

March 6th, 2022

Joshua 9:1-27

Deceived By The Enemy

I. Introduction: Joshua and the Israelites unwittingly made a covenant with the Gibeonites because they deceived them into believing that they were from a distant land.

II. Deceived By The Enemy (**Josh 9:1-27**).

A. Spiritual Gullibility (**vv. 1-6**).

1. The Gibeonites formulated a plan to deceive Israel into believing that they were foreigners in the land of Canaan so that Israel would make a covenant with them.

B. Spiritual Carelessness (**vv. 7-15**).

1. The Gibeonites deceived Israel into believing that they were foreigners because they believed in what they had seen and didn't seek God's counsel.

C. Spiritual Illumination (**vv. 16-21**).

1. The Israelites discovered that the Gibeonites had deceived them, but they were forbidden from killing them because they had sworn an oath to God.

D. Spiritual Shrewdness (**vv. 22-27**).

1. Joshua confronted the Gibeonite deception and cursed them, making them slaves in the Tabernacle so that their idolatry wouldn't spread throughout Israel.

III. Conclusion: Israel realized they needed to be vigilant in detecting the enemies lies so that they would not be exploited by those who pretended to be their allies.

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Study Questions: Deceived By The Enemy

1. Have you ever been deceived? Have you ever had money stolen or been scammed? How did you feel after being conned? Why does the Bible warn Christians about deception?
2. What did the surrounding nations do after Israel destroyed Ai? (**Josh 9:1-6**) What strategy did the Gibeonites employ? (**vv. 3-4**) How are Christians to be discerning? (**Matt 10:16**)
3. What questions did Joshua ask the Gibeonites? (**Josh 9:7-15**) Why should they have been suspicious of their reply? (**vv. 8-11**) How did the enemy prey upon Israel's gullibility?
4. What did the Gibeonites say about Israel's God? (**Josh 9:9-15**) What was the reason Israel was fooled? (**v. 14**) How are God's people supposed to wait upon Him in prayer?
5. How did Israel find out Gibeon lied to them? (**Josh 9:16-21**) What should Christians do when they give their word? (**Matt 5:37**) How is God's reputation at stake?
6. Why was Israel concerned about violating this treaty? (**Josh 9:18-21**) Why didn't the enemy's lies invalidate the pact? (**v. 19**) Do you keep your word even when it's difficult?
7. How did Joshua confront the Gibeonite's lies? (**Josh 9:22-27**) Why did they lie to Joshua and the leaders? (**v. 24**) How did they appeal to the compassion of the Israelites? (**v. 24**)
8. What was the Gibeonite's punishment for their deception? (**Josh 9:26-27**) How did it expose them to the worship of God? What are we meant to learn from this story?

Prayer

1. Pray that God will give you wisdom when you make important life decisions.
2. Ask God to help you keep your word with integrity in a world corrupted by sin.