4 criteria – applicable Word of God; God’s glory; opened doors; willing mind at commitment.)

(John 7:17-18) “If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. ¹⁸ He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.”

(Revelation 3:7) “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens” Mat 10:29 “ Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will.”

(2 Corinthians 8:12) “For if there is first a willing mind, *it is* accepted according to what one has, *and* not according to what he does not have.”

- (2) After defeated by Ai, Joshua and elders/rulers prayed to the Lord for God’s will/direction.

(Joshua 7:6-7) “Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. ⁷ And Joshua said, “Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!”

And then God showed them who committed sin, the trespass to the spoils from Jericho – clothes, lump of silver and gold. Achan, a tribe of Judah, confessed his sin. He and his family were stoned and burned and piled up with stones by all Israel. The place was called as the Valley of Achor.

(3) God commanded Moses to destroy the inhabitants of the land because God is just and they were so evil to worship many idols. Israel was used as an instrument to judge against the evil land.

(Deuteronomy 7:2) “and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. “ (God’s justice; no compromise)

<p>¹And it came to pass when all the <u>kings</u> who <i>were</i> on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon—the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite—<u>heard about it</u>, ² that they <u>gathered together to fight</u> with Joshua and Israel with one accord.</p> <p>³ But when the <u>inhabitants of Gibeon</u> heard what Joshua had <u>done to Jericho and Ai</u>, ⁴ they worked <u>craftily</u>, and went and <u>pretended to be ambassadors</u>. And they took <u>old sacks</u> on their donkeys, <u>old wineskins</u> torn and mended, ⁵ <u>old and patched sandals</u> on their feet, and <u>old garments</u> on themselves; and all the <u>bread</u> of their provision was <u>dry and moldy</u>. ⁶ And they went to Joshua, to the camp at <u>Gilgal</u>, and said to him and to the men of Israel, “We have <u>come from a far country</u>; now therefore, make a <u>covenant with us</u>.”</p> <p>⁷ Then the men of Israel said to <u>the Hivites</u>, “<u>Perhaps you dwell among us</u>; so how can we make a covenant with you?”</p> <p>⁸ But they said to Joshua, “<u>We are your servants</u>.”</p> <p>And Joshua said to them, “<u>Who are you, and where do you come from?</u>”</p> <p>⁹ So they said to him: “<u>From a very far country</u> your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God; for we have heard of His fame, and all that He did in Egypt, ¹⁰ and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who <i>were</i> beyond the Jordan—to Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroath. ¹¹ Therefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, ‘Take provisions with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say to them, “<u>We are your servants</u>; now therefore, make a covenant with us.’”</p>	<p>1= heard about it (conquering Jericho & Ai, 3 “what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai”)</p> <p>2=Q1 gathered together to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord (their alliance against Israel)</p> <p>3= Q1 the inhabitants of Gibeon ... done to Jericho and Ai ... craftily (Gibeonites... treaty with Israel ... by deceit or fraud)</p> <p>4.5 old....dry and moldy</p> <p>6. Gilgal (North of Jericho, South of Shechem) ; a covenant with us (treaty)</p> <p>7=Q2 Hivites, Perhaps you dwell among us (Suspicion 1)</p> <p>8= Q2 Who <i>are</i> you, and where do you come from? (suspicion 2)</p> <p>9. from a very far country</p>
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<p>¹² This <u>bread</u> of ours we took <i>for</i> our provision from our houses on the day we departed to come to you. But now look, it is <u>dry and moldy</u>. ¹³ And these <u>wineskins</u> which we filled <i>were</i> new, and see, they are <u>torn</u>; and these our <u>garments</u> and our <u>sandals</u> have become <u>old</u> because of the very long journey.”</p>	<p>12= Q2 bread... dray and moldy; wineskins .. torn; garment old; sandals old (4 pieces of evidence to prove they came from a vary far country)</p>
<p>¹⁴ Then the men of Israel <u>took some of their provisions</u>; but they did <u>not ask counsel of the LORD</u>.</p>	<p>14=Q3 took some of their provisions (obvious, don't need prayer?) not ask counsel of the Lord (¹ <i>Luke 18:1; Luke 21:36; Phil 4:6-7; 1 Thes 5:17</i>)</p>
<p>¹⁵ So Joshua made peace with them, and <u>made a covenant with them</u> to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation <u>swore</u> to them.</p>	<p>15. made a covenant with them (treaty; unequal yoke; alliance with unbelievers ² <i>2 Cor 6:14</i>), swore (oath , irrevocable promise ³ <i>Lev 5:4-6</i>)</p>
<p>¹⁶ And it happened at <u>the end of three days</u>, after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that <u>they were their neighbors who dwelt near them</u>.</p>	<p>16. the end of three days ... were their neighbors ... near them (deceit; fraud, i.e. the alliance caused by fraud)</p>
<p>¹⁷ Then the children of Israel journeyed and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities <i>were</i> <u>Gibeon</u>, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim.</p>	<p>17. Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim (West of Jerusalem)</p>
<p>¹⁸ But the children of Israel <u>did not attack them</u>, because the rulers of the congregation had <u>sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel</u>. And all the congregation complained against the rulers.</p>	<p>18. sworn to them by the Lord God of Israel (more harsh to breach the oath)</p>

¹ *Luke 18:1* Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart; *Luke 21:36* Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”; *Phil 4:6-7* Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus; *1 Thes 5:17* pray without ceasing.

² *2 Cor 6:14* Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

³ *Lev 5:4-6* “Or if a person swears, speaking thoughtlessly with *his* lips to do evil or to do good, whatever *it is* that a man may pronounce by an oath, and he is unaware of it—when he realizes *it*, then he shall be guilty in any of these *matters*. ⁵ “And it shall be, when he is guilty in any of these *matters*, that he shall confess that he has sinned in that *thing*; ⁶ and he shall bring his trespass offering to the LORD for his sin which he has committed, a female from the flock, a lamb or a kid of the goats as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him concerning his sin.

<p>¹⁹ Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, “We <u>have sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them.</u> ²⁰ This we will do to them: We will let them live, lest wrath be upon us <u>because of the oath</u> which we swore to them.” ²¹ And the rulers said to them, “Let them live, but let them be <u>woodcutters and water carriers</u> for all the congregation, as the rulers had promised them.”</p>	<p>19. therefore, we may not touch them (we may not destroy /kill them)</p>
<p>²² Then Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, “Why have you deceived us, saying, ‘We <i>are</i> very far from you,’ when you dwell near us? ²³ Now therefore, <u>you are cursed</u>, and none of you shall be freed from being slaves—woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God.”</p>	<p>23. you are cursed (as slaves, i.e., woodcutters and water carriers for Israel)</p>
<p>²⁴ So they answered Joshua and said, “Because your servants were clearly told that the LORD your <u>God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land</u> from before you; therefore we were very much afraid for our lives because of you, and have done this thing. ²⁵ And now, here we are, in your hands; do with us as it seems good and right to do to us.” ²⁶ So he did to them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, so that they did not kill them. ²⁷ And that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, in the place which He would choose, even to this day.</p>	<p>24. God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land (Deut 7:2, above)</p> <p>⇒ In result, Israel was tempted to commit idolatry through evil inhabitants of the land. Israel was punished by God through Babylon.</p> <p>⇒ Joshua (in Chapter 7, he sought God’s will but in Chapter 9, here he didn’t. He was a chosen servant of God but was incomplete. God used incomplete one as instrument for His kingdom. Nobody is perfect. So, when we are used as His instruments for His will, we would thank Him always.)</p>

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