

- I) V1-2 INTRO: And it came to pass when all the kings who were on this side of the Jordan in the hills
  - a) The Israelites have begun their conquest of Canaan, and have experienced great victories
  
- II) AS WE HAVE SEEN: They first entered in to the center of the land, and took the city of Jericho
  - a) After defeating Jericho, they were at first defeated by Ai, but upon dealing with sin conquered it
    - 1) Both of the cities were destroyed, and Joshua demolished Ai (8:26)
  
- III) THIS NEWS: Travelled throughout the area and provoked the inhabitants to form an alliance
  - a) Their mutual fear of Israel initially caused them to agree to unite in opposition to them
    - 1) Ps 2:1-3 Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, Let us break their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."
  
- IV) V3-5 BUT: When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai
  - a) INTERESTINGLY: Though these kings united to oppose Israel, the Gibeonites chose another path
    - 1) They were around 7 miles from Ai, and a short distance (about 5 miles) southwest of Jerusalem
  
- V) GIBEON: Was actually a powerful city (10:2) with 3 cities in league with them (9:17)
  - a) They were certain that they would be destroyed, so they came up with a plan
    - 1) They would make it appear that they traveled a great distance from a far country
    - 2) Everything from saddlebags on the donkeys to the moldy bread was designed to deceive them
  
- VI) V6-7 AND: They went to Joshua to the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel We have
  - a) At first the men of Israel hesitated, clearly being aware that they could be deceiving them
    - 1) Israel had been commanded not to make any covenants with the inhabitants of the land
    - 2) Nu 33:51-56 Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places; you shall dispossess *the inhabitants of* the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess. And you shall divide the land by lot as an inheritance among your families; to the larger you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give a smaller inheritance; there everyone's *inheritance* shall be whatever falls to him by lot. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers. But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain *shall be* irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell. Moreover it shall be *that* I will do to you as I thought to do to them.'"
  
- VII) V8 AND: They said to Joshua We are your servants And Joshua said to them Who are you
  - a) They use a common, polite phrase but are not truly volunteering to become slaves!
  
- VIII) V9-10 SO: They said to him From a very far country your servants have come because of the name
  - a) It is interesting how they went about deceiving Joshua
  
- IX) NOTE: They once again say that they have come from a very distant land
  - a) This gives the impression that they are not part of the land being conquered by Israel
  - b) It also is used to provoke Joshua's sense of honor for his God: your God is known as great!
    - 1) He delivered Israel out of Egypt, and gave victory over two very famous kings
    - 2) NOTICE: They do not mention the crossing of the Jordan or the fall of Jericho: too recent!
  
- I) V11-13 THEREFORE: Our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us saying Take

- a) They draw their attention to the outside evidences being offered:
  - 1) Moldy bread, tattered wineskins, worn out garments and shoes were used as evidence
- II) V14-15 THEN: The men of Israel took some of their provisions but they *did not ask counsel of the Lord*
  - a) They made a decision based on outer appearance, and failed to seek God's direction
    - 1) This failure to pray gave place for them to be completely deceived
    - 2) Joshua did not intend to disobey God, but was genuinely deceived
- III) WHAT WAS HIS MISTAKE: He did not seek the counsel of the Lord, which speaks of prayer
  - a) Joshua looked at the outer appearance, but did not seek God's direction
- IV) HE FAILED: To be *vigilant* in prayer
  - a) Col 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving
    - 1) Remain strong in prayer, applying steady effort, and be vigilant (awake) and do not grow weary
    - 2) To be vigilant is to remain watchful and alert to danger or any trouble
- V) JOSHUA: Was taken by their deception because he did not seek the Lord's direction
  - a) All he could see was the outside, but God sees the hearts and was aware of their plans
    - 1) Jer 23:24 Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD.
    - 2) Heb 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.
- VI) BECAUSE GOD SEES ALL: It is always wise to seek His direction first, in prayer
  - a) Interestingly, Joshua already knew the Word: he is not to make a treaty with these people
    - 1) It was not a failure of knowing God's Word on the subject, but a *failure to pray for direction*
- VII) E. M. BOUNDS WROTE:
  - a) It cannot be stated too frequently that the life of a Christian is a (life of) warfare; an intense conflict, a lifelong contest. It is a battle, moreover, waged against invisible foes, who are ever alert, and ever seeking to entrap, deceive, and ruin the souls of men. The life to which Holy Scripture calls men is no picnic...it is no pastime, no pleasure jaunt. It entails effort, wrestling, struggling; it demands the putting forth of the full energy of the spirit in order to frustrate the foe and to come off, at the last, more than conqueror. It is no primrose path, no rose-scented dalliance. From start to finish, *it is war*. From the hour in which he first draws sword, to that in which he doffs his harness, the Christian warrior is compelled to "endure hardness like a good soldier."
- VIII) SEEKING GOD: In prayer is of utmost importance as we look to live pleasing lives for Him
  - a) As we pray we are admitting our need for His help and direction, and adopting humility
    - 1) We are abandoning our pride, and revealing our dependence on Him
    - 2) Pr 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart...
- IX) V15 SO JOSHUA: Made peace with them and made a covenant with them to let them live and the rulers
  - a) Though he did not sin willfully, he did not value the privilege of actually asking God for direction
    - 1) What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

everything to God in prayer!  
not carry everything to God in prayer.

l) AGAIN: By not seeking God Joshua was deceived into making this covenant

- a) Eccl 5:2 Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few.
- II) V16-21 AND: It happened at the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them that they
- a) They had made the vow before God, and were not able to break it
    - 1) Nu 30:2 If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.
    - 2) They made the agreement, and they were to keep their oath
- III) V21 AND: The rulers said to them Let them live but let them be woodcutters and water carriers
- a) These tasks were the lowest tasks, and so they were made to do the most menial work
- IV) V22-23 THEN: Joshua called for them and he spoke to them saying Why have you deceived us
- a) Though deception was used to secure the oath, Israel was still bound to honor it
    - 1) It was through their own carelessness that they made such an oath
    - 2) What they did was respect their word, but also reduced them to slave labor
- V) V24-27 SO: They answered Joshua and said Because it was certainly told your servants that the LORD
- a) They believed that the God of Israel was giving the land to the israelites, so they lied to live
    - 1) The result was a life of slavery: but for them, it was better than dying