

## Putting Feet to Your Faith

### Joshua 9:1-27

- Israel after experiencing defeat at the hands of the people of Ai are now enjoying victory over those same people all because they practiced repentance and obedience instead of deception and disobedience. Thirty six people had to lose their lives in order for the rest of the nation of Israel to truly understand that blessings live next door to obedience and suffering is near to disobedience, for once Israel conquered the people of Ai everything that was of value that once was under their ownership God has now given to Israel.

### V1-27

- **V1-2** while Israel was at Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal reaffirming their commitment to the Lord, word has quickly spread among the Canaanite Kings that Israel has conquered Jericho and Ai, and so what do they decide to do, gather together and fight as one against Israel.
- Until now these neighboring countries didn't get along, they couldn't stand one another, as tribal warfare had gone on for centuries, but after hearing how Egypt's army drowned in the Red Sea, and Jericho's walls fell down from a shout, and Ai people are no more, suddenly deadly enemies come together and unite in an effort to stand against God's people.
- This is actually a common theme throughout scripture > Pilate and Herod previously hated one another until it was time to execute Jesus > **Lk 23:12**, Pharisees and Sadducees put aside their spiritual differences to unite against Jesus > **Math 22:34**, the world will bond together in order to fight against Jesus during His second Coming > **Rev 19:19**.
- So this is nothing new seeing these Kings and nations resist Israel instead of submitting like Rahab did as it fulfilled **Gen 15:13-16** where God said when the Amorites had reached their rebellion and sin God would bring judgment upon them, well its been over **400yrs** and now its time, the remarkable thing is that God had waited so long before doing this > **2Pet 3:8-9**.
- **V3-6** while some wanted to openly fight against Israel others decided the subtle way was best if they hoped to survive this takeover. The Gibeonites understood that resisting Israel was futile, nations and armies larger than theirs had tried and failed so what hope was there for them if they decided to fight? So instead of going to war they relied on trickery, this is an often used strategy by Satan, especially after we've experienced victory, as its then we can become most vulnerable, for instead of being on alert we drop our guard and start to relax.
- Gibeon was about twenty miles southwest of Ai, located in the hill country, and because Israel is not familiar with Canaan they had no idea that they were neighbors of Ai. Pay close attention to the methods of deception > **craftily**- to use guile or trickery, they act out their deception by misrepresenting themselves by using > **false evidence**- using old sacks, old wineskins, old patched up sandals, moldy bread, all in an attempt to sell the deception.

- Why didn't they just tell the truth? Rahab and her family was saved by submitting to Israel and recognizing that their God was the True God and Creator of the universe. But the problem was Rahab and her family had faith, they believed so their goal was to worship with Israel, Gibeon's goal wasn't worship it was self preservation, to save their lives, and therefore they had no problem in relying on deception to obtain their goal.
- Something else is happening here also, Gibeon maybe only wanted to save their lives but Satan wanted something more > **Ex 23:23-24**- God had told Israel to go into Canaan and break down their gods, their traditions, and utterly destroy them, do not make any treaties with them for in doing so then their ungodly lifestyles will live on and get passed down to Israel's children, and that is the goal of Satan, to indoctrinate our young people.
- **V7-13** initially Israel could sense something wasn't right but Gibeon used the age old trick of flattery on them **V8** and that played on Joshua's and Israel's ego, especially after saying we heard what was done to Sihon and Og **V10-11**, translation: were afraid of you just let us serve you. **V14-15** Joshua had made this mistake before when he went to war against Ai without first consulting the Lord and it cost them thirty six lives but he still hadn't learned his lesson notice instead of going to God he instead asked them "**who are you**" they lied.
- Next they trust in their senses taking the Gibeonites provisions and examining it thinking they could smell a phony and they get fooled. Adam and Eve did the same thing in the garden, they listened to Satan and his lies, then they took without consulting The Lord, and boom they choose wrong and sin enters into the world.
- Always remember that while physical evidence works in a courtroom, spiritually we walk by faith not by sight > **2 Cor 5:7**, what looks good, smells good, what sounds good, still might not be good. We need prayerful dependence on The Lord, and patient guidance for His will, in order to know that the choices we are making are furthering His Kingdom.
- **V16-18** after three days its revealed that the Gibeonites had lied and were there neighbors, and the congregation is upset at Joshua and the rulers. Another reason to trust in the Lord and not in man, they will agree with you, maybe even encourage or urge you into a decision but the moment that decision backfires they will then turn on you, that's why we need to be hearing from the Lord before we decide what course to take.
- **V19-21** the congregation is ready to kill them, but the rulers remind them that they have sworn an oath to spare their lives, which infuriates the people even more. So the rulers want to make them workmen and cutters those responsible for carrying water and bringing materials for the sacrifices and Tabernacle services. **V22-27** Joshua before deciding their fate asks them "**why did they lie**"? They answer because we want to live and not die.

- A treaty is made but later King Saul breaks the vow to the Gibeonites and killed many of them causing a three year famine in Israel > **2Sam 21:1**. Also when Israel returned after the Babylonian captivity the Gibeonites assisted the priests and labored in the service of the rebuilding of the Temple, and their names was changed to the “**Nethinim**” means given ones **1Chon 9:2, Ezra 2:43**.