

Israel's Treaty with Gibeon Josh. 9:1-27

Introduction:

In Joshua 9, the children of Israel have just destroyed two cities on their way to conquering the Promised Land. Other cities have heard that Israel is coming, so they try to make one big army of many little ones. Gibeon sees that this plan will not work, so they make a plan to trick the army of Israel.

- I. The people of Gibeon were afraid of the children of Israel because of God.
 - A. They had heard of what Israel had done to the other nations.
 1. Israel had come out of Egypt by way of the Red Sea.
 2. They had defeated Sihon, king of Heshbon, and Og, king of Bashan.
 3. Israel had destroyed Jericho.
 4. Israel had defeated Ai.
 5. Gibeon knew that they were next.
 - B. God was with Israel; therefore the people of Gibeon were afraid (22-24).
 1. They devised a plan to trick the children of Israel.
 2. They knew that with God on the side of Israel, they had not chance.
 - C. When we are with God, there is nothing to fear.
 1. Rom. 8:31 – “If God is for us, who can be against us?”
 2. 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.”
 3. When we are with God, there is nothing that can hurt us.
 - D. However, if we are not on the side of God, we should be very fearful.
 1. Heb. 10:26-31

- II. The children of Israel failed to inquire of the Lord (14).
 - A. The men of Gideon came to Joshua and wanted to make a treaty with Israel.
 1. Israel was even skeptical of these men (7).
 2. Num. 27:21 – “He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the LORD for him by the judgment of the Urim; at his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him-- all the congregation.”
 - a. The people were to follow the leadership of Joshua.
 - b. Joshua was supposed to inquire of the Lord when decisions were made.
 - c. Joshua had a great responsibility, and he failed to ask God about it.

- B. The children of Israel were told to destroy all the nations of the land of Canaan.
1. Deut 20:17
 2. "but you shall utterly destroy them: the Hittite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, just as the LORD your God has commanded you,
 3. It should not have been necessary for Israel to inquire of the Lord; they should have just obeyed His commandments.
- C. When we are faced with decisions in this life, we need to remember to ask God to help us.
1. Is. 30:1 – Woe to those “who take counsel, but not of” the Lord.
 2. Mt. 7:7 – "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
 3. I Pet. 5:7 – casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
 4. Phil. 4:6-7 – Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; {7} and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Conclusion:

Because the children of Israel did not force out all of the people of the land, the people were a burden to them. The children of Israel were led away to idols because they did not destroy the people of Canaan (Judges 3:1-8).