

Conquest of Canaan – Israel’s Treaty with Gibeon Josh. 9:1-27

Thesis: to help us understand the necessity of being on God’s side.

Introduction:

One thing that we need to know about Gibeon as we begin is that it was a great city (10:1-2).

I. Review and Recap Story

- A. Notice the review.
 - 1. Israel has come into the land of Canaan.
 - 2. It has been a roller coaster for Israel.
 - a. They have taken the city of Jericho.
 - b. They were also defeated at Ai before they were allowed to take that city.
 - 3. It seems that throughout the history of Israel, they find themselves going against God.
 - a. Ex. 15:22-27 – Israel complains because of a lack of water just three days after crossing the Red Sea.
 - b. Ex. 16 – Israel complains because of a lack of food in the wilderness.
 - c. Ex. 17:1-7 – Israel again complains because of a lack of water.
 - d. Ex. 32 – Israel makes a golden calf to worship while Moses is on top of the mountain.
 - e. Num. 14 – Israel refuses to enter the land of Canaan.
 - f. Num. 21:4-9 – Israel complains about the lack of water and the ‘worthless bread’ that God had given them.
 - 4. Even though Israel complained and turned against God on numerous occasions, He was always there for them when they returned (and they always returned!).
 - 5. The history of Israel was to turn from God and then turn to God.
- B. Notice the story we look at today.
 - 1. The kings of the land of Canaan decide to fight as one nation against Israel (9:1-2).
 - a. They know that they cannot defeat Israel as separate kings.
 - b. The only ones that did not go along with them was Gibeon.
 - 2. The people of Gibeon made a plan to trick Israel (9:3-5).
 - 3. They come to Joshua and implement their plan (9:6-13).
 - 4. Israel makes a covenant with the people of Gibeon (9:14-15).
 - 5. After Israel discovers where these people are really from, they make them slaves of Israel (9:16-27).

Practical Application

II. When we fight against God, we have reason to be afraid.

- A. The people of Gibeon were afraid of Israel.
 1. The reason that they were afraid was because they knew that God was on the side of Israel.
 - a. Josh. 9:3
 - b. Josh. 9:9-10
 - c. Josh. 9:24
 2. The people of Gibeon knew that there was no way that they could defeat Israel as long as God was on the side of Israel.
- B. Today, when we fight against God, we have a good reason to be afraid.
 1. We fight against God when we seek to do our will instead of His.
 2. Acts 5:38-39 (Gamaliel's advice to the people as they attempted to kill the apostles) - And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; {39} but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it-- lest you even be found to fight against God.
 3. Heb. 10:26-31 - For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, {27} but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. {28} Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. {29} Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? {30} For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine; I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The Lord will judge His people.' {31} It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
 4. Abraham Lincoln
 - a. At the beginning of the Civil War, one of his advisors said, "*I hope God is on our side.*"
 - b. Abraham Lincoln responded, "*I hope we are on the side of God.*"
- C. The flip side to this is also true: when we are on the side of God, we have nothing to fear.
 1. Because God is on our side, we cannot be harmed by man.
 - a. Rom. 8:31 - If God is for us, who can be against us?
 - b. Three times in the Bible, the question is asked, 'What can man do to me?'
 - 1) Ps. 56:11 - In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?
 - 2) Ps. 118:6 - The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?
 - 3) Heb. 13:6 (after the promise is given that God will never leave us nor forsake us) - So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'

2. Because man cannot harm us, we should not be afraid of man.
 - a. **Mt. 10:28** - **And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

III. We must remember to inquire of the Lord.

- A. The problem that Israel had in this story is that they forgot the Lord (**9:14**).
 1. If they would have asked, God would have told them where they were really from.
 2. However, they took the word of their enemy instead of discovering what God had to say about their enemy.
 3. Israel had already been warned not to make any covenant with anyone in the land of Canaan.
 - a. God had promised to drive out all of the inhabitants of Canaan (**Ex. 23:27-33**).
 - b. **Ex. 23:32-33** - **You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. {33} They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. For if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.**
 - c. This is fulfilled in **Judges 2:11ff**.
 - 1) Joshua and all of his generation have just died.
 - 2) Israel turns from God and “served the Baals” (which were the gods of the people of Canaan).
 - d. When they made this covenant with the people of Gibeon, they were going completely against the command of God.
 3. Israel had already been warned not to make any covenant with anyone in the land of Canaan.
- B. Today, when we are faced with difficult decisions, we must remember to inquire of the Lord.
 1. God has always promised to be there for us.
 - a. **Mt. 28:20** - **and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**
 - b. **Heb. 13:5** - **For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”**
 - c. Remember that God sent us His Son to redeem us from our sins and give us the hope of an eternity with Him.
 - d. If God was willing to give us His Son, it stands to reason that He will not leave us alone now.
 2. Because He will be there for us, we need to remember to inquire of Him.
 - a. **Phil. 4:6** - **Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;**
 - b. **I Pet. 5:7** - **casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**

Conclusion: