



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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be, and they were not arrived to that depth of wickedness they afterwards would and did, and which brought on their ruin, and so made way for the posterity of Abram to inherit their land. This was a divine judgment upon these nations for their iniquity.

II- Deception out of Desperation:

The story that unfolds now from a group known as the Gibeonites is one of deception. Given the circumstances, we see it was born out of desperation and self-preservation. Regardless of the motive, we must not miss the fact that these men of the pagan nation believed God would do what He said He would do. Let's read the story for God's precious word. A story of molded bread and worn out shoes.

Joshua 9:3 And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai, 4 They did work wily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; 5 And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy.

This was not just one city but a group of four cities according to *Joshua 9:17b...Now their cities were Gibeon, and Chephirah, and Beeroth, and Kirjathjearim.*

They dwelled in the land that was to be conquered but wanted to give the appearance of a long journey.

Joshua 9:6 And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us.

They wanted to make a covenant with the Israelites. This would be a treaty of non-aggression.

Joshua 9:7 And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, Peradventure ye dwell among us; and how shall we make a league with you? 8 And they said unto Joshua, We are thy servants. And Joshua said unto them, Who are ye? and from whence come ye?

Joshua seems to be a bit suspicious at first. They are asked to explain who they are and where they came from.

Joshua 9:9 And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt, 10 And all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites, that were beyond Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, which was at Ashtaroth.

They had heard of the hand of God for the past forty years.

Joshua 9:11 Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our



Coordinates:
Joshua 9:1-27

Sights to See:

- 1- When the cup of iniquity is full for a nation or an individual then judgment will come. God is the keeper of the cup of iniquity and decides when it is full.
- 2- God is longsuffering patient but is also a God of His word and judges sin.
- 3- Desperation makes me do things for self preservation.
- 4- We should have a desire for men who are not believer look at us and see that God is moving in our lives.
- 5- We should always walk with the ears of our heart listening to God in all our decisions because many times things are not as they are perceived.
- 6- When faces with deception and being lied to often we feel we have a right to break our word that we have given. This is simply not true. We should keep our word if at all possible.
- 7- The best remedy for those who are in the world of sin is not to ostracize them but hold them close to the things of God and allow the Holy Spirit to work on them.
- 8- Thank God that He gives grace to liars, thieves, murderers, and all sorts of sinners, such as we all were.



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country spake to us, saying, *Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them, We are your servants: therefore now make ye a league with us. 12 This our bread we took hot for our provision out of our houses on the day we came forth to go unto you; but now, behold, it is dry, and it is mouldy: 13 And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they be rent: and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey.*

They had all the right props that would have made any Hollywood movie produce proud. The molded bread, the old bottle for their wine, old shoes and garments. Quite a set up if I do say so.

Joshua 9:14 *And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD. 15 And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation sware unto them.*

This is one of the most telling verses in this whole section. They asked not counsel of God. They forgot to pray and ask for God's guidance.

Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

This is a danger for all of us. Humans are self-willed creatures at habit and at therefore at times we do not consult God naturally. It is only when we bring our heart and flesh under subjection of the Spirit of God. Also, this does not mean here that Joshua willingly rebelled against God but he simply chose to believe what looked like it was obvious.

We need to realize that there are many forms of deception today. Satan is in the job of confusing and conquering by dividing us on trivial issues. Notice the following verses that will help.

Eph 6:11-12 *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

2 Cor 2:11 *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

III- Deception Discovered:

It was only a matter of time before the ruse was up and they were discovered as to their true identity.

Joshua 9:16 *And it came to pass at the end of three days after they had made a league with them, that they heard that they were their neighbours, and that they dwelt among them. 17 And the children of Israel journeyed, and came unto their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, and Chephirah, and Beeroth, and Kirjathjearim. 18 And the children of Israel smote them not, because the princes of the congregation had sworn unto them by the LORD God of Israel.*

Now here is a test of character. Would the children of Israel do what was right or wrong? It says they smote them not. Why did they not destroy them, after all they had deceived them and lied to them? May I say they did what was right because they had given their word on the matter? They kept their promise.

IV- Misunderstood for Doing Right:

Have you ever had a situation in your life that doing what was right was going to be misunderstood? I remind us all of Joseph and his situation with Potipher's wife. (See Way Point 26) Do you have to take a pulse of popular opinion to figure out what to do? Do you do only what is expedient and popular?



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Joshua 9:18b *And all the congregation murmured against the princes. 19 But all the princes said unto all the congregation, We have sworn unto them by the LORD God of Israel: now therefore we may not touch them. 20 This we will do to them; we will even let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath which we sware unto them.*

I guess old habits die-hard. They murmured, like the generation before them in the wilderness, against those who were leading. These leaders had good reasons for their decisions, did what was right, and were misunderstood.

V- Servants of Israel:

What would be the Gibeonites ultimate fate? **Joshua 9:21** *And the princes said unto them, Let them live; but let them be hewers of wood and drawers of water unto all the congregation; as the princes had promised them. 22 And Joshua called for them, and he spake unto them, saying, Wherefore have ye beguiled us, saying, We are very far from you; when ye dwell among us? 23 Now therefore ye are cursed, and there shall none of you be freed from being bondmen, and hewers of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God. 24 And they answered Joshua, and said, Because it was certainly told thy servants, how that the LORD thy God commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you, therefore we were sore afraid of our lives because of you, and have done this thing. 25 And now, behold, we are in thine hand: as it seemeth good and right unto thee to do unto us, do. 26 And so did he unto them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, that they slew them not. 27 And Joshua made them that day hewers of wood and drawers of water for the congregation, and for the altar of the LORD, even unto this day, in the place which he should choose.*

Notice the great wisdom of Joshua in not only making them slaves but servants in the house of God. *“Now therefore ye are cursed, and there shall none of you be freed from being bondmen, and hewers of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God.” Josh 9:23 J*

Joshua had been advise to make them servants of the people but instead made the servants of the house of God. He wanted them to be exposed to Jehovah instead of them exposing the children of Israel to their gods.

Something else that we need to notice is the fact that the Gibeonites became party to the covenant of God with Israel. They are mentioned forty-five times in 8 books of the Old Testament. They were a full part of the covenant community. We know how that Judah was taken into captivity and under Nehemiah they returned to rebuild the city walls. Notice who it was that returned with them and worked on the walls of the city. **Neh 3:7** *“And next unto them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, unto the throne of the governor on this side the river.”* How many returned? According to **Neh 7:25** *“The children of Gibeon, ninety and five.”*

We might ask, how this could be done for anyone who was a deceiver and a liar. You and I can't explain the grace of God only experience it. After all we are included in the covenant of grace as well who were of old of such character. Thank God for grace.