

**JOSHUA: READY FOR BATTLE**  
**JOSHUA 9-10**

**“THE DANGER OF DECEPTION AND PRAYING LIKE NEVER BEFORE!”**

**INTRODUCTION:** We live in an age where deception is rampant. Because of the Internet we can be targeted by people who otherwise would have no opportunity to deceive us. Some of the people who deceive us may not mean to hurt us as much as they just want to help themselves. *What do you do when you have made a promise you do not want to keep?* As you think about praying through difficult situations, do you pray according to what seems logical to you, or do you pray in accordance with God’s unlimited power and resources? As we enter 2023, are you ready to pray some audacious prayers?

**BACKGROUND:** One of Satan’s most effective tactics against believers is to launch an attack while we are celebrating a victory. Joshua and the Israelites had just won the battle at Ai, and the people of Gibeon knew they had no chance against the Israelites. However, just like the enemy of our souls, they had a strategy that often works against the people of God.

**I. THE ENEMY OF OUR SOULS IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR ENTRY POINTS INTO OUR LIVES. ANYONE CAN BE DECEIVED, SO ALWAYS CONSULT THE LORD BEFORE MAKING VOWS. (Joshua 9:1-15) (1st Peter 5:8) (2nd Corinthians 11:3)**

**“Remember, Satan is not only a roaring lion, but he is also a subtle snake, and the roar of the lion is far less dangerous than the hiss of a snake.” (Alan Redpath)**

- A. The Gibeonites were intimidated. They cunningly devised a way to deceive the Israelites into making a covenant with them. (Deuteronomy 7) (Deuteronomy 20) (Exodus 23:32-33) Satan and his demons are masters of disguise and deceit. Only your own heart has a greater capacity for deceiving you. (2nd Corinthians 11:14) (Jeremiah 17:5-10)
- B. The Israelites soon found out they had been deceived. However, because they had invoked the Lord’s name into their vows, they were obligated to keep their promises to the Gibeonites . If they had not done so, the name of “Yahweh” would have been dishonored throughout Canaan. *Do you honor the vows you have made to the Lord? Will 2023 be the year you commit to doing so?*
- C. We are not obligated to make vows, but should make every effort to keep them when we do so. (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5) God is gracious and forgiving, but forgiveness does not erase consequences for broken promises. King Saul dishonored the covenant with the Gibeonites, and the Israelites and Saul’s descendants suffered the consequences. (2nd Samuel 21)
- D. The enemy of our souls has been described as INTERNAL, EXTERNAL, AND INFERNAL! Guard your heart, be vigilant, and rely on the Lord Jesus Christ. (1st John 2:15, Proverbs 4:23)
- E. The Israelites made the Gibeonites serve them in exchange for sparing their lives. This enslavement of the Canaanites best fulfills the prophecies of Genesis 9:20-27. This passage should never be used to justify enslavement of African descendants of Ham.

## **II. EACH VICTORY IN LIFE LEADS TO DIFFERENT BATTLES TO BE FOUGHT. THE ENEMY HAS A STRATEGIC PLAN AGAINST US, AND WE ARE INSTRUCTED TO STAY IN ATTACK MODE AGAINST HIM. (Joshua 10:1-9)**

- A. Because three major cities had been conquered, five others got together to fight against Gibeon because they had made peace with Israel. Believers should expect to encounter different kinds of spiritual attacks, known as “the wiles” (schemes, strategies) of the devil. Use the armor of God at all times! (Eph. 6:10-18)
- B. It is not enough to *know* the promises of God. We must *hold onto them* with great expectation and desperate dependence upon the Holy Spirit in every situation. A check must be endorsed and cashed for you to access the funds! (Joshua 1:5-9) (Joshua 10:7-11)
- C. Joshua kept returning to Gilgal, the place of consecration. We should go back to the place where there were lessons of:
1. **REMEMBRANCE:** Stepping into the Jordan to move from death to new life
  2. **RESURRECTION:** Coming up to new life and new leadership (JESUS) this year!
  3. **RENUNCIATION:** The old life and hidden things of dishonesty in your past
  4. **RESTORATION:** Celebrated Passover and renewed fellowship with the Lord
  5. **RECONCILIATION** : New way of living! No more manna! Take steps to reconcile!
  6. **REVELATION:** Joshua met Jesus face to face. You need FaceTime with Jesus!

## **III. SPENDING TIME WITH THE LORD IN PRIVATE LEADS TO BEING UNAFRAID TO PRAY AUDACIOUS (bold, risky, daring) PRAYERS IN PUBLIC! (Joshua 10:11-15) (John 11)**

- A. The God who created the sun, moon, and stars still controls their movements. (Colossians 1:15-17) Can you imagine a human being having the audacity to tell the sun and moon what to do? (Mark 4:35-41) Why would Joshua try that? Do you ever ask God for “big things” to do His will?
- B. We may never be able to explain how God gave supernatural daylight to allow His soldiers to defeat the enemy, but we should never doubt His ability to do the miraculous.
- C. The gory details of the Israelite victory are hard to read, but if those enemies had been allowed to live, they would have regrouped and threatened God’s people again. *In 2023, we must be determined to not co-habit with spiritual forces that will rise up to defeat us.*

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE DECEIVED BY ANYONE OR ANYTHING IF YOU LEARN TO LISTEN TO THE LORD. DO NOT BE AFRAID TO ASK GOD FOR ANYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE IF IT IS FOR HIS GLORY RATHER THAN YOUR OWN. HE CAN DO FAR MORE THAN YOU CAN ASK OR THINK, SO ENVISION YOURSELF DOING GREAT THINGS IN HIS NAME THIS YEAR!**

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January 1, 2023*