

10/31/03

**Joshua 9-10**

Deception and lies have their source in Satan, the Father of lies and ever since the fall it has been a way of life for fallen man.

\* Satan deceived Eve by lies and so do men and women deceive each other in the same manner.

We have the account of the Gibeonites who deceived Joshua by their lies in order to make a covenant with them and the ensuing battle with the confederacy of the other kings of the land.

**9:1-14      The two decisions against Joshua.**

**9:1-2**      Five kings confederated against Joshua.

- 1) Those of the hills, the lowlands, all the coast of the Great Sea, the Mediterranean, as they heard of the campaign to Mount Garizim and Ebal to erect the altar and proclaim the Law. Vs. 1
- 2) They joined together as one man to stop them from possessing the land. Vs. 2

**9:3-5**      The Gibeonites devised a deceptive plan to make a covenant with Israel.

- 1) The plan of the Gibeonites was contrary to these kings. Vs. 3
  - a) The word “but” marks the sharp contrast.
  - b) The deciding factor was in hearing what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai.
- 2) The Gibeonites were clever in their plan. Vs. 4-5
  - a) They worked craftily “ormah”, which means to wily, shrewdness with an evil intent of presumptuous guile.
  - b) They went passing themselves off as ambassadors of a foreign country.
  - c) They were on the central mountain range about eight miles northwest of Jerusalem.
  - d) They took with them all the physical evidence to persuasively convince them of their words. Vs. 4b-5
    - 1) The wiles or stratagems of Satan in spiritual warfare. Eph. 6:11-12
    - 2) Satan is the God of this world. 2Cor. 4:4
    - 3) Prince of the power of the air. Eph. 2:2
    - 4) Transforms himself and angels into one of light. 2Cor. 11:13-15
    - 5) The weapons of our warfare. 2Cor. 10:3-5

**9:6-14** The Gibeonites departed to persuade Israel by their careful deception. Vs. 6-14

- 1) The Gibeonites arrived at Gilgal. Vs. 6
  - a) They went directly to Joshua at Gilgal, the camp of Israel. Vs. 6a-b
    - 1) Probably this is a different Gilgal than the one of the men's circumcision but if it is God alone knows why they would make this their base camp, clearly being inconvenient by distance?
    - 2) There is one closer to the area of Mount Gerizim and Ebal, at the center of the land, which is probably the one. Deut. 1:30, 1Sam. 7:16, 10:9, 11:14, 13:7-8
  - b) They came to Joshua and the men of Israel declaring they were from a far country wanting to make a covenant with Israel. Vs. 6
    - \* Whenever you are pressured to make a decision don't, back off and wait!
- 2) The apprehension of the men of Israel was two-fold. Vs. 7
  - a) This was a check based on their understanding of the prohibition in the Law.
  - b) But this could of very well been a check of Holy Spirit, warning them of the deception?

- 3) The response of the Gibeonites was with greater deception to distract them from having to answer the objection. Vs. 8-10
  - a) Through false humility and submission, "But they said to Joshua, "We are your servants." Vs. 8a-b
  - b) They are pressed by Joshua, who will not be side tracked, "And Joshua said to them, "Who are you, and where do you come from?" Vs. 8c-e
    - \* He knew the prohibition of the Law to make covenants with the people of the land. Deut. 7:1-3, 20:16-18
  - c) They seeing Joshua's persistency and fear of being found out, immediately and cleverly distanced themselves from the land altogether. Vs. 9-10
    - 1) They said, to him: "From a very far country 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. Vs. 9
      - \* The name of Yahweh refers to only to the fame but to the character of God as mentioned by Rahab! Josh. 2:9-11, 7:9
    - 2) They said, "And all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan--to Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of

Bashan, who was at Ashtaroth.”  
Vs. 10

\* They mentioned nothing of Jericho and Ai, shrewdly confirming their ignorance to the local news!

- 4) The physical evidence was to conceal their false words. Vs. 11-14
  - a) They related their commission by their elders and the people. Vs. 11
    - 1) They did not mention a king, that should have been a sign!
    - 2) This is the third time they mentioned they were their servants, appealing to their pride, playing on their view of being more powerful and in control!
  - b) They revealed the provisions as evidence of a long duration of time. Vs. 12-13
- 5) The Gibeonites succeeded in their well planned deception due to careless perception by relying on their own understanding. Vs. 14
  - a) They took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD.
  - b) The word “take” means to take with the hand, with the idea of examining it! Vs. 14a

- c) The men of Israel did not ask God. Vs. 14b
  - 1) The word “but” marks the sharp contrast.
  - 2) Literally from the mouth of Yahweh.
  - 3) Joshua had been instructed to seek God through the use of the Urim and thummin by the priest, for determining the will of God, but the did not. Nun. 27:18-21
    - a. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; Phil. 4:6
    - b. Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession...Heb. 4:14-16

### **9:15-21     The presumptuous and foolish decision of the leaders**

**9:15-18** The reality of their decision.

- 1) The leader Joshua believed them and made a covenant with them by swearing to them. Vs. 15

- a) The implications were to a greater commitment, soundness, health, protection, etc.
  - b) The agreement was a direct disobedience to God command to not make a covenant with the people of the land, lest they make them sin against God. Ex. 23:3234:12, Num. 33:55
- 2) They came to realize at the end of three days, hearing that they were their neighbors. Vs. 16
- a) Once they obtained their goal, they gradually spoke the truth, knowing there was nothing they could do about it.
  - b) Archaeological evidence revealed the existence of a culture that reached back to the late Bronze Age period, 1300-1200 B.C.
  - c) The name of the place was inscribed in archaic Hebrew characters on the handles of large jars found among the debris removed during the excavation of a large rock pool inside the north wall of the city, associated with the pool and five other cities, in Second Samuel. 2Sam. 2:12 (Harrison:677)
- 3) They lied by omitting the nearness of their cities in the land of promise. Vs. 17

- a) They are named for us, Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim, six to seven miles northwest of Jerusalem.
  - b) Kirjath Jearim is where the ark rested for twenty years after Philistines returned it, until David brought it to Jerusalem. 1Sam. 7:2
- 4) The reasoning for honoring the oneness of the covenant and not attack them. Vs. 18
- a) The rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel. Vs. 18a-b
  - b) The outcome was that all the congregation complained against the rulers. Vs. 18c
    - \* They compromised the word of God and the people had the sin of Achan fresh in their mind and probably feared.
- 9:19-21** The final decision of Joshua and the rulers.
- 1) The rulers told all the congregation, “We have sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them.” Vs. 19
- a) They were wrong by not seeking God on the matter and trusting themselves.

- b) Yet, God in his sovereign grace seems to of honored the heart of the Gibeonites, as history reveals they became loyal to Israel.
  - c) When God judged Israel with three years of famine, it was because Saul slew Gibeonites. 2Sam. 21:1
- 2) They attempted to make up for their mistake is dressed with spiritual garb but it still is flesh. Vs. 20
- a) They said, “This we will do to them: We will let them live, lest wrath be upon us”, which is nowhere revealed by God, this was their attempt to co-hearse, intimidate and manipulate the people to agree with them.
  - b) They gave the reason, “Because of the oath which we swore to them.”, binding themselves to something they pledged without God’s approval, this is their justification.
- 3) They made them servant, forgetting their own lives of bondage. Vs. 21
- a) The rulers said to them, “Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for all the congregation.” Vs. 21a-c
  - b) The rulers had promised this to the Gibeonites, before the meeting with the people. Vs. 21d

**9:22-27      The personal consequences of the compromise.**

- 9:22-24** The Gibeonites were personally confronted for their deception. Vs. 22-24
- 1) Their personal accountability of their words. Vs. 22
    - a) Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, “Why have you deceived us.” Vs. 22a-d
    - b) Joshua repeated their very words, “We are very far from you, when you dwell near us?” Vs. 22e-g
  - 2) Their punishment for their deceit. Vs. 23
    - a) They lost their freedom, literally they would never cease to furnish slaves!
    - b) They lost their free-will!
  - 3) Their prior hidden motive of their deceit was clearly confessed. Vs. 24
    - a. They believed the judgment of God to come. Vs. 24a-c
    - b. They feared for their lives and that was why they lied. Vs. 24d-e
- 9:25-27** The personal concessions of Joshua with the Gibeonites after the deception.
- 1) The Gibeonites casts themselves at Joshua’s mercy. Vs. 25
  - 2) The Gibeonites were spared by Joshua. Vs. 26

- 3) The Gibeonites were made works of the people and things of God. Vs. 27
- a) Joshua that very day made them woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation. Vs. 27a
- b) Joshua made them also woodcutters and water carriers for the altar of the LORD, at the place God would choose, tabernacle and later the temple. Vs. 27a
- 1) This was the lowest of work. Deut. 29:10-12
- 2) This compromise was unsound wisdom, putting heathens to do service to the Lord!

### **10:1-5      The confederacy against Gibeon.**

**10:1-2**    The initiator of the confederacy.

- 1) Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem was prompted when he heard of the destruction of Jericho and Ai as well as the covenant of Gibeon. Vs. 1
- a) Adoni-Zedek means Lord of righteousness, but not true to his name and was king of Jerusalem
- b) Melkezedek, king of righteousness, true to his name, met Abraham and he was king of Jerusalem. Gen. 14

- c) The Jebusites occupied Jerusalem, formerly called Jebus, till David made it the city of David. 2Sam. 5:6-7
- 2) He feared greatly Gibeon was a royal city of formidable size and importance than Ai with men of war. Vs. 2
- \* There is a word play between “Gibeon” and “mighty” for the men of war who were trained in combat and prosperous enough to afford armament, etc.
- 3) He petitioned four other kings to confederate with him to defeat Joshua and Gibeon. Vs. 3-5
- a) These were in the central part of the country, the southern, the second campaign and conquest. Vs. 3
- b) Gibeon had become as traitor in their eyes. Vs. 4
- c) They encamped against Gibeon, to war against them. Vs. 5

### **10:6-28      Joshua comes to the Gibeonites rescue.**

**10:6-14**    The message sent to Joshua and battle against the five kings.

**10:6-7**    *Their call and response to help.*

- 1) The men of Gibeon called Joshua from Gilgal to honor their covenant. Vs. 6

- a) The message was sent to the camp at Gilgal, saying, “Do not forsake your servants”.
  - b) The message was one of urgency, “Come up to us quickly, save us and help us.”
  - c) The crisis involved a confederacy of all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains who had gathered together against them.
- 2) Joshua responded immediately. Vs. 7
- a) Joshua ascended from Gilgal.
  - b) And all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.

**10:8-11** *The Lord confirms the victory to Joshua.*

- 1) The exhortation. Vs. 8
  - a) The LORD said to Joshua, “Do not fear them. Vs. 8a-b
  - b) The LORD said for I have delivered them into your hand. Vs. 8c
  - c) The LORD said not a man of them shall stand before you. Vs. 8d
- 2) The element of surprise. Vs. 9
  - a) Joshua came upon them suddenly. Vs. 9a
  - b) Joshua had marched all night from Gilgal. Vs. 9b
- 3) The battle was the Lord’s. Vs. 10

- a) So the LORD routed, confused and discomfited them before Israel and killed them at Gibeon. Vs. 10a-b
  - b) He chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. Vs. 10c-d
- 4) The Lord intervened miraculously. Vs. 11
- a) The Lord cast down large hailstones from heaven as they fled before Israel on the descent of Beth Horon, as far as Azekah, and they died. Vs. 11a-d
  - b) There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword. Vs. 11 e
  - c) God guided them not to hit Israelites.
    - 1) In Egypt there was hail and fire mingled. Ex. 9:24
    - 2) In the book of Judges they fought from heaven. Judges 5:20
    - 3) In the tribulation there will be hail stones of one talent. Rev. 16:21

**10:12-14** *The miracle of the sun standing still.*

- 1) Joshua by faith commanded the sun to stand still. Vs. 12
  - a) Joshua spoke to the LORD the day He delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel. Vs. 12a
  - b) Joshua as God gave him the faith and word of knowledge said in the sight of

Israel: “Sun, stand still over Gibeon;  
And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.”

Vs. 12b-e

\* This is known as Joshua’s long day  
and there is recorded a long night  
in the Aztec, Indian and Chinese  
annals.

2) Joshua did so to complete the battle. Vs. 13

a) So the sun stood still, And the moon  
stopped, Till the people had revenge  
Upon their enemies. Vs. 13a-c

\* Some people have a difficult time  
with miracles but God can do  
anything and does anything!

b) Is this not written in the Book of  
Jasher? Vs. 13d

1) Jasher means the straight, upright  
or righteous, reference also the  
second book of Samuel and we do  
not have this book. 2Sam. 1:18

2) There are also the Books of the  
wars of the Lord. Num. 21:14

c) The sun stood still in the midst of  
heaven, and did not hasten to go down  
for about a whole day. Vs. 13e-e

3) Joshua’s event was unique. Vs. 14

a) There has been no day like that, before  
it or after it. Vs. 14a-b

\* Hezekiah asked God to turn back  
the sun 10 degrees as a sign that he

would live another fifteen years.

Is. 38:5-8

b) The LORD heeded the voice of a man;  
for the LORD fought for Israel. Vs. 14c

**10:15-28** The clean up of the battle.

**10:15-21** *Joshua returns to Gilgal and trapped  
the five kings.*

1) Joshua returned, and all Israel with him,  
to the camp at Gilgal and the five kings  
fled and hid themselves in a cave at  
Makkedah. Vs. 15-16

2) Joshua receive the news and order them  
to roll large stones against the mouth of  
the cave, and set men to guard them. Vs. 17-18

3) Joshua commanded all to pursue the  
enemies and attack them, not allowing  
them to enter their cities, for God had  
given them the victory. Vs. 19

4) Those who escaped did entered fortified  
cities. Vs. 20

5) All the people returned to the camp, to  
Joshua at Makkedah, in peace. No one  
moved his tongue against any of the  
children of Israel. Vs. 21

**10:22-28** *The execution of the five kings.*



- 1) Joshua commanded to open the mouth of the cave and bring out those five kings to me from the cave saying, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." Vs. 22-24  
\* A symbol of subjugation of authority.  
1Kings 5:3, Ps. 110:1, 8:6
- 2) Joshua exhorted the men of war not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight. Vs. 25  
\* Just as God had done to him in his commission. Josh. 1
- 3) Joshua then killed them and hung them on five trees, until evening, then he cast them into the cave where they had been hidden, and laid large stones against the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day. Vs. 26-27
  - a) According to the Law for it was a curse. Deut. 21:22-23
  - b) Paul associates Christ cursed for us on a tree to redeem us. Gal. 3:13-14
- 4) Joshua on that day took Makkedah, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword, as he had done to the king of Jericho. Vs. 28
  - a) God was judging the people of the land of their vileness and abominations, which they refused to

repent from. Lev. 18:24-25, Deut. 9:5, 18:9

- b) To leave any in the land would be to contaminate the people of God, which did in fact happened!

**10:29-43** The ongoing conquest of Joshua in the south.

**10:29-39** The various conquests.

- 1) Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, to Libnah; and they fought against it and conquered it. Vs. 29-30
- 2) Joshua passed from Libnah, and all Israel with him, to Lachish; and they encamped against it and fought against it and conquered it. Vs. 31-33  
\* It became a Levitical city. Josh. 21:13
- 3) Joshua passed from Lachish to Eglon, and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it and fought against it and conquered it. Vs. 34-35
- 4) Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, to Hebron; and they fought against it and conquering it. Vs. 36-37
- 5) Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to Debir; and they fought against it and conquered it, like all the others. Vs. 38-39

**10:40-43** The territory Joshua conquered.

- 1) Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded. Vs. 40
- 2) And Joshua conquered them from Kadesh Barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even as far as Gibeon. Vs. 41  
\* Goshen, between Gibeon and Gaza.
- 3) All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel. Vs. 42
- 4) Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal. Vs. 43