

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible  
Current Book: Joshua – Message 11

2018 VISION: Mission Jerusalem: Reach 1

**Scriptures for Today: Joshua 9:1-27 – Deception by the Gibeonites; Mercy and grace by Joshua**

**Today's Message: Forever Bondmen – *There is no job too small or unimportant in God's kingdom!***

## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw God's perfect plan for victory at Ai. And, after victory, Joshua obeyed God's Word, built an altar for worship, and then led one of the most glorious preaching events in the holy Bible! Today, we are going to witness something **troubling** and **glorious**. We are going to see people come to Joshua to be \_\_\_\_\_ from his destruction through lies and false pretenses! And, when their sin is found out and they humbly cast themselves at Joshua's merciful feet in surrender, he will \_\_\_\_\_ them! They will be appointed as **bondmen forever** – an honor and privilege to serve in God's temple.

## LEARNING TOGETHER

### 1. The Text Joshua 9:1-27

- **Together against** – The kings of the earth *gathered themselves together* \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua.  
9:1-2      "... **gathered themselves together**, to fight with Joshua and with Israel..."
- **Working wilily** – The Gibeonites *set out to deceive* Joshua by making a \_\_\_\_\_ agreement.  
9:3-13      "They did work wilily, and went and **made as if they...** ambassadors..."
- **Critical error** – Joshua made peace with them \_\_\_\_\_ asking counsel from God's Word.  
9:14-15      "And the men took... and **asked not counsel** at the mouth of the LORD."
- **Sinful discovery** – After \_\_\_\_\_ days, the Gibeonites' sin was discovered and escalated.  
9:16-18      "*children of Israel journeyed, and came unto **their cities on the third day***..."
- **Graceful surrender** – The Gibeonites bowed in \_\_\_\_\_ before Joshua; He spared them!  
9:19-27      "...**we are in thine hand**: as it seemeth good and right unto thee... **DO**."

### 2. The History & Prophecy 2 Samuel 21; Psalm 2; Revelation 20

- **Gibeon** – Gibeon ("hill city") was a great city and one of the royal cities greater and mightier than Ai. Its inhabitants were the Hivites. The tabernacle was here until David moved it to Jerusalem. Saul slew the Gibeonites and brought a snare to him and Israel. And, David redeemed them for Saul's error and sin.

*Josh 10:2;11:19; Ex 23:32; Deut 7:2; 20:10, 16; 1 Sam 22; 2 Sam 21; Ezra 8:20*

NOTE Joshua should have destroyed them. They deserved it. They were under God's curse and condemnation. Yet, because they came desiring peace (even under false pretenses at the first), He showed them mercy and grace. Jewish tradition teaches that the Gibeonites were the original "*Nethinim*" or temple servants. They were the only city and people to make peace with the children of Israel!

- **Tribulation** – Joshua has begun what will be a 7-year period of conquering God's enemies to possess the land. This book points prophetically to the 7-year Tribulation Period. The kings of the earth have always unified against God. However, the devil will "*gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*" *Ps 2:1-2; Prov 11:21; Isa 54:15; Joel 3:11-13; Acts 4:26-28; Rev 16:14; 20:8-9*

NOTE When we understand the prophetic teaching of Joshua, we can see how the future battle of that great day will unfold by Jesus Christ. The Gibeonites must then represent the few Gentiles who will be saved during the Tribulation Period and who will be accepted by Jesus and appointed as His temple servants! Wow!

### 3. The Lessons      **Numbers 32:23; Revelation 22:17; Revelation 7:14**

✓ *The Gibeonites thought they could deceive God and His people; their sin found them out.*

- **False pretenses** – The Gibeonites chose to be dishonest with God; it was quickly revealed.

**Num 32:23** *"ye have **sinned against the LORD...** be sure your sin will find you out."*

**Truth:** Many people live in sin as if \_\_\_\_\_ has forgotten. Sin always leads to death.

**Learning:** **Why do we live as if God does not care about sin? If you, repent today.**

✓ *The Gibeonites feared God and His judgment; they came initially under false pretenses.*

- **Come** – Fearful and lost, the Gibeonites came deceitfully. But, they came seeking peace!

**Rev 22:17** *"And **the Spirit and the bride say, Come...** And whosoever will..."*

**Truth:** People come to God with false pretenses; \_\_\_\_\_ will humble themselves.

**Learning:** **No matter why you came today, surrender your heart to Jesus Christ!**

✓ *The Gibeonites were saved from great calamity; they were happy and thankful to serve!*

- **Saved to serve** – Our story – we who deserved wrath have been shown grace and mercy!

**Rev 7:9-15** *"These are... **came out of great tribulation...** serve him day and night..."*

**Truth:** The love of Christ must constrain us to \_\_\_\_\_ Him day and night with tears!

**Learning:** **There is no job too small in God's kingdom; it is more blessed to give.**