

## JOSHUA

### Caught Off Guard

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*Do not make a covenant with them or with their gods. Do not let them live in your land, or they will cause you to sin against me, because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you. (Exod. 23:32-33)*

#### ***Spiritual opposition likes to gang up and scheme...***

*Now when all the kings west of the Jordan heard about these things...they came together to make war against Joshua and Israel. However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, they resorted to a ruse... (Joshua 9:1-4a)*

#### ***Spiritual deception will play on...***

☛ ***Vulnerability and naivete*** – “‘We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us.’ The men of Israel said to the Hivites, ‘But perhaps you live near us. How then can we make a treaty with you?’ ‘We are your servants,’ they said to Joshua. But Joshua asked, ‘Who are you and where do you come from?’ They answered: ‘Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the LORD your God. For we have heard reports of Him: all that He did in Egypt, and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan...’” (Joshua 9:6-10a)

☛ ***Reality and truth*** – “‘This bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day we left to come to you. But now see how dry and moldy it is. And these wineskins that we filled were new, but see how cracked they are. And our clothes and sandals are worn out by the very long journey.’” (Joshua 9:12-13)

*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. (Prov. 14:12)*

***The great danger: leaning on your own wisdom and not God’s*** – “The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD. Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.” (Joshua 9:14-15)

☛ ***Play offense, not defense: be aware and in prayer*** – “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” (Mark 14:38)

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)*

*Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted. (Heb. 2:18)*